
THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2020

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

[Virtual online sitting held through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I request the hon members to join me in conveying our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones and friends of all those people who have succumbed to the Covid-19 pandemic. We remember you in our prayers and wish you strength during this time of bereavement. I am confident that I have the unanimous support from all our hon members in this regard. Thank you very much.

Order! Hon members, I trust that everybody has been connected to participate in this sitting of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament in terms of Rule 1A of the Standing Rules with all our members in remote attendance by electronic means. If there is a problem, please indicate that on the chat.

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament remains fully operational with members doing constituency work to assist the general public in whatever way possible as well as our committees playing their oversight role in an effective, efficient and a transparent manner. Our sitting today will be conducted in terms of the Standing Rules and Directives issued by me on 17 April 2020, but allow me to highlight some of the important directives in this regard.

The Secretary and his administration will ensure dedicated technical support at all times during the sitting. The quorum requirements for the sittings of the House are as provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of a unanimous concurrence, voting will take place by members present and entitled to vote to cast their votes by clearly identifying themselves to the Presiding Officer verbally expressing their votes.

Members who are present have all the privileges and immunities imparted by the law. Members who are considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer; their microphones will be muted, and they will be called to order. Attendance of members will be recorded by the Serjeant-at-Arms.

In instances where the directives do not cover a particular eventuality, the Standing Rules must apply. In instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Hon members, all your microphones have been muted and you are requested to only unmute your microphones when you need to raise a point of order in terms of the Standing Rules. You should then first state your name and surname in order for the Presiding Officer to recognise you. When you speak, please ensure your microphone is unmuted, and when you are done speaking please mute your microphone again.

Hon members, the media have also been granted access to this MS Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP. Members of the press may however not use the chat room, speak or activate their cameras while the sitting is in progress. So for the purpose of this sitting via Microsoft Teams I am requesting that the members are sensitive to the language needs of other members since no interpretation services are available for this sitting of the House. The Secretary and the ICT component are continuing to explore options for translations of future sittings of the House in this manner and members are also required to use the chat function only to raise any points of order, but please do not use the chat function to have conversations with any of our other members.

As ruled by the Presiding Officer in the sitting of the House on 23 April 2020, also via Microsoft Teams, no interjections shall be permitted during the debate. In this regard I also wish to draw the attention of the hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Thank you, hon members. We will now move on to Interpellations.

Order! We will proceed to the interpellation as printed on the Question Paper.

INTERPELLATIONS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Maynier. [No audible reply.] Am I online?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Yes, you are, hon Deputy Speaker. We can hear you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, we are starting the interpellation on the Question Paper. [No audible reply by Minister Maynier.]

Can I ask that we move on to – can I just check with Minister Maynier on here, if by any chance he is not able to hear us? We could proceed to the second interpellation while we get him sorted out. Can we agree, hon members?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I agree, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interpellation 1 stands over.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Chief Whip. I so then move on to Interpellation 2, which is, and I call on the hon Minister,

Minister Schäfer.

Learners: continuing education

2. Ms N Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Education:

How does her Department plan to continue with education for learners from this point going forward?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you to the member for the question. It is a very broad question and so I will be giving a pretty broad answer, but the first thing that we obviously need to do is to get schools open, without which education will not be able to continue for the majority of people. As much as we have done everything in our power to assist our staff and learners during this unprecedented time of lockdown, the most effective way of teaching the vast majority of our learners is in the classroom.

The continued closure of schools carries many risks. Our matrics need to continue their studies to complete their exams this year. If some grades go back on 1 June, 42 school days will have been lost.

There is overwhelming evidence globally that long-term closure of schools has a far greater impact on learners from poor communities academically and also such people rely on school feeding schemes for their nutrition. This is why we will not back down on our province's emergency school feeding

scheme.

We understand and share the anxiety that many parents and teachers are facing about the reopening of schools. At the same time many people are becoming increasingly frustrated having to try and work from home and home-school their children. We need the economy to reopen and that cannot happen if schools remain closed.

In a recent interview with Professor Salim Abdool Karim, he said:

“We cannot stop this virus from spreading. Instead we have to find a way to live with it. We will almost certainly see outbreaks everywhere, in schools in places, at workplaces, at shopping malls. Everywhere, where there is a movement of people, there is a risk of infection. That risk can be mitigated, but it cannot be eliminated.”

So with that in mind we have been very busy assessing what precise risks we need to mitigate in our context and putting plans in place to do so in preparation for the formal gazetting of the dates. This week after a Council of Education Minister’s meeting on Monday we confirmed that principals and cleaning staff would return from 13 May, which was yesterday, school management teams not later than 18 May, and teaching staff on 25 May, which is the provisional date contingent on preparedness.

The absence of a final standard operating procedure from DBE has made it

extremely difficult for provinces to prepare for reopening and for the WCED to finalise the full operational guidelines we have drafted for schools.

As soon as we can finalise these, using the DBE procedures, we will send them to schools. In the interim, however, principals returning to school from Wednesday have specific essential tasks that must be completed before the return of additional staff to school. This includes, first of all, taking delivery of the school hygiene and safety packs; overseeing thorough cleaning of the school buildings and surfaces; identifying which staff and learners have risk factors that make them susceptible to severe Covid-19 infection according to the interim list that has been developed by the Department of Health, and also plans for social distancing. So those are the preliminary plans we are putting in place and ongoing arrangements are being made every day. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Schäfer. I see the EFF, hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Okay, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the Minister. My question is – actually she has just announced that the school will be opening on 1 June, Grades 7 and 12, so what I would want to know is, should the schools continue, will learners be provided with masks and other relevant protective equipment, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and secondly, what would be done to make up for the lost time as a result of the Covid-19, the 42 days lost time on education? So what

would be the proper action into making sure the students are up to standard?

Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I see the hon member Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the lockdown period has provided challenges but also an opportunity to revise and improve e-Learning strategies or at home schooling tools in this regard. Thus the issue of education in our province during an engagement with the Standing Committee indicated that our province has made significant strides comparing to other provinces. For now we are aware that learners will be phased in by grade and possibly as from 1 June starting with Grades 12 and 7.

Minister, we have learned that only the Western Cape and Gauteng have indicated readiness to reopen schools. In regard to the WCED's conversation with the National Minister, how ready are the other seven provinces, if you are aware and then also, hon Deputy Speaker, the *Business Day* reports that the Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga has yet again delayed the planned announcement about when schools will reopen, saying that she still has to determine whether Provincial Education Departments are ready to do so.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, hier heers 'n Babelse verwarring.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, a Babylonian confusion is reigning here.]

Be that as it may, however, hon Deputy Speaker, Minister, in regard to the vandalism that transpired at our schools during this lockdown period, what is the impact on educating our learners going forward and what is the relevant details on phasing in of all other remaining grades? We know about Grade 7 and about Grade 12, and then also speak to the plans pertaining to Grade R and aftercare facilities that operate from within our public schools. And then, Minister, given the vulnerability of teachers towards Covid-19 outbreak and the use of temporary teachers, how will the safety and wellbeing of learners be ensured, and then also if you could speak to the vetting process that will be followed in terms of appointing temporary teachers. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. As we have seen, Covid-19 has not only turned the Western Cape into the epicentre of the virus in South Africa, but it has also exposed the MEC for Education as the political head of education in this province. Violence in and around our schools continues, no proper or consulted school plans are openly revealed, inequality continues in former marginalised schools. Too many dangerous weapons and drugs are in schools and hundreds of learners are still not in the school despite promises made to this Provincial Legislature, and the present challenge is the world lockdown to slow down the spread of coronavirus. This unprecedented crisis has shown

up the MEC in failing to lead her Department to deal with the most important task to prepare schools to reopen and to get education up and running.

Massive gaps, hon Deputy Speaker, were exposed by the ANC that prevent the opening of Western Cape schools and hostels that it is not safe to screen, treat and accept concerned children, parents, teachers, workers like cleaners, visitors or communities. This includes identifying those at high risk and some of the problems are a big shortage of hygiene products like sanitiser and disinfectant. We also have shortage of thermometers, masks, no reliable water supply and soap, scheduled deep-cleaning ahead of operating or prior training to deal with the virus or protocols, including social distancing, and the extraordinary new circumstances during class, play and feeding time.

Lots of work lies ahead with refining the adjusted teaching plan and timetable on how to deal with external tuck-shop or caterers. Yet we find, hon Deputy Speaker, our MEC refuses to take responsibility and actually reduces Covid-19 fears to being purely psychological. She acts as if she enjoys the protection from the real power-houses in the DA – former Premier Helen Zille and the interim leader, John Steenhuisen, the champion of the right wing in this country. These are the ones whom the MEC considers as the real bosses – not the hon Premier... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The Premier knows this too. Quite

frankly, he has been better at working with the Opposition than his predecessor Helen Zille. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon member. Your time is up.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We have developed a fairly good working relationship with the Premier and we thought that he will place the interest of learners at the fore... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, your time is up.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...and on more than one occasion we have urged him to call his MEC to order, but unfortunately he has not done so... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, your time is up.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...because we see that the... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...that the MEC is a foot soldier of Helen Zille and John Steenhuisen. We call on them... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): A point of order... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): On a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We are calling on the Premier to take action immediately. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): On a point of order!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, your time was up about a minute ago. Hon member Sayed, did you hear me? I was not actually quite sure if you actually heard me?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, I did not hear you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am done, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, no problem. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Chairperson of the DA's Federal Executive and the former Premier of the Western Cape has been promoting a particular view about the risk of opening

schools. She recently tweeted:

“Dear SADTU, young people are not at mortal risk from Covid, unless they have a serious underlying condition such as diabetes. What is more, the latest scientific evidence is that children do not pass the virus to adults. Time to open schools. Back to work for you guys.”

This is in line with other Tweets that have said that “children, healthy children, have almost zero risk.”

Professor Madi, a Wits University vaccinologist, made similar comments during a *Daily Maverick* Webinar last weekend, but the science is not unanimous on this. In fact, leading scientists are disputing this. The now famous Dr Fauci, the United State’s top infectious disease expert, recently disputed this proposition during his testimony to the United States Senate. In fact, he said if schools were to reopen each learner would have to be tested regularly – every four days, I believe. He warned that people should not be cavalier in thinking that children are completely immune to the effects of the disease.

The United Kingdom’s Royal College of Paediatrics said that these reports are incorrect and they are not based on scientific evidence. Professor Madi’s disclaimer, when he made the comments, was that he is not an expert in Covid-19.

As the basic education sector contemplates the return of children to schools, would the MEC or the Minister clarify her and the Western Cape Government's position on the risks for children and their communities? Do you share the view that children are not vectors of transmission and are unlikely to contract the virus, and how do you respond to suggestions that schools should just reopen and children and teachers should just go back to school? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I see the hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. What are the norms per class pertaining to the social distance? This seems to be practically impossible, considering the fact that in terms of the infrastructure the Department will not be able to deliver this due to overcrowding, especially in the townships. How will the Department deal with this challenge, coupled with the school transport? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I see the hon Minister, Minister Schäfer.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker and to the members for the inputs. Initially, hon member Makamba-Botya, yes, masks will be given, we have procured two masks for every child and every teacher in the Western Cape and we are hoping that those will be delivered by the

end of the week.

What will be done, to make up for lost time; there has been a lot of work done on reducing the curriculum, shortening it, working out for all grades, except Grade 12, what are the essential concepts that they need to grasp in a particular year, because we do not want to put additional unused pressure on our teachers and our children. So a lot of work has been done on that and that will probably be the plan going forward. So we are doing absolutely everything possible but we need to try and save the matric year for those, for the matrics.

Hon member Botya, yes, only the Western Cape and Gauteng had indicated readiness. Other provinces I cannot really speak out of ken, but I know other provinces are working very hard to ensure that they are ready and the indications are that most will be ready within the next few weeks.

Phasing in of the remaining aftercare and Grade R, I cannot answer, because the National Minister has not made a declaration in that regard and I think if the plan goes ahead and she has announced that we have Grade 7 and 12, we must first make sure that that goes off smoothly and then it will be easier to make more plans for the other grades.

As far as how we would ensure the safety of learners, the temporary teachers or with all teachers we make sure that they are vetted always, and we have also passed a new policy recently regarding anybody on school property.

They have got to go through certain procedures to make sure that we keep our children safe. Obviously now we will also have to put in place additional measures for Covid specifically.

Hon member Sayed, I am not sure what exactly he was saying. He was all over the place. We put in place a huge number of measures, as I have already mentioned. “Massive gaps were exposed.” I do not think they were exposed at all. I still have not heard what they are. There is not a shortage of hygiene products. They are being delivered. Some were delivered last week already and of course we must also remember that schools have got cleaning equipment at schools anyway because they always would clean before going back to school after a long holiday or after any holiday.

As far as social distancing is concerned, I have never ever said that Covid-19 fears are purely psychological and purely psychological in itself is demeaning of psychological problems, which I certainly do not agree with. They are very real for many people and we take them very seriously and I think most of us feel those pressures.

Hon member Herron, I cannot take responsibility for the former Premier’s Tweets, but what my personal view is, I have seen that research too and it is certainly backed up by other research from Dr Nic Spaul recently this week, but we will certainly not take chances with any child’s life and we will make sure that we put in place every possible measure to ensure the safety of our teachers and our learners. I do not agree though that we have got to keep

schools closed for the next two years, which is what it will mean if we are going to just be completely scared to do anything, because that is what it is going to mean. The virus is not going anywhere. It is unlikely that there will be a vaccine for the next 12 to 18 months at least. So I do not agree that we must not open schools at all, we must do so very carefully and that is what the plans are at the moment and will continue to be. Our number one priority is the safety of all our learners and our teachers.

As far as social distancing is concerned there is no way we are going to be able to do it with the current infrastructure and teachers, so we are looking at the possibilities of maybe alternating classes. So grades could alternate on different days or classes could split over different days because that probably would be the only option, but we are working with health all the time and we will certainly implement every possible safety measure that we are aware of based on the current scientific knowledge. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. We will now move on to the interpellation with Minister Maynier. Minister, can I just check that you are able to be heard?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am online. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. So I will hand over to you.

Unemployment Insurance Fund

1. Mr M Xego asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

What role does his Department play in making sure that companies and businesses in the province that cannot pay their employees apply for the COVID-19 benefits of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) on behalf of those employees?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker. As you said in your introductory remarks, the Covid-19 pandemic will have long-term impact on the lives of every South African, lives and livelihoods will be lost and that is why the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, together with our partners at Wesgro, are working hard to save business, to save jobs and to save our economy in the Western Cape.

Our teams have actively sought to get clarity from National Government on available financial relief packages that business can access and where we have clarity we have proactively assisted businesses in the Western Cape to apply for support measures that they qualify for.

The Unemployment Insurance Fund Temporary Employee Relief Scheme or

UIF TER Scheme which is managed, and I emphasise this, by the National Department of Employment and Labour, is included in the suite of support measures which we are helping business to apply for. To ensure that businesses are applying for support measures including the UIF TER Scheme, we have collated details of all financial support measures available and developed an online tool which in five easy steps helps businesses identify the support measures they qualify for and helps them to access that support online.

We of course engage almost weekly with a range of business chambers and industry associations to share with them information about support measures including of course the UIF TER Scheme and encouraged their members to apply. We have also assisted businesses that have contacted our support business team looking for advice on how to apply for financial support, including support from the UIF TER Scheme, and we have hosted Webinars for businesses on financial support measures that are available, including a session explaining the UIF TER Scheme.

Members will know that last night President Ramaphosa confirmed that the UIF TER Scheme had disbursed about R11.6 billion benefiting two million employees and 160 000 companies.

The latest information that we have as of 10 May 2020 from the National Department of Employment and Labour, is that R1.8 billion of those funds have been disbursed to 615 188 employees in the Western Cape. The

information that we do have does not tell us enough about the scale and impact of these funds and so we are going to continue to engage with the Department of Employment and Labour to receive regular more detailed information, which will better allow us to understand if employees in the Western Cape are receiving these benefits. We are conducting a survey to understand how many businesses in the Western Cape have actually applied for the UIF TER Funding Scheme and which have been successful and which have not, so that we can properly understand the reasons for this and identify appropriate solutions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are in the end completely committed to doing everything that we can to support businesses in the Western Cape and in so doing save businesses, save jobs, and save the economy in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I see the hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and thanks to the Minister for the response. What we would like to say, what we have experienced recently is a number of employees who consulted with us with regards to businesses that are not complying as far as ensuring that their employees have got access to the relief fund, as far as UIF is concerned.

Now what we want to understand is that what would the Department do with

such kinds of people who qualify to get some form of assistance from Government but on the other hand they do not comply with benefits that will assist workers as far as that is concerned, so what will the Department do to ensure that those culprits that do not comply with ensuring that their people there are withholding the UIF from those who are supposed to be receiving this relief fund at this critical moment? What will the Department do as far as that is concerned? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I see the hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I would like to thank the Provincial Department for assisting businesses during this time and for the Minister for giving us the information regarding how the Department is assisting business. It truly is that, when you support a small business, you are supporting a family.

Given that the function of the UIF is a national function administered by the Department of Labour, Minister, could you please indicate whether any businesses in the Western Cape have contacted the Department regarding labour matters specifically, such as UIF and payments to employees; how have you assisted these businesses specifically, and have you engaged the National Minister on the issue? Finally, Minister, the application process for the UIF, previously in the ad hoc committee, I brought up the fact that one document of instructions for example is 12 pages, another is 10 pages long

for instructions and another one is like four pages. With the amount of pages of the application process, the online application, which is also †an *ellelange* [a long-drawn out] process, and the fact that people still need to use their phones, yes, the actual app, the online app you do not need data for but on your actual phone you still need to do all this documentation. Is it possible for the Department to please engage the Department of Labour to simplify the current process please? Thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As the ANC we are glad that National Government stepped in and brought a series of interventions to support and cushion companies and employees from the economic effects of Covid-19, acknowledging that as the Minister alluded to, that about R1,8 billion has been disbursed in the Western Cape from those who applied for the UIF support for their employees and have been paid, whilst others are still waiting.

I think of concern in this interpellation is the number of employers that the Department of Labour has already informed us have refused to apply and it is important that the MEC is able to tell us, in the province are they aware of such employees and, if so, what have they done in their engagement with industry to encourage such employers in particular to help the employees in this regard?

The Provincial Government must find these companies that refuse to apply for the UIF as well as those that fail to pay their employees. To this day our offices are inundated with calls from distressed employees that have not received their salaries and others that have been issued with retrenchment notices. Unfortunately, the challenges that people are facing will need a caring and responsive government, other than just playing a middleman.

Yes, assistance of certain app information portals and dumps is actually acknowledged, but what is important is a government that is able to intervene especially in maintaining the human rights culture that our democracy is founded on. The arrogance of some of the retail stores' owners is a glaring sign of a province that harbours untransformed markets and exploitation of workers, whilst thousands of our Covid cases came from some of the retail stores infected... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, your time is up, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO: More workers are exposed to danger, through their companies... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, your time is up. Thank you.

Ms N D NKONDLO: ...and I cannot... [Interjection.] [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies, hon member, your time is up. I see the

hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. A government that cares about survival of small businesses would have anticipated that it is the small businesses that are most likely going to need help. The smaller the business or the enterprise the more precarious and vulnerable it is. Small enterprises will have less cash reserves and have less access to credit and these are the businesses that are in need of red tape reduction.

We allocate a budget for the provincial Red Tape Reduction Unit but it appears these small vulnerable businesses are not a priority for the Red Tape Reduction Unit and the most vulnerable small business of all, the survivalist informal trader, got absolutely no help.

I tracked and tried to assist an informal trader from Khayelitsha in her efforts to get a trading permit from the City of Cape Town from when the regulations changed on 2 April. The manner in which she and others were treated was shocking. I wrote to the Mayor of Cape Town on 6 April and again on 14 April about the lack of access to informal trading permits. I then wrote to the Red Tape Reduction Unit on 17 April.

The informal trader that I was assisting and tracking eventually got her permit on 20 April, nearly three weeks after the regulations were amended. Despite the very obvious Covid-19 devastation the Red Tape Reduction Unit was nowhere to be found. When they got back to me they simply confirmed

that the City had assured them that everything was in order – a totally bureaucratic response. This is not red tape reduction and it is not even true.

The City is now being sued by traders represented by the Legal Resource Centre for their handling of the informal trading permits, and it was still being unable to get those permits. So hon Deputy Speaker, I am really saddened by the lack of foresight, empathy and interest of this Government to assist the smallest of enterprises and the most vulnerable. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Xego, I see you.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker. We, as the EFF, have seen a number of complaints that are coming forward regarding some of these businesses who bluntly refuse to sign the UIF forms, understandably so. This is a matter of competency of the National Government as far as labour related matters are concerned, but the challenge that we are having is that these businesses get assistance from the Provincial Government as far as the relief funds are concerned. So we are of the view that there is a deliberate act to ensure that there is a high rate of unemployment especially impacting on people that are coming from townships, understandably so that in terms of numbers that those are the areas where there are high levels of vulnerability.

Now what will the Department do to ensure that those who have taken the money come forward as far as accountability is concerned with regards to the

relief fund of employers, of employees? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I see the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Members are particularly concerned about what will be done in the event of businesses not applying for the UIF TER Scheme, which obviously has a major effect on employees, and what I would suggest is that members who have specific information or received complaints through their constituency offices about employers who have not applied for the UIF TER Scheme or indeed might be refusing to apply for the UIF TER Scheme on behalf of their employees, that the hon members bring those specific complaints to my attention so that the Department can take these matters up with the Department of Labour, which we certainly will, because it is imperative that businesses apply for this scheme if they qualify, so that their employees can benefit.

The hon member Brett Herron, I want to assure him that we do care about small businesses and have been working hard through our Red Tape Reduction Unit and through other divisions in the Department to support small business and to support informal traders, and certainly if the hon member would like to put a specific written question or a further interpellation on the specific matter I think then we can debate it more fully.

The hon member Baartman asks whether any employers or any businesses have approached the Department. Yes, some of them have approached our Business Support Unit and we have certainly assisted them. We have also precisely because there is frustration, not only by employers who are frustrated with the onerous systems to which the hon member refers and frustration amongst employees who are not benefiting from the UIF TER Scheme, we have engaged and I have written to the National Minister requesting more detailed information about the implementation of the UIF TER Scheme in the Western Cape.

How many applications have been submitted? Of those applications, how many of those applications have been approved? How many have been rejected and on what grounds and how many employees and businesses have benefited so that we can properly understand the problem and so that we can find solutions to ensure that the UIF TER Scheme is properly implemented in the Western Cape, so that businesses can benefit and so that employees can also benefit and survive through the pandemic in the Western Cape. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister. That brings us to the end of Interpellations. In terms of Rule 202 we will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper. After the Hon Minister's reply to the question as printed on the Question Paper there will be an opportunity

for hon members to ask follow-up questions.

There are four opportunities for follow-up questions per question printed on the Question Paper, but the hon member who has asked the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper will get the first opportunity for a follow-up question.

Thereafter other hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to follow up on a follow-up question and when an hon member presenting in this House wishes to ask a follow-up question, such an hon member must clearly identify him or herself to the Presiding Officer in order for the Presiding Officer to recognise such hon member for a follow-up question.

So I recognise in the first question to the hon Minister, Minister Mbombo.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Strandfontein temporary shelter for the homeless

1. Mr M Xego asked the Minister of Health:

What is her Department doing to make sure that the homeless people who are housed at the Strandfontein temporary shelter receive proper medical services?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you for the question, hon member Xego.

I just want to highlight that the site, as confirmed by the City, is going to be phased out from 20 May, so we are talking about something that is going to end by next week according to the City. Also note that the City provides – I think they have ten clinics in Mitchells Plain, for the province we do have one CDC, one CHC and also the hospital. So the City does have the capabilities of rendering health services because they are already rendering the services.

However, there were shortfalls where we did go and assess the situation where the shortfall was the mental health aspect, noting that we do have Lentegour Hospital in Mitchells Plain, so in regard to especially when there is a need for the medical assistance for the people that needed at the time to be assessed for mental health, Lentegour Hospital provided the support. Also, the issue of the EMS in case of emergency especially after hours, so it meant that we have to make it a point that we have provided priority for such cases. In addition we advised the City to have a standby on call, professional nurses, plus also add community health workers overnight, so that in case there might not necessarily be a need for an emergency.

Also, for the chronic medication [Inaudible – mic off.] patients that are there, they used to come [Inaudible – mic off.]... and we made a provision that those medications should be brought on site so as the Province that is our responsibility, we have assisted. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Mbombo. Hon member

Xego, do you have a follow-up question?

Mr M XEGO: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, what I wanted to understand, Minister, are there any reported cases of infections in the different shelters that you would like to give us a response to?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I am not sure what infections, but I make an assumption you are probably talking about Covid. Yes, there were Covid cases that were reported there and the tracing team noted that, as I indicated earlier, the City also offer services. They are also part of the Metro Contact Tracing Team, so those cases have been dealt with, including also even in other sites, by the way Bellville and also the other one in Wingfield, so they have been treated the same in terms of taking some of them to the quarantine site outside the shelter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any other members that would like to pose a question?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Member Windvogel, Chairperson, Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see you, hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I heard the MEC, but given

that the temporary shelter has been closed down due to health hazards and inhuman conditions and homeless people sent back to the streets, I want to understand if the MEC has relayed her concerns to the Department of Social Development and the City about the risk factor of homeless contracting the virus and spreading it, as well as to get intervention of keeping them safe from the virus. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Minister Mbombo?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: As I indicated, the assessment was conducted and also there are various health interventions that were put in place. Of course the spread of the virus is a concern anywhere, it will be even if you are at home that you have to access, even like the supermarkets.

Anywhere, when there is more than two people gathered, there is the likelihood that there will be infections. Of course we are concerned, hence it needs all of the interventions coming from the different spheres of Government; whilst the homeless might be a function of the City or of the Municipality, the same also applies to the issue of the social aspects, which is also part of, the custodian of the Department of Social Development. Generally health-wise and most of the time, even the homeless when they used to be – some of them – in the city, they used to access the clinics that are around and adjacent to the city. The same applies to some of them who were coming from the South, Hout Bay and all of those, they are treated the same. Yes, indeed, of course we are concerned about that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Minister Mbombo. Any further follow-up questions?

Mr P J MARAIS: Can I ask a question, hon Deputy Speaker, Peter Marais.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see you, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you. Minister, I am listening very carefully to your answers and to the questions. The problem I have is we have determined there are services which is considered essential services in terms of regulations – essential services to whom? Did we ever think of making a proposal?

There will also be distressed communities, not only essential services, so that they can stand in front of the queue for these essential services, whether it be water, whether it be electricity, whether it be food, but the stressed communities and essential services should go hand-in-hand especially now that we have 19 000 prisoners waiting to be released, some of whom might go to your informal settlements because they do not have a house of their own. What are your plans in relation to this? Are we just giving food if somebody applies or do we give preferential treatment to communities which we will label “distressed communities”? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, hon member, for the question. I agree with you that with regard to vulnerabilities, people differ according to the degree, so you will have those related to the socio-economic factors and also those related to the services that they have to render; essential services could be the shop assistants and all of those. So that is why it needs the whole of Government; also it needs the whole of society. It is not only Health's responsibility and it is not only the Provincial Government but the Local Government and the National Government, the private sector, the communities themselves. I do agree with you. We need to sit down and have a look.

Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final follow-up question, anybody? [No audible reply.] No final, no? [No audible reply.]

Thank you very much, Minister. We will move over to Question 2. I recognise Minister Fernandez.

Food-relief capacity for the poor and vulnerable

2. Ms N Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Social Development:

Whether her Department plans to request more funding from the Provincial Treasury to increase the food-relief capacity for the poor and the vulnerable; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members. I would like to thank the hon member Makamba-Botya for her question.

The response to the question is that DSD will not be requesting any further allocations from Provincial Treasury for Vote 7, since we are able to maintain our existing Food Relief Programme with funds already in place. There is no other money so I can also though report that SASSA's allocation has come through and that they will now be dealing with social relief of distress. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Minister Fernandez. Hon member Makamba-Botya, have you got a follow-up question?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much and thanks to the Minister. I just want to find out from the Minister whether the distribution of food parcels through NGOs has been effective or not and how is the Department making sure that these food parcels reach the intended recipients all the way from the NGOs; and secondly, how does the Department make sure that the personnel and staff of these NGOs do not use this food relief for their personal use? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister Fernandez?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you to the hon

member, I will admit that the distribution of food parcels was not without its challenges. We have seen food protests. We have seen food trucks being hijacked and looted and it is an indication of the level of vulnerability that exists.

The hon member Marais asked a question earlier and I can inform the House that we are indeed busy with a mapping exercise where we can identify the most vulnerable wards in the City as well as in the five District Municipalities. We also have a humanitarian workstream where the key NGOs and NPOs are on-boarded, and we are now getting a bigger picture of how many food parcels have been distributed across the province.

I can also on the issue of distress, psycho-social relief that needs to be provided to communities, we have set up under the humanitarian workstream, which I lead. We have set up a religious and interfaith grouping which Minister Meyer convenes and that grouping meets once a week, so we are also using religious leaders and all interfaith bodies to assist us to try and get food and much needed nutritional support to vulnerable people on the ground as quickly as possible. Thank you, Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Fernandez. Anybody wants to pose a question to the Minister?

Mr G BOSMAN: Gillion Bosman, Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, yes, I hear you.

Mr G BOSMAN: Through you, Hon Deputy Speaker, Minister Fernandez, are you able to confirm that the South African Social Security Agency only has R10 million budgeted for relief of distress for the Western Cape for this year?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister Fernandez.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, let me first, just for the context; we have invited Mr Henry de Grass, who represents SASSA in the Province and he sits in on our workstream meetings. They received the allocation of R36 million for the year, of which R10 million – I am told – was allocated for social relief of distress.

Now if you consider that the R35 million which we reprioritised, and we used four key NPOs, Red Cross, Mustadafin, Sanzaf and Islamic Relief, that purchased us 50 000 food parcels valued at R500,00, then the R10 million would not go very far, but it certainly will be topped up by the allocation that has been made now for social, the R350,00 SRD where vulnerable community members, individuals can now apply for the R350,00 which will be managed over the next six months.

I am told though that there is a serious backlog and that individuals are experiencing challenges getting through on the various platforms that have

been made available. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Fernandez. Any further follow-up questions to the Minister?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes, I would like to come in again, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms A P BANS: Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, I recognise hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you very much. Minister, do you have any input in terms of the decision to hand out food parcels, what the value of the food parcels will be, what we are paying the NGOs or NPOs in terms of their delivery service or whatever they do? The last time I heard it was said the food parcels are valued at R1400 and when hon member Cameron asked how much of that is food, it was said R800,00 and R400,00 goes to the service provider. Who made that decision that the service provider gets a third of the value of the total food parcel and R800,00 goes to the person who gets the food, and now we heard over the news some food parcels are being opened, peanut butter is shared between two or three families out of each parcel. Are you aware of this and does it have your full support that councillors who handed this out are allowed to open food parcels and divide it so that it can go further? I am baffled. Can you please answer to that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Fernandez.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon member Marais, yes, thank you for the question. It is deeply concerning. I need to clarify that there are various food parcels doing the rounds. SASSA has a food parcel. DSD in this province has a food parcel and ours was valued at R500,00. Then you also have the Solidarity Fund that dispatched x-amount of food parcels in the province and then you have the City of Cape Town, I know the Mayoral Fund has, so there has been a fair amount of confusion. We also see many public reps who use their own funds to create or provide a nutritional support to families in need.

At this point there is no regulation but the new directions, which Minister Zulu is pondering on, make provision for a food parcel to be monitored in terms of what goes into the food parcel.

However, there are challenges in that the food parcels need to be mapped. They need to be distributed by SAPS and so there are some practical implications. However, I would not condone anyone handing out a parcel, a peanut butter jar that has been opened, because there are certainly health standards.

So, from a DSD perspective, our food parcels are quality assured and checked before they get despatched, and the recipient signs to confirm that they have indeed received every single item that is listed in that parcel. I

am aware that in certain contracts in the national domain, that had been made inter-provinces, there was an administration fee initiated. I, unfortunately, cannot speak to that negotiation, because it does not affect our department at a provincial level, but when we negotiate with any service provider and we have used service providers that have the logistics, the resources to cope with a disaster situation, the quote that they – and I am not privy to that because it is not my place to be involved in any tender process, but I am assured that everything is factored into the costing when the agreement is signed.

So, I trust that that gives some insight. I am mindful that a food parcel cannot or does not solve the problem, because often we give people food parcels, but they do not have electricity to cook the food. So, I would want to see a situation where we have food parcels, food vouchers *and, and, and*, rather than just relying on a food parcel to be delivered to any rural outlying area and also, it is about keeping the informal economy going. We should be looking at vouchers that could possibly be redeemed at Spaza Shops. So, those are just some of my ideas, but to answer your question, our parcel is valued at R500. It has been over-subscribed. We have delivered pretty much all of it, but all the others have been allocated for and it is now just the distribution to get them to the various district municipalities.

We have ensured that every municipality has benefited, but if you consider 50 000 parcels when you have more than 2 million distressed individuals,

you have 1.6 million grant beneficiaries, we are facing a humanitarian crisis that is not going to be solved by a food parcel. It is going to require a whole of government approach and a whole of society approach and I trust that answers the question. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Did I hear, was it hon member Botha that was wanting to speak?

Ms A BANS: Member Bans ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Member Dugmore.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry.

Ms A BANS: Member Bans.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member Dugmore, one minute. There was someone before that. Can I just check? [Interjection.]

Ms L J BOTHA: It was not me, Deputy Speaker.

Ms A BANS: Member Bans. It was member Bans, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member Bans. I will take Member Bans' question.

Ms A BANS: Yes, Deputy Speaker. Sorry. I think ... [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, may I just, I noticed there are a lot of questions, but how many follow-up questions do we have ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Last one. Last one.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. Member Bans, over to you.

Ms A BANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. What I want to know from the Minister what is the number of households that her Department has supported with food parcels and whether she believes that the number is enough?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: As alluded to in my previous response, I certainly do not believe that the 50 000 parcels which we procured was ever sufficient. That was really just to create a safety net, because SASSA's budget was depleted earlier in the year and we then took on the role of social relief of distress with the additional 50 000

parcels. At this stage we have our NPO's who are now dealing with food parcels and I cannot give the answer off-hand, but I will be able to provide that to the House, the breakdown of parcels per district municipality.

All our DSD regional offices have a database because we check the data against SASSA's SOC Pen Database to ensure that there is no double-dipping. So, I will make sure that the House gets provided with the number of parcels that have been allocated. But as I said, 50 000 have been allocated. Not all 50 000 have been delivered. And hon Bans, I will take up your other conversation off-line with you, if that is appropriate. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. We will now move over to questions to the Premier without notice. I recognise hon member Herron.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I think, Deputy Speaker, let me start by saying how sad it is that we lost eNCA Cameraman Lungile Tom yesterday and that the Premier was exposed potentially to the virus again. Lungile Tom was at the Premier's press conference last week and one week later he is dead, and I must say I find it quite alarming that the Premier is still hosting Press Briefings with journalists in the room. The Premier recently wrote and Mr Bredell confirmed this yesterday in our ad

hoc committee that the Covid-19 stats are not a competition, and I must say that I was very relieved to hear that, because I had been observing that this government is conducting itself as if these stats are a competition.

We have had arguments about more testing, better testing and now we are debating co-morbidities of those who died, but we have always known that those with underlying health conditions were more susceptible. So, these kinds of arguments really demonstrate a government that is in some sort of competition and the Western Cape has to win. Now, today the Premier has apparently called for the Province to move to Level 3, and I would like to ask the Premier, given the high death rate and the highest infection numbers that we have in the country, if the Premier can tell the people of the Western Cape what the scientific basis is for this call? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon member. I see the Premier. Premier Winde, can you hear me? If you can just ask ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Is there a Premier in the House?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we ask IT just to check Premier Winde's connection as he has an outside connection? There could be a problem. Hon members, what I would like to do, if I can, while we check that, could we just ask for the recording to stop for a few minutes until we have the Premier online and he can answer the questions, because this directly affects him. Chief Whip, is that in order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): It is, Deputy Speaker. I do see that he is one of the participants. He might be having trouble similar to that of Minister Maynier. So, agreed, yes. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Can we just stop the recording and have a few minutes recess just to check Premier Winde's connection? Table Staff, if you can stop the recording. Thank you.

[Business was the House suspended and resumed after a short break.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, it does seem that Premier Winde is having technical issues. I wonder if we should move on to completing the statements and give time to allow the Premier to reconnect. Then we will move back to questions to the premier without notice and we will have to unfortunately get member Herron to repose that question. Let me just see. I will just give him a few more minutes. Okay, he also cannot be heard. The same as Minister Maynier earlier. Chief Whip, hon members, would it be okay if we move questions to the Premier without notice after the statements?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): No, objection from us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Chief Whip of the Oppositional Party, is everybody in agreement?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. I am assuming that is fine. So, thank you member Herron. My apologies. If we can move over to statements by members in terms of Rule 145, while we sort out the Premier's connection. The first is the DA.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr R D MACKENZIE (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, our country like the rest of the world, has been greatly impacted by the spread of Covid-19. When it comes to managing this crisis there is simply no guide book on how to best combat this pandemic. There is no one-size-fits-all model. This crisis demands innovation and flexibility. This government has exemplified good and brave leadership in a time of a global crisis. The Western Cape has undertaken a whole of government approach and are working around the clock to ensure we are prepared for the peak that is yet to come.

The targeted testing approach falls in line with expert evidence from leading epidemiologists. The Province's screening and testing strategy focus on specific high risk clusters and this informs intentions taken by the Provincial Government to flatten the curve. The disparity in the positive case numbers from the Western Cape and other provinces, is a result of the active tracking down of the virus in communities where it has

been transmitted.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the truth of the matter is that the Western Cape has been transparent throughout the course of this pandemic, with timeous releases of figures on a daily basis. Residents can be assured that every step is taken to make the best possible decisions based on the most reliable data on hand. The Premier and his government have undertaken to keep all residents informed and updated in the most comprehensive manner possible. Information, data and timeous interventions are key. The same can be said about the work of the oversight by the Provincial Parliament which meets on a regular basis to scrutinise the work of the Western Cape Government.

We are the first and only legislature to meet via digital means with public availability in the country. This is because we take our constitutional obligation seriously. Tracking and quality assurance, all measures taken by our Provincial Government. It is through reliable data, tough decision making, oversight and planning that we are able to say that the future for the people of the Western Cape will be free of Coronavirus. I thank you.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, due to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases and the death toll in the province, especially for patients with underlying conditions, we want to

call for compulsory hospitalisation of all Covid-19 cases with co-morbidities. We have already seen the ruthlessness of this disease on people with underlying health conditions. So, hospitalisation as opposed to isolation at home will give them a fighting chance.

Deputy Speaker, last week I had to intervene in a case of a patient with a kidney infection who was forced to isolate at home, an informal settlement, despite showing symptoms. It is this kind of risky behaviour that has resulted in our high death toll. I commend the prompt response from the Health HOD when I complained about this case. The low usage of quarantine and isolation facilities in spite of increasing infection rates is a cause for serious concern.

As of 29 April 2020, only 9% were in quarantine facilities and 21% in self-isolation facilities. And 63% of all Covid-19 cases were isolating in their homes. If we are to win this battle, Deputy Speaker, this needs to change. The government must open to the public all its 186 public owned and 152 private isolation and quarantine sites. Take people out of the densely populated Cape Flats and townships to these quarantine sites. It is disappointing that no work has started at CTICC for a field hospital, despite the mounting numbers and death toll. The province must ramp up its testing capacity. Immediate families of retail and factory workers should not be left out during contact tracing and testing after positive cases are discovered in work places.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member Windvogel, your time is up.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: We are thankful of the Department of Health officials, nurses and [Inaudible.] ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member Windvogel ... [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: ...put in long hours, and risk their lives every day to save our lives. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Sorry, I am not always sure if you can hear me. Thank you very much. I recognise the DA.

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, Gideon Bosman.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, go ahead.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the current public health crisis has revealed deep fractures in the South African Social Security System. South Africa has one of the highest numbers of citizens on social grants, while at the same time we have got a decreasing tax base. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, and we have been hoping that the South African Social Security Agency will be able to make things work during this pandemic.

Through the many scandals of incompetent management and political ineptitude we have not only seen an agency so far out of its depth, but we have seen them put the lives of grant recipients at risk. We have so many hungry people, desperate for a small grant that ensures that they can feed their families, but the ineptitude of SASSA has shown us this last month where they have failed to pay some recipients in the country, and they have double paid recipients of grants in the Western Cape. Whilst SASSA fails, the National Minister of DSD is contemplating regulations to limit the generosity of soup kitchens and community feedings schemes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what this tells us is that we need a new solution to manage these grants and the feeding of our communities. We need a capable grants agency that is able to make this happen error-free and corruption-free, but most importantly, we need a new social security architecture that changes the relationship between the State and its citizens. This new relationship needs to take into account the ability of the State to respond, not to close their offices and draft regulations that leaves many hungry. We need an agency that is able to make sure that it delivers on the most basic of its mandate as provided for in legislation.

The Covid-19 crisis has forced us to relook at the role of Social Development as a Department and it requires us to re-imagine our social security architecture. I thank you.

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

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters condemns the proposed amendment of the City of Cape Town's By-Law on public places and prevention of noise nuisances, in particular, section 22 of the By-Law which gives City Officials powers to instruct a person who is alleged to be in contravention with the By-Law to leave and remain out of certain areas, and further, without a warrant to stop and to enter and search any vessel, vehicle, premises or person for *prima facie* offenses.

On face value and indeed in substance, these provisions violate people's rights to dignity, privacy and movement which are guaranteed under section 10, 14 and 21 of the South African Constitution. Apart from being poorly drafted, they also cannot be reconciled with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act and the South African Police Act, which achieves similar purposes with less intrusion into people's rights.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these amendments are nothing other than an endeavour by the DA-led government to reintroduce apartheid laws based on segregation such as Pass Laws and to restrict the movement of black people by keeping them away from formerly white-only areas.

It is no wonder that the Western Cape Provincial Government is hell-bent on squeezing billions of rands from other departments under the guise of the Safety Plan, the real aim being to spend them on increasing the law enforcement officials who would be used to implement and administer

these segregation laws. The real safety plan here is to use these by-laws to keep poor and black people confined in townships and away from areas formerly reserved for white people such as beaches, parks and other amenities found mostly in the White suburbs and also to grant law enforcement officers wide and unlimited powers to enter and invade poor people's properties at any time and in any manner they wish, in order to intimidate and disturb their peace and privacy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in closing, the EFF finds these proposed amendments to be unfortunate, distasteful and insulting to our constitutional dispensation which was achieved through sweat and blood. We hope that they will never see the light of day. Thank you.

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

Ms D BAARTMAN: Deidre Baartman, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You may go ahead.

Ms D BAARTMAN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans. The Department of Tourism previously announced that they would make available a tourism ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, [Interjections.] Hon Baartman, one minute please. I have just muted everyone. Hon Baartman, can you just

unmute yourself and begin again please? Thank you.

Ms D BAARTMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans. The Department of Tourism previously announced that they would make available a tourism relief fund to assist Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises or SMME's in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector during the Covid-19 lockdown. R200 million was allocated to this fund. The delivery mechanisms of these funds include that the relief be distributed to at least 70% black owned business beneficiaries, 50% women owned beneficiaries, 30% youth owned beneficiaries and 4% to business beneficiaries owned by people with disabilities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Covid-19 does not discriminate. It is in the interest of all South African SMME's to ensure that this criteria is reviewed by the National Minister of Tourism. What happens if a white owner has to close down its business and if that business has majority black employees? Who does the relief fund then benefit? 90 000 tourism related jobs stand to be lost in the Western Cape alone within the next 6 months.

The National Finance Minister, Minister Mboweni, himself, has indicated that the government needs to support all enterprises in its Covid-19 relief funding, regardless of race. He stated, "I think that we need to support all enterprises, black and white, as long as they are able to remain viable, support our people and create jobs."

Minister Mboweni indicated that he had a discussion with a white hotel owner, with a successful business and whose employees were 95% black. The hotel was closed due to Covid-19's impact on the Tourism Sector and could not obtain relief funds from the Government because the owner was white. The hotel owner indicated this and the Minister thought that he was wrong and misunderstood the position and indicated that he would discuss the relief fund with the Minister of Tourism, Minister Kubayi-Ngubane, the current funding criteria, which means that over 93% of all companies with a turnover of less than R10 million per year or not 51% black-owned... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please finish off.

Ms D BAARTMAN: ...will not receive funding. I repeat, hon Deputy Speaker, Covid-19 does not discriminate. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Baartman. I see the Good Party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, last week I said that the DA was exploiting the cracks that divide us and undermining our response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The very next day the DA called for the lockdown to be lifted, for the economy to be opened and claimed that the virus is not as deadly as we feared. In towns and cities across the United States the virus is devastating black communities.

The environment where they live, the jobs they have, the prevalence of health conditions and how they are treated by the medical establishment have created what has been called a toxic storm of severe illness and death. The conditions described in the United States should sound dangerously familiar for South African workers.

Trump's call to open the economy is echoed here by the DA. In the United States the economy is being paid for with workers' lives. There is little reason to think anything different would happen in South Africa. If anything the higher prevalence of HIV and high rates of TB, diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and in many rural areas, limited health care, should require far more caution from our leaders.

The Western Cape has the highest infection rate and the highest death rate and last night the President suggested that infection hotspots could remain at Level 4 when the rest of the country moves to Level 3. This could mean that parts of the Western Cape, including our economic powerhouse, Cape Town, will remain locked down for longer than we need it to.

I urge the DA to radically shift from unscientific populism and lead the change of the trajectory in the Western Cape. If you fail to do so and we remain an infection hotspot, then you must carry some of the responsibility for our extended lockdown and the social and economic hardship that that will mean for all of us.

You have been elected to lead this province. It is time for you to do so with more rigorous contact tracing, more stringent isolation and quarantine protocols and a coherent message about how seriously we all need to take this. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ACDP in the Western Cape is totally shocked by the irresponsible and reckless call by the ANC in the province to call on Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to move back to Level 5. There is no way that the Western Cape can return to Level 5 and we must stop playing games. Lives are important, but the important thing is, businesses are closing down on a daily basis. The unemployment rate is rapidly increasing and businesses that were allowed to open under Level 4 restrictions are doing their utmost to ease their cashflow problems and are trying to stay above board.

Returning to Level 5 would remove all hope for these businesses. This does not even include those businesses that are not able to operate under Level 4, like your hair salons, restaurants and your B&B's. Besides our provincial economy, our schools and tertiary institutions would be negatively affected if they stay closed, meaning that our learners would lose one academic year.

The ACDP in the Western Cape is adamant that certain districts within the

Western Cape can have their lockdown level lowered due to them remaining stable, but it is important that we get the Western Cape economy moving and it is important that we also stop the job losses of people that cannot feed themselves and their families because they do not have an income. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Yesterday the country saw the highest daily increase of new infections. There were 724 and 608 of these new infections were recorded in our province. Currently the Western Cape has 55.6% of all infections. We have the highest death toll. We acknowledge that our province has tested more people as a percentage of the population. At the same time we note that Gauteng has tested the greatest number of the national total.

There are however particular reasons, aside from testing, that have greatly contributed to the Western Cape having the greatest number of infections, transmissions, and deaths. We must be honest about these factors as painful as the truth may be. Despite us being the national epicentre of the pandemic, Premier Winde has made the reckless call that the province goes to Level 3 before the end of the month. This, in direct defiance of the call by President Ramaphosa who said last night, and I quote, "We will immediately begin a process of consultation with relevant stakeholders on a process that by the end of May most of the country be placed on alert

Level 3, but that those parts of the country with the highest rates of infection remain at Level 4”.

The Premier’s call is reckless and is clearly driven by a DA agenda. An agenda of exceptionalism. An agenda which places economic recovery at the expense of people’s lives. In fact, peoples’ lives at the expense. The call by Premier Winde and the DA is not in the best interests of our province. The ANC in the province is opposed to this blanket approach of placing the economy above the lives of our people.

To make matters worse, there was no consultation with labour, business and civil society. There is no plan to ensure that all work places will be safe and this, also bearing in mind, ongoing attempts by some even in this House, to block access to labour inspectors, to certain factories and work places. Transmission rates are highest in our province because of grave mistakes made by this Provincial Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICAL OPPOSITION: I will conclude as you have allowed others to conclude, that we will start a process of consultation. We want to find common ground with the Premier and the President ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and we will be making our proposals after we have consulted next week with business, labour, the education sector ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...we will be making those proposals and discuss these with ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...the President of the Republic. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I see the DA. Last opportunity.

Mr R I ALLEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, last night during a live broadcast to the Nation, President Cyril Ramaphosa stated, some of the actions we have taken have been unclear, some have been contradictory, and some have been poorly explained. The President further stated, implementation has sometimes been slow, and enforcement has sometimes been inconsistent and too harsh. I agree with the President as various published regulations during the lockdown period have caused obvious frustration as they provide little or no clarity on how to effectively manage the crisis at hand.

And although I could refer to the apparent attempt at creating a so-called Fashion Police, the announcement to authorise the parole of thousands of sentenced offenders in order to reduce overcrowding in prisons, in an effort slow down the spread of Covid-19, cannot be supported. I firmly believe that Government has not adequately explored all of its options in that regard and that this release of prisoners may lead to a greater humanitarian crisis than that which we are attempting to avoid.

Government could have, hon Deputy Speaker, and should have, explored alternative means of reducing over population in prisons which is a reality as result of 26 years of neglect and failure to upgrade prisons in line with the increasing number of the inmate population.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the early release should only be considered if there is a relevant report that indicates that the offender has shelter to return to, will not place an unnecessary financial burden on relatives and is at low risk of re-offending, but also – and it is imperative that the parole board consults with the effected communities, social workers, the relevant SAPS station commanders and the victims and families of victims prior to granting parole. Just this morning I received a worrying message: another instance where Correctional Services informed a family member that there will be no consultations between them ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up, hon member Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: So, as I conclude Deputy Speaker, we call on National Government to provide clarity on its regulations in order to fight the spread of Covid-19 effectively. Thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus note with great shock and concern the extent to which our country is currently being run in terms of regulations which is not equivalent to a law of general application as required in Section 36 of the Constitution; that the regulations are also not of general application and justifiable in an open and democratic society as stated in the Constitution, because it unfairly discriminates against SMME's, while rights to conduct business have been given to large supermarkets and chain stores. We believe that the democratic rights of all should be recognised and not given as a privilege to the few. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I see the Al Jama-ah Party. I see Al Jama-ah online. Last call. Okay. I see him not. If he is online, if he can just check his connection otherwise we will move on to the DA.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Deputy Speaker, we have concluded our four statements.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you very much. That brings us to the end of Statements. In terms of Rule 145.6 I now give one Minister an opportunity to respond to the Members Statements for not more than 5 minutes. Are there any Ministers who are wanting to respond? No? Okay. Thank you. I assume that is no. That brings us to the end of members statements. We will now revert back to questions to the Premier without notice in terms of Rule 204. I recognise the hon Herron. If you could just repeat your question. Thank you.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I will just go to the question part. If the Premier could please disclose to the people of the Western Cape the scientific basis for this call to move from Level 4 to Level 3, given the high death rate and the fact that we have the highest number of infections in South Africa. What we have seen in the media today is sort of buzz words arounds data-led, evidence based hotspot plan, whole of government approach, but I think it would be useful for the people of the Western Cape who are living under this pandemic, watching the numbers spike, to be reassured by the Premier that there is a scientific and a health basis for making that call to move to Level 3. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Over to you, Premier. I should have checked that the Premier was online or able to hear us.

Mr P J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, can we elect the ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: ...interim Premier. [Laughs.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we just check that the Premier is online? That was my fault, hon Herron. I was thinking as you were speaking to perhaps just ask, before you do that, if the Premier can hear us.

Mr B N HERRON: Deputy Speaker, may I say that by the time I get to ask this question there will be nothing left of the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Technology can be our worst enemy in the most important times. Can I get some indication ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Or lack of an answer. [Laughs.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I get some indication from the – I wonder if Tafseer, I know you are online, if you could perhaps dial in the Premier on his phone. That would be quite possible to do. Members, I am going to ask just for the recording to stop. It would be very uncomfortable for the public to be watching this now until we fix up the technicalities and we can restart it as soon as we got him online, as soon we can call him in ourselves via his phone and that should be quite quick. I note that the

clock has paused.

Okay, members, I would like the recording to continue. I am sorry, member Herron. I feel that we will just have to move on for the sake of the sitting and we can come back at a later time when the Premier is absolutely online. Let me just see, I just want to confirm 100% that he is not online now. No. Alright, we are then going to move on to ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. I see you.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): IT just informed us, Mr Abbas said that the Premier is coming in with his cell phone.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, perfect. Then [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): If we could just wait a short moment, he should be online.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am happy to do that. Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, point of order. Are we going to extend this debate? Are we extending the time allocated?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, I think, hon Marais, we just need to be flexible in this unprecedented time. As you can see, you know, you think you do not have PC issues, but then you do. So, just give another 30 seconds and then before hon Herron poses his question I will check that the Premier is online. Just a little bit of patience. This is something that I guess, we really do not have control over. But dialling in is usually quite quick.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: We are going to be sitting here until ten o'clock, hon Marais?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. No. I think we just need to exercise a little bit of patience. Premier, are you online yet? Hon Chief Whip, can you just check for me? I cannot see everybody. Mine, unfortunately still says that the Premier Winde has left on this side. So, I cannot see that he is actually online.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Deputy Speaker, it does not look like he has managed to re-join yet.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Chief Whip, what do you suggest? We continue to move to Notice of Motion or shall we wait?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I would suggest Deputy Speaker, that we continue with Motions With Notice, and hopefully by the time we have concluded

that, we will have the Premier on the line, and we can proceed with that order if there are no objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there are no objections, then I think in the interest of time and of hon Marais' time we shall move over to notices of motion. So I have been informed in the Programming Authority meeting of 12 May 2020 that it was resolved that the Political Parties would submit the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who wish to move motions with notice in the sitting of the House. I will therefore recognise hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted, alternating between the majority party and opposition party names. I will therefore recognise them accordingly as they have been submitted. So, the first person I recognise is the hon Derrick America.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall move:

That the House at its next sitting debate the financial sustainability of municipalities in the Western Cape post Covid-19. I so move.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Notice taken. I see the

hon Bans. Hon Bans? I do not hear the hon Bans. I see, I am going to move on. I see the hon Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the derogation of our basic human rights by the ANC's mismanagement of this pandemic.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice is taken. I see the hon Brinkhuis. I did not see him earlier, so I move on. I move over to the hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debate the illegal land invasions during lockdown period. The Democratic Alliance has noted with great concern the recent land invasion incidents including those of Empolweni, Theewaterskloof and Langeberg. The alleged political motivations behind these invasions leads to the dissemination of false rumours and misleading information in order to mobilise communities for selfish political purposes. Hon Deputy Speaker, such opportunistic behaviour

cannot be tolerated especially during a crisis such as this. I so move.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice taken. I see the hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House discusses the Western Cape Education Department's lack of ability to enrol and provide quality education to all our children of school going age in this province as promised in this Legislature. Thank you.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notice taken. Thank you. I see the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debate the ongoing labour actions and dissatisfaction by frontline Covid-19 pandemic workers in the Western Cape like nurses and emergency medical workers who are not given adequate

mandatory personal protection equipment . Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notice taken. Thank you. I see the hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I would like to move with notice:

That the House debates the interference with labour inspectors executing their task to curb the spread of the Coronavirus by especially politicians and other people who, amongst others, have attempted to prevent officials to inspect hotspots in the Western Cape.
I so move.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Notice taken. I see the hon Sayed again.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, let me just see. I do not ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, it is fine. I withdraw. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I see the hon Smith. We are having an interesting day. Then I see the hon Bans. Is she back online?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There you go. Off you go.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you. On behalf of member Bans, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House discusses the failure by the Western Cape Department of Social Development to maintain safe social distances between all the visitors in and around its offices. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. That concludes notices of motions. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Deputy Speaker, just on a point of

clarity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): The hon Windvogel moved a motion in the name of hon Bans. Is that the case or is that motion moved in the name of the hon Windvogel, for debate?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It seems that Ms Windvogel said that it would be in the name of hon Bans. Can I clarify that, hon Windvogel?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: That is correct, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I just think for clarity we just need to make sure and I am asking for your indulgence and ruling, if that in fact is allowed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. So, I very clearly did say that we have to have the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and I think I have to abide by that because that was a ruling made before. So, I would actually ask Ms Windvogel that we withdraw that last one as I had called on Ms Bans, hon Bans earlier, and she did not respond to her slot to speak. So I am not going to accept the last one, based on the ruling that had clearly stated prior to the notices of motion. Can I ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I see you. Who am I speaking to? Is that hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes. I assumed my name was on that list. You said you have closed it now. Motion without notice?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, I do not see your name on the list. That was notices of motion, that is correct. I do not have you on the list, hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Is this the list with or without notice?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is notices of motion.

Mr P J MARAIS: Notices of ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are definitely on the other one.

Mr P J MARAIS: Oh no, because I heard hon Dugmore said, he moved without notice. So I was not sure if Cameron Dugmore moved without notice and whether there is a mixture of the two now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to revert to Hansard if I may and see

whether that was in the wrong category. If it so was, then we will have it withdrawn.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, if I could just assist you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It may have been a slip of the tongue, but I definitely moved with notice. That was my intention, to move with notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. I will accept that. Thank you, hon Marais, for being so sharp on what hon Dugmore said. I will accept that, but I will withdraw the last one from hon Windvogel. Can I just check, has the Premier managed to enter the sitting? Not yet? Then I am going to move on, motions without notice in terms of Rule 150.

I am informed that in the Programming Authority Meeting of 12 May 2020, it was resolved that the political parties would submit the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who wish to move motions without notice in the sitting of the House. I will therefore recognise hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted, alternating between the majority party and the opposition parties. So, in this case my list states that I recognise the hon Allen.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Point of Order, Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. One minute, who is calling on point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Pat Lekker, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, yes?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, I have received an information an hour ago from member Ayanda Bans as well as member Denzel Smith that they are struggling to connect. They seem to have a problem where they are in the mountains and I then, in our caucus, communicated with comrade Rachel Windvogel as well as comrade Pat Marran to take over the motions of the two members. This actually took place after the rules were read and before the sitting started. So, I thought I must bring this to your attention, Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Lekker, but it would have meant that you needed to inform the table staff so that we could actually make that special change in agreement with the House.

Unfortunately we cannot do it after the fact. So, if that does happen, that we can actually inform the table staff accordingly please. And remember the chat, there is a chat opportunity there for the table staff to see that there is a problem with the connection, but I cannot go back unfortunately now. The member can actually do that motion in the following sitting. So, I recognise the hon Allen for Motions Without Notice.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House extends our condolences to the family, loved ones and colleagues of the late Lungile Tom following his passing on Wednesday morning; that this House notes that the eNCA camera-man was no stranger to the Western Cape Government and the Provincial Parliament. Our thoughts are with his wife Nandipa and his children and family. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? Any objection to the motion itself?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objection? The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I then move over to hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the chaos at certain Western Cape sites meant to be safe shelters for the poor and homeless during the Covid-19 pandemic and the inadequate measures in place there to reduce the infection rates, but that operations of these testify to uneven testing, lack of isolation, poor communication on test results and erratic handling of possible patients at quarantine sites during the lockdown. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: Object. Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with sadness the passing of the second Western Cape nurse due to Covid-19 and extend our sincere condolences to the family of Nurse Ntombizakithi Ngidi. Her service to the people in the province, especially during this unprecedented time is highly esteemed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, her friends, and the colleagues during this time. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections? Agreed to. I move over to hon Piet Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House asks the Premier as a matter of extreme urgency to request a relaxation of the regulations by the President thereby allowing small and medium business enterprises in the Western Cape to operate albeit under strict health precautionary measures as it applies to other essential service providers; that such a relaxation of

the regulations is necessary to prevent the complete financial collapse of SMME's and loss of thousands of jobs and job opportunities that the inefficient and ineffective systems currently deployed by both SASSA and the UIF is a cause for great concern, causing distress and hardship to the poor and jobless masses. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, are there any objections to the motion being moved in the House? There are no objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the observation of International Nurses Day observed on 12 May 2020 during an unprecedented time and commends nurses for heroic work in the fight against Covid-19. That we extend a heartfelt thank you to them for taking courage and their dedicated service to communities, every day. Registered nurses pledge to serve humanity with conscience and dignity and first consideration to their patients. A noble tradition indeed. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No? There is no objection; agreed to. Before I move on to the next person, I just want to mute everybody, because there is a lot of feedback.

I then move over to hon member Smith. Please unmute yourself, hon member Smith.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Where is my turn, hon Deputy Speaker?

Mr D SMITH: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you, who am I speaking ...
[Interjections.]

Mr D SMITH: I am here, I am here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes? Go ahead.

Mr D SMITH: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the DA in the Southern Cape and other areas, is known for its shenanigans in municipalities and further that people are getting fed up as the DA even tries to manipulate local councils from secret meetings behind closed doors, like in George. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes! We object.

An HON MEMBER: We object. [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the order paper.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: We have no time for grandstanding here.

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

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House applauds Premier Alan Winde for his exemplary leadership in taking the necessary precautions by going into self-quarantine. We thank the Premier for demonstrating the importance of

each individual taking personal responsibility in this way. These are essential actions in the fight against Covid-19. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No?

An HON MEMBER: I object. [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: Oh.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear an objection. The motion will be printed on the order paper. I recognise the hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House congratulates University of the Western Cape researcher Dr Tasnim Suliman, who, first in South Africa, isolated the virus causing Covid-19; notes this would aid local research into the Corona pandemic; and commends the collaboration of UWC and

Stellenbosch University in the laboratory battle against the virus. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House commends the Care Company which is partnering with local churches and leaders in both Masiphumelele and Ocean View, to feed the most needy in these communities. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House welcomes National Health Minister Zweli Mkhize's announcement that even more trained professionals of the Cuban

medical brigade, who recently arrived in South Africa, will be deployed to strengthen the Western Cape in our hotspots where the Covid-19 pandemic continues to spread rampantly. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Objections?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objection?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I just said, I said “hear-hear” or “viva, viva the Cubans, viva”.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Dugmore. I move over to hon member Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Madam Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House commends the work done by the Blockhouse Kitchen & Jonkershuis Eatery Feeding Scheme. Their trained chefs are

cooking nutritious meals for bulk distribution to feeding schemes to those that are hungry in the Deep South. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objections? No objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Sayed.

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

That the House notes a prominent South African doctor died on Monday night due to Covid-19, and sends our condolences to the family and friends of Medical Schemes Council Chair, Dr Clarence Mini, who was hospitalised for a month since he tested positive, and hails Dr Mini as a leading figure in the transformation of South African health care services. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House commends the work done by Food Angels – a group of like-minded women who came together to provide dry food basics and fresh food for those in need. By rallying the goodwill of the community, the Food Angels are now providing hundreds of meals and packs of food to the needy in Westlake. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes Tuesday was the commemoration of International Nurses Day and thanks all nurses and caregivers looking after the sick and frail. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. I see the hon member Mitchell.

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

That the House notes and give thanks to the WCPP procedural officers and IT support staff, for their ongoing efforts to enable us to deliver a virtual, functional, and public parliament during this crucial time in history. Our gratitude is extended to our colleagues, working patiently to make sure we are digitally connected.

We thank the WCPP personnel for their commitment during these unprecedented and challenging times. Through innovation and creativity to match the environment in which we find ourselves, the WCPP can stand proud as the only fully functional provincial legislature in the country with an open, digital operation. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo? No? I move on to hon member Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That ANC Minister Lindiwe Zulu urgently reconsiders draft regulations that propose the banning of cooked food for distribution by NGOs and voluntary individuals. For many these cooked meals are the only food for the day. Should it be banned, many will die of starvation. There are means to allow for safe distribution of meals. Regulations should be amended accordingly and should not be banned. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, objection. It is simply not true. It is simply not true.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the order paper. I recognise the hon member Lekker.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker ... [connection lost.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am here. It is just that I hear that someone actually wanted to speak.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Are you now giving me ...

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker, my mic is ... [audio distorted]. I do not know, because I have been answering when you ask for me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, I will – you can move now, because you have contacted me straight after you were supposed to speak, so you can speak, and then I will move on to hon member Lekker.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without

notice:

That the House calls on the Provincial Government to urgently adjust its budget for the new financial year in the extraordinary Covid-19 period, and oversee Local Government to do the same in order to aid vulnerable residents and SMMEs. I thank you. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections; agreed to. Hon member Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Move without notice:

That the House congratulates one of the Western Cape's oldest residents, Ms Nora de Kock from Kuilsriver, who turned 110 years old on Tuesday. According to her ID she was born on 12 May 1910, worked most of her life on the farms. She is still walking strong and upright, as well as being an active Ward 11 member of the African National Congress. †Lekker verjaar, ouma Nora! [Happy birthday, grandmother Nora!] I thank you hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections; agreed to. I move over to hon member Mitchell.

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

That the House notes the alleged assault of a member of the public by the Deputy Mayor of Beaufort West Municipality and ANC Central Karoo Regional Chairperson, Mr Quintin Louw.

We further note that it cannot be that during this time of crisis, where communities are vulnerable and looking to their leaders to protect them, that public representatives abuse their power to settle personal political scores and to abuse public office for personal gain.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if these deplorable allegations are true, then we urge the ANC to act immediately and remove the Deputy Mayor from office and dismiss him as a public representative, and open a criminal case for the criminal justice system to follow its course in the interest of all the people of Beaufort West. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, any objections?

An HON MEMBER: I object, I object.

Mr P MARAIS: Chairman, a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. One minute. Can I just finish, hon member Marais? So, I hear there is an objection. The motion will be tabled on the order paper. Hon member Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: The motion itself says he condemns it, and then he says, "If it is true," afterwards. It is contradictory. It is either true or it is not. He cannot ask the House to condemn something, and then say, "if it is true."

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): On a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not, it is not my job to assess the content of the motion. Hon Deputy Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): No, I just wanted to say I moved

without notice that the House notes that it was alleged. So, the hon member must listen to the motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I move over to hon member Sayed.

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

That the House notes that proper health safety measures must be put in place at our educational facilities to prevent children from getting the deadly Corona virus, yet the DA's own Federal Chair, Helen Zille, says children are not a risk during this pandemic. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: To the second part, yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the order paper. I see the hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without

notice:

That the House notes with appreciation the contribution of the agricultural sector in terms of food relief during the lockdown period.

Farmers and farm workers have tirelessly worked to provide food for our homes, communities, and NGOs, who extend their efforts towards those who desperately need relief at this time.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is further noted that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture has supported these efforts towards a safe working environment in the sector by providing personal protective equipment, including 35,000 cloth masks to date and hundreds of litres of hand sanitiser. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is there any objection to the motion being moved without notice? No? No objections, the motion is agreed to. I move over to hon member Sayed.

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

That the House notes with dismay the WCED data that almost 600

children in the Western Cape still have not been placed in a school despite the fact that the halfway mark of the academic year approaches, and that these 583 minors, by law, must be in school. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is there any objection to the motion being moved without notice? No objections?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Correct? Are there objections?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the order paper. Thank you. I see the hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the WCPP notes the letter of the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, the hon member John Steenhuisen, petitioning the International Monetary Fund to prevent the South African Government

from implementing race-based criteria in the provision of emergency funding. It is unconscionable that a government uses an individual's race to determine access to emergency support in the midst of a pandemic.

Both the national Department of Small Business Development and Tourism have indicated their intention to do so, and we support the letter from hon member Steenhuisen's request to the IMF to censure South African Government's discriminatory practices in this regard. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections?

An HON MEMBER: We are objecting to that.

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you. I hear you. There are objections.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the order paper.

Hon members, I am going to mute all of you again before I move over to hon member Sayed, and then, hon member Sayed, just unmute yourself, please. There we go. Over to you, hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I do not have another motion. I do not know what is the confusion there. I do not have another motion, Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No problem, hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Okay, no-no-no, I do, I do, I do, Chair. Sorry, sorry.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Mute him.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): My apologies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, over to you, hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes this Western Cape Government only activated just over a quarter of the planned Covid-19 quarantine centres in the province, yet ironically pretends to be ready to open all Western Cape schools and endanger our teachers and children during the Covid

crisis. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Objection!

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, before I ask, I have heard there is an objection. The motion will be printed on the order paper. I move over finally to the last person, hon member Bans, are you here, to do the final motion without notice?

Ms A BANS: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am assuming, hon member Lekker, that she still has not been able to get connected? If she can take her motion over to the next week.

That concludes the motions without notice. Before I move, can I just check that the Premier is online?

The PREMIER: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am online, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we can hear you, thank you, Premier. We are very happy that ... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Finally [Laughs.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... that you managed to get past that, and now I will actually that hon member Herron goes through his question again, as we know that you are definitely on here. It will be the last time that he will state the question to you. Over to you, hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, third time lucky. I am going to just paraphrase what I said earlier.

I think there are two points that I want to make. First of all, I was relieved to hear Minister Bredell say yesterday in the Ad Hoc Committee and also to read the Premier's opinion piece, that the Covid-19 stats are not a competition, because I have been quite concerned with what appears to be a competitive approach by this government around testing, better testing, and now debating the comorbidities of those who have died. I think it is important that we do move beyond this competitive framing of communications around what is happening in the Western Cape.

Now last night the President gave an indication that the country, or parts of the country, would move from Level 4 to Level 3, and he indicated that infection hotspots may be held back on Level 4, and that obviously raises

concerns for the people of the Western Cape, because we are seeing the highest infection numbers, and the highest death numbers.

So, I wanted to ask the Premier in the first instance whether he would inform the people of the Western Cape what is the basis for his call that we move from Level 4 to Level 3? We have heard in the media today kind of buzzwords around “evidenced-led; data-based; hotspot plan; whole of government approach,” but I think it would be useful for the people of the Western Cape to get some assurance from the Premier and to get the detail as to what the health and scientific basis is for that call, given the high infection numbers and the high death rate. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Over to you, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I think first of all I really apologise to the House that no one was able to hear me. I am not sure what the eventual problem was, but I am actually talking to you via my phone now, not my laptop.

Originally when the hon member Herron started, he also gave condolences to Lungile Tom, and I thank him for that, and join him in that. I mean it really is sad when you work with someone for so many years, and this virus – on Thursday last week he was working, and just a week later, or less than a week later, and he has passed on, and it just shows you this virus can just affect anybody.

His question goes around data – I notice this time in his wording – the third time lucky – he did say “death numbers” instead of “rate”, because the last few times he said, “The highest death rate in the country for Covid-19, and he said it last week in his statement, and I remember immediately sending him the document that was tabled at the last TCC, but I notice he didn’t open it, because that shows the death rate of this Covid by province, and in actual fact the data and the stats show we might have the highest numbers, but death rate to infections we are not the highest, but I agree with him, we have to base every single thing that we do on data; we have got to base it on facts, and it is not a competition.

Now I do know that we tested more than any other province. I know it still, because in Gauteng they are 439 tests per 100,000; we are on 541 tests per 100,000; in KZN 270 per 100,000. Gauteng at the moment have got more tests than the Western Cape, they are 92,727. This was at 11 May. Our numbers are actually up and obviously theirs too; 56,986 when this comparison was looked at, and our death rate is 1.8%. It was 2% at the time when I sent the document to the hon member Herron.

Of course every single thing that we are doing we have to cross-question ourselves; we have to base everything on a model. We have got some very, very good modellers; we have got some very, very good professionals.

We are also double checking ourselves all the time. As we speak, this week, we have Actuarial South Africa with us and a group called Masha,

that is the modelling group from UCT, and they are working with our teams now to say this is the model we based our hospital bed need on, this is the model we based what we thought our death rate might be on, this is the model that we based everything on right in the beginning; then we readjusted that model when lockdown came, and now we are looking at it once again, and we continually question and ask questions.

We also link-in with our national counterparts. So our Department is always linking-in with Prof Karim and Dr Pillay, also putting our numbers on the table, because we have to continually cross-question. This is something that the world has been dealing with. Luckily there are other parts of the world that have dealt with it earlier than us, and so that does give us some reference, but we also have our own unique environment here in South Africa, and obviously here in the Western Cape, and we keep working with the data and the stats; we keep feeding it through to national.

We are the only province that has actually put all of the data out in the open domain, because we also then ask for further – anybody can actually look at our data and come back and give their opinion on it, because we do believe and we are going to be very shortly taking our dashboard down to even Ward level, that you will be able to see Ward level infections; those that have actually come through the virus, and on the other side you will see those that are positive, and those that are negative.

You will also note that we have started a plan called “The Hotspot Plan”,

which is really going in and focusing where we have seen high incidences. It is happening in the City of Cape Town and in Witzenberg; those are the main hotspots, and we have a plan for each of those hotspots.

When Minister Mkhize came to see us on Saturday last week, we actually gave him probably three hours' worth of presentation from all of our specialists, our modellers, all of the team that is working with our data. He was very impressed at the end of it and said so publicly post that. He then said, "So what you are doing about the hotspots?" We put the hotspot plan on the table. He then called for that hotspot plan on Monday, and the DG and the Head of Health gave that hotspot presentation again to the Nat Joint meeting. That is the Police and Safety and Security meeting that logs into the national command, as well as our Prov Joint in the province.

So that same model was given to that grouping, who obviously called for it post Minister Mchunu presenting that model, and that model looks at the hotspots versus the rest of the province, where we have in our province, we have only two of our municipalities outside the City of Cape Town, that have case numbers over 50. All of the rest are case numbers under 50, and seven of our municipalities are in single digit case numbers, and those case numbers, even on a single digit, are not necessarily active cases, because a number of them are actually recorded as a total, but were first recorded more than 14 days ago.

So according to the World Health organisation and our own Health

Department, they now have stopped being contagious and so even in that space we have got less and less numbers in our rural municipalities.

So we are going to go into this negotiation and discussion further with the President and with the National Government, and we will put on the table our hotspot model that we have given to the Minister of Health, and if you remember, it is the Minister of Health, the MEC of Health and the Premier in each province which then motivate as to what level lockdown that you will be in, and then lastly I want to say that it is to create the balance. The initial lockdown and the first part of this process has been for us to get our health model in place.

So, we have 1,466 beds, extra beds. Our model says we need 1,000 high care; we are putting 1,466 in place. We have got our quarantine and isolation. I have heard some people talking about that. We have got 3,306 quarantine and isolation beds, and we just in the Cabinet on Wednesday have looked at how we grow that to 6,600 quarantine and isolation beds.

Our PPE – it is public knowledge – went from 45 million to 102 million, and we got a further 250 million on order.

We have really been totally open with every single one of our numbers in our health response on what we are doing to prepare for it. Obviously, this is not easy, this is very difficult. I think the biggest difficulty is actually for our frontline staff; for our nurses and our doctors and the people that

are working in all of our hospitals, and of course the head of health, Dr Cloete, is having more meetings than ever before with the Nursing Unions and directly with nursing staff themselves. All preparatory for the health component of this equation.

Now what we have got to do is we have got to make sure that we do not only have a Covid-19 disaster, we have got to mitigate a humanitarian disaster and an economic disaster.

So definitely we need to open up to Level 3, which will be the negotiation. In actual fact it should be way better levels, or take the levels away altogether in some of our municipalities which hardly have any cases at all, and obviously the counterbalance to that is what are we going to do, and that is our hotspot plan.

We will put that on the table and that will be part of our negotiation that we have with the President and the National Government next Friday.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Herron, do you have a follow-up question?

Mr B N HERRON: Yes, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, last week Friday, the leader of the Democratic Alliance made a speech, in which he basically called for the lockdown to end and for everyone to get back to work, and said that the virus is not as dangerous as

we had all feared.

So I just, I would like to understand from the Premier, given all these experts, the professionals, the actuaries, the epidemiologists, that the Western Cape Government is consulting with, whether the Western Cape Government agrees that the lockdown should just end and everybody should get back to work? Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So as I have just said, that – and obviously you have got what the DA is saying from a national policy point of view, calling for the end of the lockdown; you have got the ANC in the province saying we need to all go to lockdown 5, and we in the government have to operate within the regulations and within the law, and that is why you did not see me say we need to actually do away with the lockdown in this province, because the next opportunity for this province is lockdown Level 3.

I have just, in my answer, just said that in actual fact lockdown should go away altogether in some of our municipalities where there are three and five and six cases, and in actual fact, there, the humanitarian and economic argument trumps as long as our health position is in place.

Definitely in our hotspots – and that is why we have put this plan on the table, that we have to make sure that in our hotspots we are dealing with the spread of the virus; that it does not spread faster than the projections

by the specialists; by the people who have advised ... [audio connection lost] do not go above that rate. In other words, we continue on the tracking line to our projected 80,000 symptomatic cases in one week in the province end of June, beginning of July. That is the pathway.

If we go way above the projected line, in other words we double in more or less than eight days, that gives us an indication of whether we are above and below the line.

If we start doubling in six days or four days, following perhaps what happened in New York, well, then obviously we have got to then have other mitigating practices in place, and that is why we are now piloting this model that we have developed now for our hotspots, and that gives us a measurement against the projections.

You cannot stop the virus, it is not going to stop, and even if we did island a place and stop it one hundred percent, what would happen is next year it would have to go through its same curve.

So it is about slowing the curve and managing the curve at the same time, so that you can deal with it from a health point of view, but at the same time making sure that we are mitigating a disaster in the economy or humanitarian disaster, which we are actually on the cusp of right now as South Africa.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Herron?

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. So I mean I think I gathered from the Premier that the Western Cape Government does not subscribe to the complete removal of the lockdown and everyone back to work, and that the hotspot plan really identifies some areas that need to remain under some restriction, if I understood the Premier correctly.

So, I want to ask the Premier whether the communication around ending the lockdown, some of the comments that he has perhaps made around relaxing exercise; some of the comments that have been made by his colleagues, who are members of the National Assembly, like the surfers' protests, whether those kinds of messages assist us to ensure that residents that need to comply and to remain vigilant, will do so? Because it seems to me that the messaging that is coming from the DA and the Western Cape Government, which is sometimes at odds, is undermining the effort of maintaining compliance with social distancing and with isolating as far as possible. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: No, I reject that absolutely. I mean we noticed the day after you had the population in lockdown, in total lockdown, and we noticed then exercising was allowed. I think we did not apply common sense to it in the Western Cape. We have half of the exercise time period

in darkness, but what we also did see is mass people coming out, and our communication was very clear, “Please, this is not a free for all,” and you would have seen exactly the next day there was lots of law enforcement to make sure that we adhere to those rules.

At no time have we ever said we need to break the rules, and exactly the same, it does not matter where it is in the province and especially in these hotspots now, we have to make sure that we get behaviour ... [audio connection lost] and this new normal means there is effective rules in place. We have got to make sure that we are focused on our handwashing. We have got to be focused on our masks and our hygiene and our social distancing, and we have got to – and especially in the hotspots we have really got to zoom in and make sure that we are dealing with this in a way that gets society to understand that it is society, the whole of society, the whole of government all together. It is the only way that we are going to keep this curve manageable without it spiking and getting out of control, because then what we will do is we will not have the right decision around the health response.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Thanks, Premier, you are a little bit delayed there. I assume that is the end of your answer.

Hon members, we have two minutes left, so I am going to take a decision that we are not going to start the next question. It would not do any justice to a next question when, as you are asking the question, you have to stop

the question, because the 20 minutes is up. Is there agreement to that?

An HON MEMBER: Agreed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that will then be the end of the business for today. The House is adjourned. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all the hon members will be exited from the sitting.

The House adjourned at 16:52