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THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Good afternoon, hon members. Before we proceed I would like to remind the hon members of some of the procedural arrangements. As has been our practise to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House; both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table staff, and by Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings of the House.

Hon members, if you are experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting, you are requested to please contact the WCPP ICT colleagues, who will assist to resolve the connectivity challenges.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution of the Western Cape and in the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020.

Hon members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order. Hon members, the Serjeant-at-Arms will record your attendance.

Hon members, microphones have been muted, however for those hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to use the raise hand functionality of the system when you desire to raise a point of order, and I will recognise you.

Hon members, the media have also been granted access to the MS Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP, however, members of the press may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

Hon members for this Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings. That deals

with the logistics for the Sitting of today.

Hon members, please allow me the opportunity to welcome the guests in the gallery, welcome to the WCPP. Hon members and guests in the gallery, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that you may not participate in the Sitting of the House, but you are more than welcome to the Sitting today and I hope that you will enjoy what is on the Order Paper.

Hon members, it will also be remiss of me not to draw your attention to the new Secretary of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Ms Ressida Begg. Welcome to the WCPP, Ms Begg. You are not new to the institution and I am sure that you have already engaged many of the members here because it has been a month and a couple of days since you have taken office, and hon members, please help me to welcome Ms Begg to the WCPP.

[Applause]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I wish to ask that the hon Lithakong, member Lithakong can please rise. Hon Lithakong, following the adoption by the House of the Report of the Conduct Committee on 24 April 2025 relating to your failure to submit your member's disclosure form timeously, I hereby reprimand you for breaching paragraph 11.2 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Members have to abide by the principles, Rules and obligations as set out in

the Code of Conduct, and your failure to do so is a serious transgression. I trust that as a member you will learn from this experience and you will not be found wanting in this regard in the future. Thank you very much; you may take your seat.

With that being said, hon members, I recognise the Chief Whip.

## **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

### **(Motion)**

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, Hon Speaker, and Hon Speaker we join you in welcoming the new Secretary to the WCPP. Hon Speaker, I give notice and move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 21, that preference be given to the Speakers Debate. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion?

No objections? Agreed to.

We will now deal with the Speakers Debate as printed on the Order Paper in terms of Rule 147, and I recognise the hon Minister of Health and Wellness,

Minister Wenger.

**SPEAKER'S DEBATE:**

**“Women’s Month”**

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, Hon Speaker. During this Women's Day debate I am reminded of the words of philosopher Ayn Rand who said:

“The question is not who is going to let me, it is who is going to stop me.”

Time and again South African women have shown courage, determination and the will to succeed, but it has been outdated, out of touch, and oppressive systems, laws and regulations that have stifled women's potential. We recognise August as Women’s Month to honour the 20 000 women, who in 1956 marched to the Union Buildings and left an indelible mark on our nation's history.

Hon Speaker, our duty in Government is simple – “Tear down barriers and together build systems and societies that give women the tools, the space and the freedom to thrive – not more burdens.” That is why, hon Speaker, it is so alarming to read the promotion of Women's Rights Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, recently published by the National Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. Instead of empowering women this Bill is nothing but a box ticking exercise that buries us in bureaucracy.

The Bill was a bad policy instrument when it was first introduced more than 10 years ago and it remains just that. It creates new layers of costly administration. It duplicates the work of bodies like the Commission for Gender Equality and overlaps with existing laws. It ignores the realities of how Government actually works, bypasses existing budget and planning processes, and entrenches siloed fragmented approaches that have failed women for decades.

Yet it demands that every public sector department, NGO and private company with more than 50 employees, or certain turnover, to submit no fewer than 11 separate plans to the National Minister. This means precious time, energy and resources will be wasted on paperwork, instead of being focused on where it truly matters; tackling the real and systemic challenges that women in our country face every day.

But here in the Western Cape the Provincial Government is proof that you do not need more red tape or forms to empower women. We are placing women at the centre of everything we do, because empowering women means empowering the Western Cape, future generations and all of South Africa. We believe in empowering women from the very start so they can start well.

That is why we recently launched the Khulisa Care pilot project which aims to stop babies being born underweight and to ensure mothers of underweight babies get the right support to help their children grow and thrive in their

first six months of life, reducing stunting in children under five. This initiative combines monthly nutrition support with protein rich foods and comprehensive primary healthcare delivered by trained community health workers who support mums, as well as guidance on breastfeeding and child well-being, but importantly it also focuses on the well-being of mums themselves.

This is not just a health intervention; it is an investment in the future. If we do not act early we risk locking families and the country into cycles of poverty, poor health and underachievement, and we continue to invest in the future by making available an HPV vaccine to protect young girls against cervical cancer. We have successfully administered over 350 000 vaccines reaching nearly 1 200 schools annually in the Western Cape.

To give premature babies the best possible start, the Department has Kangaroo Care at selected facilities. This allows mothers to stay close to their babies. Research shows that skin to skin contact helps regulate a baby's temperature and heart rate, and helps improve sleep and oxygen levels, reduces stress and supports healthy brain development.

Hon Speaker, to live well we want healthcare facilities that are safe and sensitive to women's needs. South Africa faces the scourge of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence. Often women seek medical help before, if ever, reporting abuse to the police. I am deeply proud of the work our Department, in partnership with the Groote Schuur Trust, is doing to

screen patients for intimate partner violence, and to equip our doctors with the training to sensitively administer rape kits.

To date nearly 30 000 women have been screened at Groote Schuur and Mitchells Plain Hospitals. Following the success of these programmes the Groote Schuur Hospital Trust is exploring, expanding the intervention across the province with plans underway to launch it at Heideveld Community Health Centre later this year.

To ensure women can age well we assess patients for menopausal symptoms at each visit, from hot flashes to depression and sleep difficulties. Many women suffer needlessly due to a lack of knowledge and care, and so we provide education and counselling on managing the symptoms, which can often interfere with daily life, and counselling on the risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy.

Hon Speaker, I began with the words: “The question is not who is going to let me, it is who is going to stop me?” In the Western Cape that answer is clear – No one will stop our women from reaching their full potential, and this Government will be there every step of the way to help women to soar. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Lekker. Do you need the podium? I recognise you, hon Lekker.



Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to declare – my apologies...

The SPEAKER: Hon members, can I just [Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to participate in today's debate. I greet you and the hon members, including the people of the Western Cape. Today we gather to mark a day that is both a commemoration and a call to action. Women's Day in South Africa is not a ceremonial date on the calendar, it is a reminder of the courage of the 20 000 women, who on 9 August 1956 marched to the Union Buildings to say with one voice:

*“Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo”*

“You strike a woman, you strike a rock.” These mothers, workers, leaders and revolutionaries, defied apartheid and fought for dignity, equality and freedom. Their courage echoes the prophetic words of S.E.K. Mqhayi who in 1940 called out to women:

†Shukumani bafazi ushenxile umaphixi phixi ufinyisa [inaudible] itye lesiseko setiopiya manzi amabele made yase Afrika okhanyisa usapho lukantu luphela. [Raise up women, the instigator has stepped aside [inaudible], the foundation stone of the Ethiopia, waters with long breasts of Africa that brightens the families of the people.]

This is a reminder that women have always been the backbone of liberation struggles, the foundation stones of our communities, the light that guides the African household.

Hon Speaker, while we honour their legacy we must also confront the truth that the struggle for women's freedom is far from over. In our province women today, especially poor women, are under siege. The dusty streets of the Cape Flats echo with the cries of mothers who have lost their children to bullets, to drugs and to gangs. In our farming communities women endure exploitation, unsafe working conditions and poverty wages.

Across our towns and township women live with the constant fear of gender-based violence and femicides. The Western Cape is one of the provinces most affected by these crimes, yet our Provincial Government invests less than R80 million a year to fight GBV, which is a drop in the ocean for a crisis of this magnitude. Names like Uyinene Mrwetyana, Joshlin, Lolita, Zinande and Unam Mfanja, are edged into our hearts, each representing a life stolen, a family shattered, a community in mourning. Behind each name are thousands of women and girls whose suffering never makes the news.

Hon Speaker, our people are tired of summits, they are tired of declarations, they are tired of empty promises that never reach the streets where the pain is real. We have strategies, but without urgency they are just files gathering the dust. When survivors are turned away at police stations, when shelters are too few and underfunded, when court cases drag on for years, when leaders face

no consequences for failing to act, then we have failed the women of this province.

We have failed the women in this Provincial Government who have reported sexual offences and harassment within Government offices, only to have their cases swept under the carpet by a Government that protects perpetrators. Farrel Payne is enjoying his pension while the victim of his sexual crimes suffers in silence and trauma at home. In the Department of Local Government those who dare to report harassment face intimidation and retaliation instead of justice.

The theme for this year's Women's Month is building resilient economies for all; you cannot build a resilient economy while half of your population live in fear. Economic empowerment is not just a policy option; it is a lifeline for women who want to escape violence. Without economic independence too many women are forced to choose between staying in an abusive home or facing poverty on the streets.

According to the Provincial Government data in 2022 / 2023 there were 7 294 sexual offences reported in the Western Cape, which is 13,6% of all such crimes in South Africa. Seven police stations in the province rank among the countries 30 worst stations for sexual offences, and yet the DA-led Government allocates only 0,088% of its R89 billion budget for fighting GBV and femicide. That is less than a tenth of 1%. This is a shameful disgrace given the crisis.

Hon Speaker, we must take a moment to acknowledge the National Government's investment in the Western Cape, including nine Thuthuzela Care Centres in partnership with the NPA. Additionally we must make it clear that the Provincial Government so-called "365 Day" campaign is meaningless without any resources to match the rhetoric. Earlier this year the European Union claimed the Western Cape was leading the country in GBV strategy implementation, and I put it that this is a blatant lie. With only 0,088% of the budget dedicated to GBVF, this leadership is nothing but window dressing.

Hon Speaker, today the ANC calls for urgent concrete measures, declare GBV a provincial emergency by mobilising leadership and resources as we did during COVID-19. Fully fund GBV prevention and survival support including shelters and safe houses in the province. Support GBV friendly rooms in every police station. Invest in economic empowerment programmes for women, including skills training. Drive cultural transformation to dismantle toxic masculinity, patriarchy and sexism in schools, workplace, religious institutions and communities.

The SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, your time has expired, please wrap up.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. In closing, hon Speaker, every day in this province women wake up not knowing if they will come home alive. This should haunt us all.

†Wathinta abafazi wathinta imbokodo. [You strike a woman, you strike a rock.]

It must not remain only a cry from the past; it must rally us to act now.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Stephens. Hon Stephens is on the hybrid system. Colleagues, please just be mindful of that. Hon Stephens, I recognise you.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I greet all hon members in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Just days ago on 9 August we celebrated Women's Day remembering the 1956 March when over 20 000 women rose against unjust pass laws declaring:

*“Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo”*

“You strike a woman, you strike a rock.” That courage still inspires us, but it must also challenge us, because beyond the celebrations women across the Western Cape still face gender-based violence, unequal pay, limited economic opportunity and barriers to safety, education and healthcare. The Patriotic Alliance believes empowering women is not just justice, it is essential to building stronger families, communities, and a thriving province.

We call on this House to unite across the party lines to ensure that every woman can live with dignity, safety and equality. Let Women's Month not be

a date on the calendar, but a daily commitment to honour those before us, support those beside us, and inspire those to come. Hon Speaker, if we fail our women, we fail our future, and the Patriotic Alliance refuses to fail. Thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Stephens. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stephens.] Hon Cassiem, do you need the podium? I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, Hon Speaker. As we embark on this month dedicated to all women who fearlessly marched to the Union Buildings in 1956, let me start by quoting Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela who reminds us that:

*“If you ought to free yourself you must break the chains of oppression yourself, only then can we express our dignity and only when we have liberated ourselves can we cooperate with other groups.”*

Hon Speaker, 31 years into Democracy and we are yet to break the chains of oppression for many women, especially women in African and Coloured communities, who to date await a life free of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

We are yet to break the chains of oppression while women and children across hidden and isolated farming areas across this province, continue to be enslaved to payments of alcohol and wages which are little, or close to

nothing, while their masters cash up on the fruits of their labour, and once they are no longer needed, hon Speaker, they get evicted from farms like cheap and disposable labour, despite their relatives working on these farming areas for decades.

We are yet to break the chains of oppression for women in areas like Mitchells Plain and Nyanga, among other Coloured and African communities, where women and children are held hostage in drug and gang activity, and enslaved as sex objects, because there is no assistance forthcoming from the State for such communities.

We are yet to break the change of oppression for women when job opportunities are offered in the bedroom or in bedrooms when the job applicant is a woman, as opposed to focusing on their skills and experience, and then offer them jobs without asking for more.

But, hon Speaker, since our heroes marched to the Union Buildings almost 70 years ago, a battle against oppression, sexism and insubordination of women is yet to be won, and while we hope for better conditions for all women, let us remind ourselves that it is even political parties like the Democratic Alliance who want to continue oppressing Black women in this country.

When they say that they want to remove the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and Affirmative Action, which are both policies aimed at addressing the inequalities of apartheid; and when they say this it is evident

that they are openly declaring war on all Black women in this country, because it is Black women, and given the historical injustices, that have been the most marginalised, and it stands to benefit from both Affirmative Action and Black Economic Empowerment.

Hon Speaker, as the EFF we call upon women from all walks of life to come together and to unite towards a common endeavour aimed at through emancipation.

- Emancipation from emotional and physical abuse at the hands of men;
- Emancipation from all sorts of crime targeted at women, such as rape and sexual violence among others;
- Emancipation from mental slavery where men want to always have the final say on everything, and we want to drive the discourse of how women should dress, behave and lead their lifestyle...

Hon Speaker, today as women we also carry the burden, not only of protecting a girl child, but we live in a world and country where the oppressed must also carry the burden of protecting others who are similarly oppressed; and as I conclude, hon Speaker, the time we put our faith on others and expecting or hoping that they will change, is over. As women we need to break those chains and deliver ourselves out of the bondage which seeks to hold us.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. I am going to allow you



the opportunity to conclude.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, the struggle continues and the fight is far from over.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Before I recognise the hon Van Minnen, do you need the podium? Then I recognise you, hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Women's Day and Women's Month roll around every year to the same narrative, that we have come a long way but still have so much further to go. Hon Speaker, it is time to shift this up and start really speaking more honestly about how we tackle problems, and in particular today I want to address the issues of the barriers in dealing with gender-based violence. GBV is a pandemic, a scourge on women and children in the Western Cape with devastating impacts on lives and in action from some of the authorities meant to deal with it and help protect us.

Hon Speaker, we can call on SAPS to step up, and we must call on SAPS to step up, and I mean those members who are not themselves perpetrators of gender-based violence, but the question is what does that really achieve? Policing alone does not stop GBV. Yes, it can deter incidents, respond to threats and remove perpetrators, but it rarely tackles the root causes, and we know that GBV is often underreported because of fear, because of stigma, and because of the mistrust in the justice system. That silence results in cases

being withdrawn and justice never being served.

This crisis is made worse by the fact that GBV is driven by deep social and cultural forces, harmful gender norms entrenched in inequality and economic dependence. These are not problems the policing can solve in isolation, they require broader change. To fill those gaps left by SAPS, as we are hearing today the Western Cape Government provides critical interventions. Prevention is not just about law enforcement, it demands education. It demands community engagement. It demands strong social support systems.

But, hon Speaker, trust between people and law enforcement is essential and under our current staid and outdated national legislation, SAPS is the lead agency, in fact the only agency with a mandated power to employ detectives, and this lack of trust is not without basis. Some recent highlights, or should I rather say lowlights of SAPS in the Western Cape include:

- Six SAPS officers from the Khayelitsha Detective Service arrested for submitting false travel claims. One also faces an additional charge for failing to assist a witness in a murder investigation.
- A police officer from Gordons Bay SAPS was arrested on rape charges.
- The CPF Chair of Strand, a former SAPPS officer, is under arrest facing multiple charges of sexual misconduct.
- At Nyanga SAPS three officers were arrested for orchestrating a business robbery.
- The Crime Intelligence Division in this province, again SAPS, has faced

multiple allegations of corruption, with the head of Crime Intelligence dismissed in 2024 for misconduct.

The Democratic Alliance has publicly demanded that Lieutenant General Patekile suspends SAPS members in the province facing serious criminal charges.

- Yet a SAPS constable is out on bail for rape whilst still serving.
- A station commander accused of torture and attempted murder remains in charge, and
- A SAPS warrant officer has been reinstated after a drunk driving accident.

IPID has reported a troubling rise in SAPS related misconducts across South Africa, with 888 cases reported in the Western Cape alone, including torture and deaths in custody.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has placed the National Police Minister on leave for an inquiry into serious allegations relating to collusion and political killings, and has appointed an Acting Minister of Police, the fifth in 10 years. Put mildly this hardly paints a rosy picture of SAPS, and it gives survivors of GBV no reason at all to trust SAPS. And here is the takeaway, even if SAPS do their part, prosecution and conviction rates for GBV crimes are often low, weakening deterrents.

This is where the Western Cape Government steps in to fill the gap left by bad National Government policy and enforcement, with LEAP, targeted health care services, as we have heard, social workers and other support addressing the actual needs of women. In short policing can contribute to tackling GBV by enforcing laws, protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable. But it is only one piece of the puzzle. Without prevention community engagement ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Van Minnen, please take your seat. Order members! Can I please ask that the Table staff mute all microphones on the hybrid system, and can I please remind the members on the hybrid system that if you want to raise a point of order, to please use the hand raise functionality, alternatively you may not interject while the member is on the floor. My apologies hon Van Minnen, can I just get the Table staff, with regards to your time, I will make sure that you get your adequate time allocated. You may continue.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much. In short, policing can contribute to tackling GBV by enforcing laws, protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable, but it is only one piece of the puzzle. Without prevention, community engagement, survivor support, and systematic gender equality measures, GBV will persist.

Countries and regions with the most progress against GBV combined policing with social services, public awareness, education, economic development for

women, and strong legal frameworks, and as we are hearing today the Western Cape Government is rolling out those measures. But we need SAPS to play their part and for National Government to stop neglecting the Western Cape for their own ends and agenda.

Currently staffing numbers in the Western Cape of SAPS are 25% below minimum requirements, and for the Opposition to stop being disingenuous with their messages and trying to shift the blame onto the Province. This is disinformation that they are instructed to disseminate by their political masters. Systematic failures of a national mandate of policing is denying justice to the women and the children of the Western Cape, and whereas the Western Cape Government is stepping up and rolling out support programmes and local law enforcement where it is can, at the end of the day the question ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): At the end of the day the question needs to be asked about whether National Government is committed to ending the scourge, or is just box ticking in order to pat itself on the back while letting the vulnerable suffer. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. Order members! Hon members, before we continue I wish to draw your attention to Rule 147(1) as related to Speakers Debates. These debates and the name of the

speaker, as tabled by the Speaker is non-political in nature. Hon members, can I please ask that you adhere to the Rules. There is no need to make this debate political. You have ample opportunity in the Rules and mechanisms of Parliament to bring your political debates to this House, but please respect our Rules as we have all agreed at the beginning of this term, and in terms of Rule 147(1) I wish to caution you for the remainder of the speakers on the Speakers' List. Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Jacobs who is on the hybrid system. Hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Greetings to all. Glory to work, glory to sound and glory to power, hail his majesty! Hon Speaker, on 9 August 1956 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings to raise their anger relating to pass laws and other discriminating laws. They were led by heroes like Sophia Williams, Helen Joseph and others. They showed true grit and tenacity of women in the apartheid system of South Africa and the act was the catalyst that started the movement that brought us to 1994.

But, hon Speaker, let us forward to 2025 when nothing much has changed for women, other than having the same ID cards as men. Hon Speaker, women are still being brutalised by a wave of gender-based violence. Women still suffer harassment in the workplace, and being overlooked for promotions and leadership positions purely because they are women. But, hon Speaker, daily Coloured mothers still kneel and cry over lifeless bodies of their sons, brothers and husbands. Daily, single mothers must fight to survive the ever rising cost of living such as anti-poor policies of this Province.

Hon Speaker, up until this day mothers are still fighting to keep their children in school and working sometimes up to three jobs to have enough money to elevate their kids from the current education. Now, hon Speaker, in closing, let us commemorate Women's Day by saying a nation can rise no higher than its women, because when you teach a man, you teach an individual, but when you teach a woman, you teach a nation. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Jacobs. Hon Marais, do you need the podium? If not, I recognise you.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is said:

*“It is a man's world, but it would be nothing without a woman (or a girl).” – The words of James Brown.*

While we have made good strides in advancing the rights of women, we nevertheless are falling short in protecting their most crucial rights, particularly their rights to employment opportunities, their rights to equal pay to their male counterparts, and their rights to safety. South Africa is ranked among the world's most violent societies, and the Western Cape has the second highest reported crimes in the country, and the second highest murder rate in the country. No woman should be left to choose between going to work or risk being raped or killed on the way.

The Western Cape Government's new Safety Plan must mitigate their vulnerabilities, hon Premier, their vulnerabilities when they get into a taxi in

order to get home after a long day of work, their vulnerability when they walk down dark alleys in the early hours of the morning, our law enforcement officers deployed to those hotspots. We must also invest in sectors where more women are likely to be employed. Women-headed households have increased, and it is shown by stats that university graduates, females are much more than males that are being graduated, yet women do not enter the labour force at the same rate as men, and they are much likely just to secure employment opportunities.

Hon Speaker, in closing, the Western Cape must lead the fight against GBV and the month of August should have been the safest month of the year in South Africa, but alas, it is not. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I recognise the hon Minister Marais, the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety. And just for the record, I did offer the hon Minister the podium, she indicated she did not need one.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, too often the role a women plays in shaping society is down played. Women have been on the forefront of many initiatives in our lovely province and are continuing to stand their ground in being trailblazers in their communities, especially when it concerns complex issues. Hon Speaker, one of these complex societal issues women are stepping up to improve is that of community safety.



The longer I serve in this portfolio, the more I realise that women are taking charge when it comes to safeguarding their communities. When I join Neighbourhood Watches on patrol, the majority of patrollers are female and mothers. They are dedicated to improve safety, not only for themselves, but for the entire community, and they often reach out to neighbouring areas as well.

What became more apparent is that these Neighbourhood Watch patrollers are not confined to issues of safety, but they are more than often the same individuals who are involved in other community projects aimed at improving the conditions in homes or uplifting society. They are often the first to mobilise when someone is reported missing. They put up their hands to support victims of crime. They have gone so far as to join the GBV Ambassador Project rolled out by the Western Cape Department of Social Development. What is more inspiring is that they often engage in all these activities on a voluntary basis without seeking acknowledgement.

Hon Speaker, today I want to tell every Neighbourhood Watch patroller, CPF member, Community in Blue patroller, GBV ambassador, and every community worker – we see you, we appreciate you, and we acknowledge the hard work you put into supporting and improving the lives of others.

The Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety will continue to support Community Safety structures in the province through

training, accreditation and the funding of safety initiatives. These structures remain the backbone of our collective efforts against crime.

Hon Speaker, women are continuing to step up and doing their bit to make this province a safer place for all, and through our various programmes we create opportunities for women to capacitate themselves to make a meaningful contribution to society. Through our Chrysalis Academy Programme we see champions of change; we provide them with skills and give them workplace exposure.

Yes, the Chrysalis Academy has female intakes as well, and our girl children are taking up this opportunity to improve themselves to make a meaningful contribution to society. Many of our Chrysalis graduates are placed at police stations and other Government institutions, and some of them have found employment within Government, now providing services to others.

Young women are also taking up the employment opportunities created through our Peace Officer Traffic Warden Programme. These young women acquire certification as peace officers. The certificate is SAQA accredited, making them more employable. We are also seeing young women taking up the opportunity to join our cohort of LEAP officers in the province. Hon Speaker, this places them at the forefront of our fight against gangsterism and violent crime in the province.

During my oversight visits to police stations in the province I had the

opportunity to engage with female station commanders with a rich experience in a law enforcement environment, with a passion to serve their community. They are really focused on addressing the issues contributing to crime in a more holistic manner.

I am not saying that their male counterparts are not doing the same, however I have realised that female commanders are more concerned about the well-being of their staff as well. We often forget that police officers also need support to deal with the things they are exposed to. I want to salute all female commanders who are leading in a fight against crime in our province.

Hon Speaker I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work done by the women in the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, not only for their dedication to the mandate of our Department, but for the vital role they play in creating a safer Western Cape for all. Too often their contributions are made behind the scenes supporting others, offering invaluable insights, and working tirelessly without seeking recognition.

Yet it is precisely this selfish commitment that strengthens our communities and drives real change. They are trailblazers in our collective effort to make the Western Cape a safer place for all. My appeal to everyone in this House is that we keep on enabling women to create a safer and more prosperous Western Cape. I thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister.] I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis on the hybrid system.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim. As we celebrate Women's Month I would like to acknowledge the vital role women play in building resilient economies for all. The theme "Building resilient economies for all" resonates deeply as it highlights the importance of inclusivity and equality in our economic growth. Women are the backbone of our economy and their contributions are essential to our nation's prosperity.

However, we still face challenges in achieving economic equality. Let us work together to create opportunities for women to participate fully in the economy through education, job creation and entrepreneurship. By supporting women-owned businesses, promoting equal pay, and providing access to resources, we can build a more resilient economy that benefits everyone. Let us empower women to unlock their potential and contribute to our nation's growth.

For all women out there, I salute your strength, resilience and determination. Your contributions are invaluable and we are grateful for your presence in our lives. Thank you and let us continue working towards a brighter future for all. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise the hon Christians. Do you need the podium? Then I recognise you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, Women's Month reminds us of women that are builders of this nation. They level the playing fields and are the backbones of households. Women secure the continued legacy of culture and tradition. They mentor, they guide, they train, they teach, and lead by example, and that's why, hon Speaker, I am reminded of the Proverbs 31 woman, and I am going to read a few selected verses. It says:

*"An excellent wife who can find, she is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her and he will have no lack of gain. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hand to the needy. Strength and dignity are her clothing. She laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also and he praises her."*

The woman of Proverbs 31, hon Speaker, is portrayed as a hard working resourceful woman, and the ACDP salutes all women. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. Hon Kaizer-Philander, do you need the podium? Then I recognise you, you may continue.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, members, the public and especially women of our province. Just a few hours ago I shared at the P20 Women's Parliament the theme that resonates with me this year, and that is “Breaking barriers and building bridges.” It is not a slogan but it is a call to reflect and to rise. The barriers we know because we live them. Some are loud like the boss who said you are too emotional to lead, some are silent like the salary slip that whispers, “you are not quite equal.” Some are ancient like cultures that teach girls to shrink themselves. But I say today barriers are not wolves, they are thresholds.

History is full of women who shattered barriers, glass ceilings and wrote her history. †Maar, agb Speaker, daar is ook die *aunties* wie ons elke dag sien en mee kontak maak, die enkel ma wie ’n beter toekoms bou, die dogter wie dit waag om in die omgewing wat deur mans gedomineer word uit te styg, die uitkyk *aunty* en oumas wie opstaan vir hulle gemeenskappe. [But Hon Speaker, there are also the aunties we see daily and make contact with, the single mother who builds a better future, the daughter who dares to rise above the environment that is dominated by men, the lookout aunty and grandmother who stand up for their communities.]

Breaking barriers is a clean line between superficial gestures and real empowerment, and through you, hon Speaker, to the hon Lekker, we do not need a national dialogue and an initial estimate of R700 million; we need those resources directed to real tangible actions that make women stronger, safer and fully empowered to shape the future of this country, because

genuine empowerment would be asking, “is she safe?” [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): “Is she hurt” Is she shaping the system that takes her life?” [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): We must focus on these three pillars – “safety, empowerment and resilience.”

- Safety is the baseline for dignity. How can women rise when they must run from the street corner, from their home, from workplaces where harassment hides? A society that cannot guarantee a woman's safety is a society complicit in her silence.
- Secondly empowerment should not be symbolic but structural. It should not be about a woman and a title. It is about giving her the tools, the budget, and the decision making power. It means inclusive legislation that translates into lived realities, mentorship, education, and equitable access to resources, not just for a few, but for all of us.
- The third pillar is resilience, the long gain, because breaking barriers is not a day headline, it is a generation after generation rising through systems we dare to rebuild. Let us invest in women's cooperatives, in digital skills, in resilience programmes where women lead.

Hon Speaker, our national counterparts may argue that progress is being made, and indeed it is, but we must ask, “is it transformation or performance?”

Through the Ministry of Women Children and People with Disabilities, †want as 'n dogter 'n vroue-Minister sien maar steeds in vrees na die skool moet loop, *tick* ons net die boks, ons verander nie haar wêreld nie. Indien 'n vrou aangestel word vir diversiteit, maar sy word nie by die tafel gehoor nie, het ons haar nie net in 'n posisie geskuif nie maar ons het haar mag stil gemaak. [because if a girl sees a female Minister but still has to walk to school in fear, we only tick the box, we do not change her world. If a woman is appointed for diversity but she is not heard at the table, we have not only shifted her into a position but we have silenced her power.]

Hon Speaker, true empowerment does not just count women, it makes women count. Let us build bridges across party lines, across generations, across rural and urban divides; because our liberation is not a solo act, it is a symphony.

As the African proverb reminds us:

*“When you educate a man, you educate an individual; but when you educate a woman, you educate a nation.”*

Let us not stop at education, let us educate, equip and entrust, because the future is not just female, the future is fair, and fairness demands more than presence, it demands power.



On behalf of the DA, hon Speaker, I stand for genuine empowerment, not just for me, but for all of us. I thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Kaizer-Philander. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander.] Hon Herron, do you need the podium? Then I recognise you.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I think we should start by recognising something that should give us all pause. I am one of 28 men in this Provincial Parliament with only 14 of our colleagues' women. That makes women just one-third of the voices in this Chamber. It is a stark reminder that even here in the heart of Democracy gender equality is far from achieved.

We know the rallying cry: "you strike a woman, you strike a rock", words born from the unshakeable courage of the women who in 1956 marched to the Union Buildings to demand justice, to defy pass laws and to say with one voice that they would not be broken. As we honour their bravery we cannot blind ourselves to the suffering endured by women across the world.

According to the United Nations more than 28 000 women and girls have been killed in Gaza since October and over a million women and girls are facing starvation. Each of these lives carries dreams, families and futures all cut short. This is suffering I am certain the women of 1956 with their fearless

resolve would never have tolerated.

Women's Day is not just about looking back with pride; it is also about looking forward with purpose. It is about ensuring that women's voices are not token presences but equal forces in shaping our society. It is about recognising that the fight against injustice anywhere is part of the fight of justice everywhere, and it is about recommitting ourselves as men and as leaders to be allies in Parliament, in our communities, and in the world beyond our borders. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Herron. Hon Bans, do you need the podium? The podium is arriving and then I will recognise you. Hon Bans did respond, hon Kaizer-Philander. Hon Bans, can you please just move a little bit up and switch on the microphone on your side of the bench. The microphone, you must speak from your bench, the other microphone, on the left hand side. No, that is your bench, you must speak from your bench. I recognise the hon Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you for the air time, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me take the opportunity firstly to welcome our newly appointed Secretary, which is a woman, Ms Begg. Thank you and very welcome from this side of the African National Congress on this side of the House. Hon Speaker and members and people of the Western Cape, let me start today by saying as we rise in this House, we do so on the shoulders of giants, the brave visionary women who shaped our nation's

history. Women like Sophie de Bruyn, Albertina Sisulu and Winnie Madikizela Mandela, who carried the struggle on their shoulders when so many of our leaders were behind bars in exile.

As we celebrate our Women's Month we must also remember that the fight for justice for Dulcie September's remains is unfinished. This comrade and diplomat was assassinated in 1988 in France for unwavering commitment to the liberation of our people. She would be turning 90 years this year on 20 August. It is not enough to mention her in speeches or history books; we must actively pursue the truth about her assassination and ensure her legacy lives through our diplomacy, activism and relentless demand for justice.

Hon Speaker, 1994 was not just the dawn for Democracy; it was the moment of South African women where they were recognised equal citizens in the law, their rights enshrined in one of the most progressive constitutions in the world. Since then under the ANC-led Government we have dismantled centuries of gender discrimination. Women now make up over 42% of Members of Parliament, far above global average.

In the private sector more than a quarter of top managerial positions are held by women, placing South Africa second amongst the G20 Nations. In this Legislature the ANC is leading from the front, it stands out with taking women's representation seriously, with over 60% of our caucus being women, compared to the DAs nearly 25%. These victories are not accidental; they are the result of a liberated policy, sustained activism and our commitment to

building a non-sexist society.

Hon Speaker, this year Women's Month theme which says, "Building resilient economies for all", is a reminder that economic empowerment for women is not charity, it is a necessity for national development, especially in rural areas and townships where women still face barriers such as unequal pay, gender-based violence and lack of access to land and finance.

Hon Speaker, two days ago I was part of a programme authority where motions without notice were tabled, I could not help myself observing a large number of motions without notice by the ANC on senseless killings and crimes affecting women. Those motions were not approved by the DA. But today we are standing here, they are crying foul on crime and what National Government must be doing. They could not approve a mere simple motion that is saying that women are in danger. [Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP: The hon speaker is misleading the House.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. You may continue, hon Bans. I just want to again caution members, this is a non-political debate. Hon Bans, we are going to get to motions without notice later on the Order Paper, so you will have an opportunity then.

†Die HOOFSWEEP VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Dit maak mos diep seer, agb Speaker, jy sal dit mos nooit kan hanteer as dit in die openbaar kom nie. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It hurts deeply, hon Speaker, you will never be able to handle it if it becomes public. [Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Today it is an ideal opportunity to display the pattern of how many women is endangered in this province, as well as us reading out our motions without notice that are rejected by the DA. When you start the debate, you must finish it. When leadership becomes too sick to lead, the masses on real struggle, an antidote must emerge from women that take this front seat and unify in the fight against women abuse and bring justice.

History has no blank back pages on the contributions women made on liberation of this country. It took Johann Rupert to remind the leader of the DA's Steenhuisen on an international stage where the world was watching

that there is a crisis of crime in the Western Cape. To date even the Premier himself is still in denial.

*†Bayaphela abantu ngeloxesha.* [People are dying in the meantime.]

Nothing is done, absolutely nothing. In the past at least there was an attempt of a stillborn named a “safety plan”, and a boots on the ground approach. Although we could not see these boots on the ground, we only read about it, at least we read about it. An antidote is needed, hon Speaker, we cannot always speak crime and nothing is done. Women are dying.

Hon Speaker, we are not sure what the reasons are for Women's Parliament not to be activated in this Province. If the membership of CWP is not working for this Parliament, we call upon the hon Speaker to make sure a non-political platform is created in this House to address issues of women. A platform that will not discriminate whether you are a member, whether you are a manager, or whether you are a cleaner, the status should be the platform to bring women together, not through a summit that is a one day issue, but a consistent engagement to take forward the struggles and emancipate women outside of the political space.

Hon Speaker, I would request the House to honour also Ms Lizette Cloete who served most of her time in a Standing Committee, whom is well known by the past and present members of this House. I took note the other day that she will be leaving WCPP. Ms Cloete is a woman who served as Committee

Coordinator for two years and thereafter became a senior procedural officer for almost 14 years. She displayed a high level of professionalism. Today as we are commemorating women, we must start commemorating amongst ourselves and our own also. Hon Speaker, Ms Cloete is departing to begin a new journey as a master student in linguistics and we wish her well as a caucus.

Hon Speaker, our solidarity must extend beyond borders. President Mandela reminded us that our freedom is incomplete without freedom of Palestinian people. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We cannot celebrate Women's Day while women and children in Gaza are bombed every day in an Israeli apartheid state. History will judge those who stand with the oppressors. In this Legislature it is the DA, ACDP and Patriotic Alliance that support genocide in Palestine.

†Agb Speaker, ons moet ook stilstaan by die rol van vroue in die Wes-Kaap. Ons vier vandag 'n merkwaardige bydrae van vroue soos Sarah Helena Roberts, Tracey Lange en Mary Ann van der Merwe. Vroue wat nie net praat oor verandering nie maar daadwerklik optree om lewens te verander. Die aanstelling van Me Roberts as nuwe Kinderkommissaris van die Wes-Kaap is 'n belangrike mylpaal. Hierdie kantoor waarvoor die ANC en die 6de

Administrasie geveg het is 'n grondwetlike verpligting wat nou werklikheid word. Ons hoop, agb Speaker, dat in haar termyn sy ondersteuning sal kry en dat sy nie net 'n simboliese figuur sal wees nie. Die aktiewe sigbare [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Hon Speaker, today we also have to pause with the role of women in the Western Cape. Today we celebrate the remarkable contribution of women such as Sarah Helena Roberts, Tracey Lange and Mary Ann van der Merwe. Women who do not only talk about change, but decisively act to change lives. The appointment of Ms Roberts as new Children's Commissioner of the Western Cape is an important milestone. This office for which the ANC and the 6th Administration had fought for is a constitutional obligation that now becomes reality. We hope, hon Speaker, that during her term she will receive support and that she will not only be a symbolic figure. The active visible ... [Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans, your time has expired. I am going to allow you to conclude.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: As I conclude, hon Speaker, as women we must unite, we must stand together outside of political lines. Crime is a serious matter in the Western Cape. We should look at it and we must approach it with boots on the ground for real this time. Thank you, hon Speaker.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Bans. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon



Bans.] Hon Petrus, is that a point of order?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, Hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Just put on your microphone for the record.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yeah, we as the Patriotic Alliance never supported genocide. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Petrus that is not a point of order. The Rules do not make provision for you to correct a fact and it is not my duty to adjudicate, so that is not a point of order. Hon Minister Baartman, do you need the podium? In that case I recognise the hon Minister of Finance, the hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much. Hon Speaker and women of the Western Cape, and welcome to our new Secretary, we hope that you will feel as proud to be part of our team here in the Provincial Parliament as we are. The story of women's progress in the Western Cape is more than just a list of statistics. It is a story of courage, of resilience and ambition.

In the 2024 Provincial Economic Review and Outlook Publication it shows that we have a declining fatality rate reflecting that more women also are pursuing education, building careers and achieving financial independence before starting families. More girls are staying in schools, more young

women are entering universities and training institutions, and more are stepping into sectors where women were once absent.

But we are not defined only by our job title, our family role or a number on a page. We are not just what happened to us. Our worth is made of the courage we carry, the dreams we dare to dream and the impact we make in every corner of society. Hon Speaker, we are more than the sum of our parts! Hon Speaker, we cannot celebrate progress without acknowledging that too many women remain locked out of opportunity and that is why we must invest in high impact programmes designed to open doors and break barriers.

Through Provincial Treasury's Procurement Client Centre we are ensuring that Government procurement becomes a tool of empowerment, not exclusion. The 2023 / 2024 Statistics show that 23,41% of provincial procurement spend went to women-owned businesses, and this is our baseline, and we are determined to grow it through supplier training, onboarding and open days to equip women to win and deliver on Government contracts. We must continue improving upon this.

Through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism we fund women-led events and enterprises providing up to R80 000 per project during the Women's Month in August and Entrepreneurship Month in November. I am not sure if people saw that the deadline closed quite recently on those programmes. It is about equipping women with networks, mentorship and market access so that their businesses thrive year round.

The Western Cape Government's DEDAT Department in partnership with Wesgro also operate the Export Competitiveness Enhancement Programme, a fund designed to assist export ready, or soon to be export ready businesses with technical support, such as product refinement, international packaging and certification, labelling, export logistics and e-commerce listing, to help them access global markets. It is a pathway for our women to take their ideas global.

The Western Cape Government's Tourism Growth Fund is also a strategic initiative by DEDAT to stimulate sustainable tourism growth through collaborative investments and infrastructure and product development, by co-funding high impact projects to fund and aims to enhance the province's tourism offerings, attract more visitors, and create meaningful employment opportunities.

Through our YearBeyond project young women gain work experience, leadership training, and pathways into careers where they are benefiting from literacy and numeracy tutoring to community development roles. These opportunities ensure that talent is not wasted for lack of a first job.

The Western Cape Government further officially launched the Planet Youth programme in Mitchells Plain on 24 July this year, as part of its provincial area-based safety strategy, including over 50 000 Grade 8 and 9 learners across 123 high-crime area schools participating within the survey. This aims

to inform community specific interventions, aimed at reducing youth substance abuse and enhancing well-being through collective data-driven action.

But since I am on some of these safety and community interventions, hon Speaker, we also need to be honest with ourselves regarding the budgetary allocations. The one allocation the member mentioned was of one sub-programme, that was the Victim Empowerment Programme that for 2025 / 2026 was R78,775 million. I note that she probably rounded it up in that instance. We also allocated for the 2025 / 2026 year:

- R101,352 million for the Violence Prevention Unit.
- R110,321 million for our substance abuse services, for restorative services for substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation.
- For the MTEF for Child Protection Services we allocated R822,8186 million.
- For the RISIHA prevention and early interventions programme for the MTEF we allocated R79,458 million.
- For the family strengthening programme over the MTEF we allocated R353 million.

This does not take into account the allocations for LEAP, the Neighbourhood Watches, our Community Safety programmes, the Chrysalis Programme and other safety interventions, which also forms part of the R4 billion over the MTEF that we have allocated for safety programmes in our province.

I also just quickly had a look at some of the Motions without Notice that the members have mentioned, and in the first few without taking a future anticipation into account, there's either political or national mandate matters in some of these motions, so we will see whether or not the members are being honest about what they are putting on the Parliamentary programme.

Further, hon Speaker, in terms of the one member has mentioned that, you know, women, we are builders of ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... so in the infrastructure sector, Masakh'iSizwe programme is bringing more women into engineering, construction and the built environment. These are fields where women have been under represented for far too long. Through our Department of Agriculture we have prioritised the inclusion of women in commercial farming projects and Agri processing. The Commodity Approach programme for example is giving women access to land, equipment and training, ensuring that our food systems are more inclusive and resilient.

Hon Speaker, I am proud of the fact that when the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey came out, through the 154 000 jobs created in South Africa, 69 000 was from the Western Cape. So it shows how the Western Cape is really prioritising growth and jobs, and in 2024 the Western Cape led the

country in female labour market participation and professional representation, with the lowest female unemployment rate in South Africa and the highest proportion of women in professional roles.

This is not accidental; it is the result of deliberate policy, targeted investment, and a refusal to merely pay lip service to women's empowerment, because the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. A woman's worth cannot be measured only by her job title, her family role, or her list of achievements. We are more than marches and talk shops and pronouns. We do not just want a seat at the table, hon Speaker, we want to build the table and own the table.

We want your automatic response not to be requesting additional expertise after the expertise we have already provided. Do not repeat what we already said in the meeting. Do not start your response with, "Yes, but...", and credit the ideas of the woman to the person who originally raised it; and next year perhaps, hon Speaker, the Women's Day debate will be filled majority just with men to tell us how they will support us when it comes to women interventions for us in our country.

We must continue to back women, not just in August, or by putting the word woman in front of a project name, but in every month of the year and through everything that we do, so that every woman in the Western Cape has the tools, the opportunities and the support to shape her own future, and this is because we want every woman in the Western Cape to live a life she values.

Hon Speaker, I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much Hon Minister. Hon Minister, please take your seat. Thank you very much, hon members, that concludes Interpellation 3 as printed on the Question Paper. We will now move on to Questions for Oral Reply in terms of Rule 202.

I wish to remind the hon members that the first opportunity for a follow-up question will be granted to the member who initially posed the question, thereafter there will be three further opportunities. Hon members, I want to remind you that you are allowed one follow-up question, anything more than that will be ruled out of order, so please work with me. We have a long way to go on the Order Paper for today. So with that being said, I recognise the hon Minister of Social Development, the hon Minister Londt.

### **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

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

*With regard to the sexual exploitation of the youth in the province:*

*(a) What specific interventions has his Department implemented to prevent the sexual exploitation of the youth and*

*(b) what support systems are in place to assist victims in their recovery and reintegration by ensuring they have access to*

*(i) education,*

*(ii) psychosocial service and*

*(iii) protection against re-victimisation?*

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker and to the hon Kaizer-Philander, thank you for the question. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, my apologies, please take your seat. We have got some logistical issues with the timer on the screen. While we wait for the Table staff to deal with that, I think it is also important for me to remind the hon members that if you wish to ask a follow-up question, you may indicate to me as soon as the hon Minister starts speaking. For those members online, if you wish to ask a follow-up question please use the raised hand functionality, and as I indicated earlier, the first opportunity will be provided to the initial questioner. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you once again, hon Speaker. On the first part, funded NPO's and DSD local offices present school-based crime prevention programmes for at risk learners. Training modules focus on reducing sexual and gender-based behavioural challenges and cognitive errors, types of consequences of GBV, healthy versus unhealthy relationships, understanding the cycle, levels and types of violence and its triggers, dealing with childhood trauma, resisting negative peer



pressure, substance abuse – from the dangers of experimentation to dealing with addiction, appropriate decision making, anger management, anti-bullying, conflict management, men and boys mentoring programmes, behaviour modification techniques, grief counselling and coping strategies, and enhancing emotional intelligence, as well as wilderness experiential learning.

Support and training workshops are also provided to parents and caregivers aimed at improving parenting skills and family relationships. Therapeutic interventions are also provided to beneficiaries who require long term or intensive forms of intervention.

The Department of Social Development in collaboration with its service delivery partners actively promote access to education for vulnerable children through a range of interventions. Social workers facilitate school enrolment for children at risk or in temporary safe care, foster placements, or child and youth care centres; working directly with the Western Cape Education Department to ensure access to formal schooling.

Additional support services such as school transport, nutrition programmes, and after school drop-in centres are provided to children living in impoverished communities where access is often limited.

The DSD also funds and partners with organisations that run after school programmes designed to bridge educational gaps and offer academic support

to children experiencing learning delays due to trauma. Children with disabilities or barriers to learning are also prioritised through collaborative efforts with the Department of Education, such as their Inclusive Education programmes.

I want to veer slightly off from here, some good news also that my colleague, Minister David Maynier visited with me the Alta Du Toit School last week where we trained 73 social work professionals from the Education Department, who will be utilising the Social Work Integrated Management System, which will also assist us in those referral pathways between DSD social workers and the Education Department social workers, so that we ensure that there are no children that fall through the cracks. To my colleague, the hon Minister Maynier, thank you so much for being the first sister department stepping up.

Access to psychosocial services, the DSD and its service delivery partners, including JellyBeanz, PATCH, Nonceba, the Trauma Centre, Rape Crisis and Childline, among others, deliver psychosocial services to vulnerable children. These services are provided by trained professionals, including social workers, auxiliary staff, registered psychologists and counsellors. Together they offer trauma counselling, behavioural therapy, family mediation, and referrals to specialised mental health services. These interventions play an important role in the recovery and emotional well-being of children who have experienced abuse, neglect or other forms of trauma.

Then to prevent re-victimization, the DSD and its partners conduct continuous safety and risk assessments, along with regular monitoring of individual cases. The DSD manages child protection cases through the Social Work Integrated Management System, a digital platform that enables the tracking of children across various services. This service is currently being rolled out to designated child protection organisations. Children identified as high risk are placed either in temporary safe care within their communities, or registered residential care facilities depending on their individual needs.

Where necessary protection orders are obtained or alleged perpetrators are removed from the child's environment through legal proceedings in the Children's Court in line with the Children's Act. The DSD and designated child care and protection organisations work closely with the South African Police Service, including its Family Violence Unit, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit, the NPA, the Department of Justice and Constitution Development, and other relevant Government stakeholders to ensure the legal protection of vulnerable children.

Service providers must take into account the norms and standards of the Children's Act, including mandatory reporting of abuse via Form 22 or Form 23, and where applicable perpetrators are placed on Part B of the National Child Protection Register.

Then I also just want to say that we have now started a process where all of the seniors in the Department also lead by example by doing spot checks

visiting foster parents, safety parents, to see when last a social worker visited you, to see whether the reporting is up to scratch. I visited some of these foster parents and safety parents myself, and I must say it is amazing, most of them are women that do that much more for their communities. They open their hearts, they open their homes to ensure that those children that are at risk and vulnerable, they have that safe space, and they quite often become the positive role model that many of these children need to become well-functioning adults. That is part 1 of the question. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Baie dankie, agb Speaker en deur u, agb Minister Londt, u het nou breedvoerig en uitgebreid op die vraag geantwoord, die aanvanklike vraag, soveel so dat u nou my opvolg ook in 'n mate gedek het. Baie dankie daarvoor. [Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker and through you, hon Minister Londt, you have now widely and extensively replied to the question, the initial question, so much so that you now also covered my follow-up question to an extent. Thank you for that.] Hon Speaker, my only follow-up question will then be, †hoe word die intervensies wat u genoem het, agb Minister Londt, sowel as die skakeling met die verskillende belangegroepe, hoe word dit deur u Departement gemoniteer en geëvalueer? Baie dankie, agb Speaker. [how are the interventions that you mentioned, hon Minister Londt, as well as the liaison with the various interest groups, how are those monitored and

evaluated? Thank you, hon Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN SOSIALE ONTWIKKELING: Dankie, agb Voorsitter. Nie lank terug nie het ons pleegkinders van reg oor die provinsie bymekaar gebring en daar is toe met hulle wegbreek sessies gedoen. Eerstens was daar verseker dat nie een van die kinders 'n maatskaplike werker wat saam met hulle werk, in hulle sessie het nie.

Toe is daar gesit en met hulle gepraat om te verduidelik, “oukei, hierdie is 'n veilige spasie, kom ons gesels oor die intervensies wat die Departement doen.” Daar is gevra, “wanneer laas was 'n maatskaplike werker aan huis by u?” “Wanneer 'n maatskaplike werker aan huis kom, is daar geleentheid vir die kind om met die maatskaplike werker te gesels weg van die voog ouer?”

Daar het 'n paar goed uitgekom wat ons nou ook sal leer om te verbeter aan ons dienste. Dit word ook gedeel aan die suster organisasies wat saam met ons werk. Die volgende sessie wat soortgelyk is gaan ons in Worcester hou, waar ons weereens die kliënte se stemme direk hoor, wat hulle vir ons kan sê waar kan ons ons dienste verbeter.

So bo en behalwe die normale monitering en evaluering van die werk wat ons doen, ook met die organisasies wat ons befonds, doen ons hierdie tipe werk wat ons direk van die kliënte kan hoor waar voel hulle is daar gapings in die

dienste wat ons kan lewer, en dan spreek ons dit aan.

So dit is daardie pro-aktiewe diens wat ek wil krediet gee aan die maatskaplike werkers wat hulle partykeer gewillig is om in die spieël te kyk, en hulle sê mos uit die mond van die suigeling hoor 'n mens die waarheid, en baie van hierdie kinders het maar reguit ook vir ons gesê waar ons 'n bietjie ons dienste kan opskerp en ons sal sorg dat ons ook dit doen. Dankie.

[The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Chair. Not long ago we brought together foster children from all over the province and then breakaway sessions were done with them. Firstly it was ensured that not one of the children had a social worker who works with them, in their session.

Then they were sat down and talked to, to explain, “okay, this is a safe space, let us talk about the interventions the Department are doing.” It was asked, “when last had a social worker been to your house with you?” “When a social worker visits a house, is there an opportunity for the child to talk to the social worker away from the foster parent?”

A few things transpired that will now teach us to improve on our services. It is also shared with the sister organisations working with us. The next session that is similar we are going to conduct in Worcester, where we again hear the clients’ voices directly, where they can say to us where we can improve our services.

So over and above the normal monitoring and evaluation of the work we do, also with the organisations we fund, we do this type of work where we can directly hear from the clients where they feel there are gaps in the services we deliver, and then we address it.

So it is that pro-active services where I want to give credit to the social workers who are sometimes willing to look in the mirror, and they say from the mouths of children and sucklings you hear the truth, and many of these children also told us straight where we can improve our services and we will see to it that we also do it. Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] I recognise the hon Windvogel.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Ek dink die agb Minister het nou al die intervensies genoem, maar soos ons weet die *social workers* is oorwerk en sit met 'n klomp sake wat hulle eers nie kan hanteer nie, en nou my vraag is dan, [Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I think the hon Minister has now mentioned all the interventions, but as we know the social workers are over worked and have a lot of cases that they cannot even handle, and now my question is then,] how do you identify those families, because you mentioned that your staff are going out and visiting those families, who are those families?

I want to understand that, and what monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

are in place to measure the effectiveness of these programmes, and how is the Department ensuring that these services are accessible to the vulnerable youth in rural and under-resourced communities where exploitation risk is the highest. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, before you respond, I wish to remind the hon members that you are allowed one follow-up question. Hon Windvogel, in that submission to the hon Minister there was more than one question. Hon Minister, as always I am not going to dictate how you respond. I need to ensure that the Rules are applied and that was in contravention of the Rules in terms of the follow-up question. But how you respond is entirely up to you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Yeah, my head was all over, which one I think I must prioritise, but since the member, I do know she has got a heart for the rural part of the province, let me speak to that.

There is not a single part of the Western Cape that is not being covered. We have our footprint all over the province. One of the gaps that we identified is those in the farming areas, those in the really small towns where it is not going to make financial sense to open up an office, and when we identified that gap we spoke to our colleagues in Cabinet, and the Minister of Mobility, Infrastructure and Treasury came on board, and we got three mobile offices that is now going out to the most rural parts of the Western Cape.



I am incredibly excited because we are going to Tankwa early next month. Now a lot of people maybe think Tankwa is the Northern Cape, but there is a part of the Tankwa that is part of the Western Cape, and we are going out ourselves into that area. They did warn us that those stones cut the tyres a little bit sharper.

When I visited my colleague here from Beaufort West I lost a few tyres, but that is a testimony to our social workers that they are willing to go above and beyond, and drive hours and hours away from their home so that residents do not have to come into town. So that is one part, so we have that protection for the most vulnerable corner to corner in this province.

When we do identify that there is a gap we try and plug that, and that is part of what SWIMS allows us, because now if you are going into a part of the province and there is absolutely no signal, you can still capture all of the details of the clients on the system, and then as soon as you are connected again all of it will be uploaded onto the system.

Then there are also reminders on the system of when you need to follow up, because if you only work on reminders in your diary you might miss something. Now you have got a reminder that is prompting you on the system to follow up and revisit those clients.

So by embracing technology, but also embracing innovation like the mobile

offices, we are improving the service to everybody, the most rural in the province as well. But we are still open to suggestions on anything that we can improve and make sure that those safety nets are strengthened. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions to the hon Minister? No further follow-up question. That brings us to the end of Question 3 as printed on the Question Paper. We move on to Question 4. Hon members, just before I recognise the hon Minister, just for noting that Question 1 and Question 2 for the record have been withdrawn by the member who posed the initial questions. Hon Minister Bredell.

**4. Mr D W Bryant to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

*(a) What steps is his Department taking to improve access to recycling infrastructure and services across the province, particularly in underserved communities, and*

*(b) how is his Department working with municipalities to strengthen participation in waste separation and recycling programmes?*

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you to the hon member Bryant for asking the question, “what steps is his Department taking to improve access to recycling infrastructure and services

across the province, particularly in the underserved communities”, and the second part, “how is the Department working with municipalities to strengthen participation in the waste separation and recycling programmes?”

The (a) part of the question, the rendering of recycling infrastructure and services are predominantly a municipal, or the responsibility of the municipality. The Department supports municipalities with their applications for MIG and UIDG funding to the National Government and are currently in a process of supporting Drakenstein Municipality for the application of two CADE’s (?) trucks for the collection of recyclables which they hope to roll out in the underserved communities.

The Department also received a request from the Matzikama Municipality to support the drop-off material recovery facility and composting facility for endorsement which they wish to construct to recover and to recycle as much of the waste stream as possible.

The (b) of this question, the Department provides municipal support to facilitate waste diversion in the province by conducting waste minimisation and co-design workshops with underserved communities, the Department continually provides support to municipalities through awareness and capacity building workshops. This includes training of municipal staff who are responsible for waste handling.

The Department is also in support of the waste picking integration into the

Municipal Waste Management System as they play a pivotal role in recovering recycling material from the waste stream that would otherwise have ended up being disposed at the landfill site. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Bryant, and then hon Constable, and then hon Windvogel, in that order.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for the response and for highlighting those areas where the Province is cooperating with municipalities, even though as he mentioned they do not have to do so, but they are doing so, and it is fantastic to see. Hon Minister, I would just like to ask you in terms of a follow-up, the impact that illegal dumping is having in some of our areas, particularly our vulnerable communities and the pressures that it is putting on the landfill sites, is this a cause of concern for the Department?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to the hon member. Yes, illegal dumping is a big concern I think for all of us in this House. If you drive around this province you are worried about the illegal dumping and it speaks to a huge issue which we need to deal with starting with education within our communities, because they, at the end of the day, live amongst these kinds of circumstances.

It also on the one hand puts pressure on landfills, but what we also need to happen, as the Committee Chair, I think he will summons us and get us in front of his Committee to talk to the longer term dealing with waste in this province. I personally think that we need to move away from landfills because there is just contamination of groundwater and everything that is wrong actually happens there. So long term...

But there are also cost implications. The first world national laws that we have got is not helping currently with the layering, it escalates the cost of landfills. It speaks to, I think also the broader system financial system of municipalities at the end of the day. We need a new financial model, we need to stop cost subsidising, each service must pay for itself, so refuge must pay for refuge so that we get the real cost of this. That will take us I think, and that will set the ground rules for waste to energy, because currently people just say it is too expensive. Well, I do not think we have done enough homework on that.

We have started off in 2009 where we first had to licence all the landfill sites because very few of them were licenced, there were something like nearly 180 of them. We then had to start a programme where those that were not licenced, we had to start to decommission them and to rehabilitate them. Now there are still a lot that we need to do, and that is also a debate that when you summons us to the Committee, what must form part of this landfill discussion is to also rehabilitate the current landfill sites and how we are going to deal

with that. We cannot just walk away from them and leave them. So it is an on-going debate, it is something that we need to get right.

Then we need to talk to how we are going to transform, or the third step was to then, as a Department we thought that we were going to go for say five big landfill sites in the province. At that stage it made sense, it was coming on since 2015, because of recycling you need mass to make it profitable, so the thinking was if we can get it per district then we will be able to focus more on recycling and to make it profitable, but the regional landfill sites I have got a couple of questions on that as well, I really think long term we need to move away, and then come back to the discussion of waste to energy.

The first world countries burn their waste, they transform it into energy, and they even reuse the ashes and put it into either tar roads or cement. So I think that is the way we need to go and I am looking forward to have this debate with the Standing Committee. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Speaker, good afternoon. Thank you very much and thanks to the hon MEC. The hon MEC touched hon Speaker, on the question that I want to ask, but now I want to add something else, because the MEC touched on a funding model. That is where the basis of my question is. With regards to MIG hon MEC, MIG has a requirement in the MIG now for 15% that must be allocated to sport and sports facilities. Is that something

that we can look into with regards to waste, specifically landfill sites as well as transfer stations? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I think the person that will be able to answer better will be our hon Minister of Finance. I think they are busy with a big debate on National level to look at grants and the allocation of grants and how can we get more out of the grants, but I think it forms part of that kind of discussion.

The MIG is actually focused to get services to poor communities, especially the core services of water, sanitation, refuge, etcetera, to do that and get it there. There are different programmes; there is also the Community Works Programme, because in the waste stream currently there is an opportunity to create jobs. That is why as a department there is – in communities people get very irritated with waste pickers. We ran a couple of programmes where we talked to them as waste entrepreneurs and not waste pickers, and in those circumstances where we worked with them, I can tell you it was actually a huge benefit towards the whole community. They adopted them and they became like a security also as well in that system because they have got blocks where they operate.

But yeah, we still need to do a lot more on the whole waste thing, especially

on the education side of it, and it is an on-going debate on a National level as well because we will need to have funding. I want to have obviously the funding model from National down to Local Government, to have a relook at the whole financial system. I think personally that the problem starts off that in the Constitution we never defined top slice, so National Government first take and then they divide what is left. I think that is a big problem, we need to define the top slice so that we can get more towards services, towards waste, energy and water to the communities. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Chair. I think the hon Minister partly covered my follow-up question, but hon Minister, given the Department's plans to expand the recycling infrastructure and work with municipalities on waste separation programmes, what measurable targets and timelines have been set to ensure underserved communities gain equal access to these type of services, and how will the Department keep the municipalities accountable for meeting these recycling waste reduction goals? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, again hon member, you are allowed to ask one follow-up question related to the initial response to the initial question posed, you cannot bring in a new question or ask more than one follow-up, but hon Minister, as always, I am not going to dictate how you respond to that.



The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon member. Working with the municipalities with waste is very much like going to the dentist. It is always painful.

It is a slow process. It is a difficult process because we can stand out of the water because they must actually report to National. They get their targets there, they must. But then, nothing is going to happen and we, as the Western Cape, will fail at the end of the day. It is like cutting your nose to spite your face. So, we know we need to step into that space.

So, our Department works very closely with the municipalities. Like the whole MIC unit, trying to get municipalities to spend their MIC allocations. That is why we manage it because between myself and hon Minister Baartman's departments, we really sit with them every month and we tell them this is your target. What have you done? Can we assist you? The successes we had, the problem why we do not see them is we do not have the funding as a province to roll it out at scale. That is actually the big problem.

Then obviously, as we work in a fast-moving world, we do not adapt quickly enough. So, remember 2027? You will not be able to take any organic waste to the landfill sites anymore. It must go back into your garden, et cetera. So, we are starting now to educate communities, start to educate our municipalities first and then, the communities on how to deal with that, to

minimise the waste that we take to a landfill site.

Then, working with waste because the first big programme is to get them to understand the value of the different kinds of waste that they pick, and it is an ongoing process. It is a process that we will dismantle in front of the Standing Committee when they invite us. I think that is going to happen very soon because it is an interesting environment and it is an environment where we all understand that we need to work together to be successful at the end of the day. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much and the last opportunity to the hon Petrus.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, you spent a lot of money on the Municipality in the Garden Route on the landfill site that is still not operational. What is going on there? Can you perhaps explain to us what is going on there and why is it not operational? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Ja, I think that maybe just spoke more sense than the hon Petrus.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, hon Minister. ...[Laughter.] Order, hon members! There was an hon member on the floor. There is a

question posed to the hon Minister. Hon Minister again, there was more than one question posed. I am not going to dictate how you respond to it, but the question was posed. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Is that a point of order? What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is a point of order on the hon MEC. I think we are not here to play games. These are serious matters we are discussing. This is deeply undermining to the hon member. I mean, really, the remarks he just made. Instead of responding to the question, he goes and brings in an issue of someone in the gallery. I mean, really!

The SPEAKER: I have already ruled, hon Sayed and I did rule that that was not a point of order. I mean once it becomes frivolous and it degenerates the decorum of the House, is where I will intervene. But hon members are absolutely, in terms of the Rule or Rules, entitled to raise points of orders. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, can you please use the other microphone.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I want to take you further on what hon member Khalid is saying. It further goes by saying the gallery there is speaking better sense than the hon member. That is also undermining the integrity of another hon member ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Can that hon member just withdraw? There is no ruling for that. It just okay to speak badly in the presence of another hon member. We cannot allow such frivolous attitudes ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): It is wrong. It is wrong. Morally, it is wrong, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright. There is now ...[Interjections.] Hon members, there was a point of order raised by the hon Minister. I ruled the hon Minister out of order. The Chief Whip of the Opposition is now rising on a new point of order and saying that the hon member infringed on the integrity in terms of the Rules of the hon member. So, I am going to deal with that separately. So, I want to, for the record, state that this is not a point of order on a point of order because I have already ruled.

Hon Minister, the point of order by the Chief Whip is that you infringed on the integrity and dignity of the hon member in the House and as you know, we are all hon members here and we must treat each other as hon members. Can I please ask that you withdraw that comment you made to the hon member?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, although it is subject to debate, I will withdraw unconditionally.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon Minister has withdrawn unconditionally, and I am satisfied with that, and we move on. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker and to the hon member. Ja, Mossel Bay's site: we have learnt a lot of lessons. It is coming on for the last 12 years to try to establish that. In the meantime, the West Coast has established their one and signed the contracts. I am worried about the financial modelling of that because you need it now in the Garden Route. Remember, just for clarity, it is in Mossel Bay, but it is not the Mossel Bay site. It is not the municipality's site. It is the site for the region, okay.

So, to get all the municipalities to sign the contract was quite difficult and in the Garden Route, if you do not have George and Mossel Bay as partners, well, the rest cannot carry it. Now, you go into this contract, and you sign a big deal with the bank, a loan, and then if one or two of the municipalities opt out, then the district sits with this loan, they cannot repay it. So, this financial modelling is going to become very tricky.

Then, what has also happened, when they started off with this programme or when we started off with the regional site thinking, the rail was working.

Now, we do not have rail anymore. So, if you need to take waste from Knysna who also must take their waste then to the Mossel Bay site, it is an eight-hour turnaround with the truck. Now, you must double your fleet in Knysna because they are not going to have trucks to drive up and down and take the waste there.

So, it can become problematic and that is why this thing is now on ice because of the bank loan, municipalities popped out. They say they cannot afford it. Knysna has not signed the contract yet. Bitou is struggling. So, we will need to look into that. On the West Coast, the two municipalities, Matzikama and Cederberg, signed that one. But if you do not get all five to become partners, the cost is going to end up in the lap of the district municipalities and they do not have the income stream.

So, I really think this is going to be a very interesting debate and we need to be able to ask the tough questions. If we are wrong with our thinking, then the quicker we stop and rethink, I think the better. Thank you, hon Speaker.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question 4 as printed on the Question Paper. We move on to Question 5 and I recognise the hon Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Wenger.

*Child stunting*

**5. Mr M Booyesen to ask Ms M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:**

What are the details of the pilot project aimed at addressing the root causes of child stunting?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I am delighted that the hon member asked me a question about this. This is a project that is very close to my heart and which I have made a ministerial priority.

The pilot project is called Khulisa Care, Khulisa for ‘grow’, and it is a pilot project that we launched recently by the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, and its aim is breaking the cycle of malnutrition and preventing childhood stunting. The programme is in partnership with the Department of the Premier and the DG Murray Trust. We are all working together and it is a collaborative effort with civil society and the private sector, including the Grow Great Campaign and Shoprite.

So, the programme targets three critical groups: underweight pregnant women; women at risk of delivering low birthweight babies, those are babies less than 2,5 kilogrammes; and mothers who have already given birth to babies born with a low birthweight. The goal is to prevent babies from being born underweight and to make sure moms of those who are born underweight, to get the right support to help their babies grow and thrive in their first six

months of life. Thereby, reducing the rate of stunting among children under the age of five.

This initiative combines monthly nutrition support for protein-rich foods from Shoprite with comprehensive primary healthcare support which is delivered through trained community healthcare workers. These will be rolled out in three geographic areas of the province: two urban and one rural.

Beneficiaries will receive a monthly R525 Shoprite Xtra Savings Deal loaded onto their Shoprite Xtra Savings card for a select basket of ten nutritious foods that are redeemable at all Shoprite stores in the Western Cape. In addition, the moms will be provided with supplements like foliate and iron. The foods that they will be able to purchase are tinned tuna, tinned pilchards, long life full cream milk, Amasi, soya mince, eggs, fortified maize meal, dried or tinned beans, dried lentils and peanut butter. So, these are the protein-rich best buys, as we call them.

Now, with protein-rich and nutrient dense foods, often too expensive for pregnant women, micronutrient deficiencies are common. In South Africa, iron deficiency and anaemia are widespread amongst women of reproductive age with the South African demographic, I beg your pardon, and Health Survey reporting anaemia in one in three women, with higher figures in some provinces. Iron is essential for red blood cells to deliver oxygen throughout the body and is necessary for the healthy development of the foetus. Iron is found in most abundance in protein-rich foods like eggs, fish, chicken, beans,



lentils and nuts.

A lack of other micronutrients like zinc, calcium, foliate, Vitamins A, D and B12 also negatively affect moms and babies. For example: zinc deficiency is associated with high blood pressure during pregnancy and preterm labour. Vitamin A deficiency can affect both pregnant moms and newborns, and cause night blindness. Folate and B12 deficiencies can lead to neural tube defects and anaemia. This is why these specific foods have been selected.

In addition, to give moms and babies more support, we have partnered with the DG Murray Trust to create an educational booklet and a recipe guide. Here is an example of the educational booklet and here we have the recipe book with the ten Best Buys. So, for each of those ingredients it explains why they are important, and it gives some tasty recipes to try for these ingredients to be used. So, that makes it as user friendly as possible for the moms on the programme.

Moms will also benefit from visits from trained community healthcare workers twice a month. So, we are adding extra community healthcare support to moms on the programme. They will offer regular growth monitoring of babies, counselling on maternal and infant nutrition, including breastfeeding guidance, information on healthy pregnancies, reducing risky behaviours such as smoking and alcohol use, and pregnancy and postnatal infant care. Such as identifying danger signs and adhering to immunisation schedules, as well as information on maternal mental health.

To make sure our community healthcare workers are confident and prepared, we have trained 100 healthcare workers in the Breede Valley and more than 200 in Khayelitsha with more training sessions scheduled for Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain. We have developed a booklet with messages for moms that the community healthcare workers will take with them on their visits. I thought I would share with the House some images of our recent training sessions with community healthcare workers.

The pilot programme was first started in the Breede Valley, and it kicked off in July of this year with Khayelitsha this month and Mitchells Plain set to follow in the next few weeks. The intake period is expected to span the next three to five months with participating women receiving support from their first antenatal visit up until the baby turns six months old, irrespective of when they join the programme.

Pregnant women will be screened at public health facilities offering antenatal services. Those who are underweight or at risk of delivering a low birthweight baby will be enrolled. New mothers whose babies are born underweight will also be identified at birth or during follow-up visits. Healthcare professionals, such as nurses and midwives, will play a key role in referring eligible women to the programme. This is a pilot project which we hope will reduce low birthweight rates, increase exclusive breastfeeding, improve maternal health and nutrition, and provide a model that we will be able to scale. Thank you.

*[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]*

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Minister Wenger. I recognise the hon member that posed the question, hon member Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Madam Chair. Hon Madam Chair, through you, with all the various challenges within the health sector, why did the hon Minister specifically focus on stunting and a low birthweight? What are the risks that might cause Khulisa Care to fail?

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you for the follow-up, to the hon member. So then maybe, let us start with, you know, what stunting is. So, what is stunting?

So, stunting is a sign of chronic malnutrition in children under five meaning they are shorter than expected for their age. Some children are just normally short, but most short-for-age children in South Africa have suffered nutritional deficit that affects both their body and brain's growth. It is a public health concern, but more than that, it has long term consequences for individuals and the broader economy. Its impact reaches well beyond early childhood affecting how children learn, how adults work and how countries

grow.

On South Africa, more than a quarter of children under the age of five, is stunted and this is the key reason why the average child born today is expected to reach only 43% of their full productive potential later in life. Low birthweight and stunting are not just medical concerns. They are powerful early warning signs that can shape the entire course of a person's life.

In 2022, the Department of Health and Wellness conducted a stunting baseline survey which gave us a much clearer picture of the challenges that we face. We undertook this survey because we know that a child's first 1 000 days are absolutely critical. Good nutrition, responsive care and a safe nurturing environment during this window set the foundation for lifelong health, learning and productivity. If children are stunted, if they do not grow properly in their first few years the effects are unfortunately permanent. It limits brain development, reduces school performance and even lowers earning potential later in life.

That is why as the Department of Health and Wellness, working with the DG Murray Trust and our research partners at UCT and Stellenbosch University, the stunting baseline survey was commissioned initially. The goal was to understand exactly where we stand. To measure the scale of malnutrition in our children under five and to try and uncover some of the drivers behind it so that we can direct our efforts and track progress with real evidence.

So, what did this study find? Stunting is still too high. In our province, 17,5% of children under five are stunted. Among the most vulnerable group are children under two, in which case this rises to 19,7% which is almost one in five. Stunting is highest in households living in poverty and in informal environments. The double burden of malnutrition is also real. So, what this means is that although malnutrition is not only due to a lack of nutrition but also being overweight or obese, a rate the World Health Organisation classifies as a high public health concern. So, malnutrition in the Western Cape is not just about too little food, it is also about the wrong kinds of food.

The good news is that there has been some progress. In 2016, national data put stunting in young children at 27,4% and today in the Western Cape, it is 17,5%. So, that is quite a substantial reduction. This suggests that interventions are making a real difference and if we continue at this pace, we are hoping to make further reductions within the next few years.

So, what are some of the risk factors that drive stunting? Poverty, you know, children in the indigent households who are almost twice as likely to be stunted. A care environment is an influencing factor. Low maternal education, young-aged childbirth and limited opportunities double the risk of stunting in infants. Maternal health risks like smoking and alcohol or drug use all raise the likelihood of stunting and then low birthweight, which is often due to maternal nutrition, preterm birth, that influences stunting.

We then also looked at rates of breastfeeding and despite strong evidence that breastmilk protects against both stunting and obesity, only 18% of infants are exclusively breastfed. We also found from the study that half of all children under five had poor dietary diversity. So, they are not getting enough protein, fruit and vegetables; 70% are not consuming enough dairy to meet their calcium needs and alarmingly, 80% consumed sugary foods and 50% drank sugary beverages in just 24 hours before being surveyed.

Other worrying findings were incomplete immunisation rates which remain high in poorer households, which is also a signal of wider vulnerabilities. So, what does it mean? It means that stunting is an issue that requires a Whole of Government and Whole of Society approach and requires more than just one intervention. We are hopeful that through Khulisa Care, we will have a targeted intervention that tracks three at risk groups. Those being underweight moms, moms at risk of delivering low birthweight babies and then, low birthweight babies themselves.

The important thing is what this will do is it will add years of health, it will add opportunities to learn, and it will have the chance to break free from cycles of poverty. So, what we are doing here is we are investing actively in the future of our province. There were some economic studies that were done around stunting and some of those costs are quite staggering.

By 2040, stunting and obesity could cost the Western Cape up to R947 billion in lost economic potential and that is because children who start life

malnourished, are less likely to finish school and are more likely to live in poverty, and are at greater risk of lifelong illness. For families this often means higher care needs and fewer opportunities. Of course, it has implications for a productive workforce for the economy.

So, I can assure the hon member that the science is clear. Investing in children's health is one of the smartest decisions we can make both morally and economically. Healthy children grow into skilled productive adults who strengthen families, communities and the economy. So, it is not just a health intervention, it is a long-term investment in the future.

The hon member also asked me about risks of it not working. So, I suppose the thing is that a pilot is, in essence, a space to test, to learn and to improve. While we acknowledge that there is always a risk that a new approach may not work as intended, the decision was not taken lightly. A lot of work has gone into this project, and it is grounded in strong local evidence, as well as proven global best practice showing that time and again, low birthweight and stunting interventions if they are made early enough, can dramatically improve lifelong health, learning and earning potential.

So, before we launched, we conducted in-depth planning. We reviewed the scientific research; we consulted health experts. We studied successful programmes in other countries. We mapped specific needs of targeted communities. We also worked very closely with the private sector and civil society partners to ensure that the design of the programme is practical, it is

culturally relevant and also, financially sustainable.

The pilot combines targeted nutrition support with maternal care and counselling, and global evidence supports this approach. So, in Mexico, they had a programme called PROGRESA which was linked to a 32% reduction in low birthweight babies. A review of pregnancy support in 27 low- and middle-income countries found that financial and nutrition support improved birth outcomes. A 2022 systemic review found that cash transfers, paired with nutrition counselling, increased dietary diversity and protein-rich food intake, both of which are crucial in preventing low birthweight.

Community health workers will be at the heart of the programme, as I mentioned. Their home-based personalised care is especially effective for underweight pregnant women and mothers of low birthweight infants. In the pilot, community healthcare workers will visit participants every two weeks, providing nutrition counselling, monitoring mom and monitoring baby, and supporting breastfeeding. As part of a structured package of care designed to prevent low birthweight and support recovery when it does occur.

So, this is a careful, evidence-based test of an approach with a potential to transform lives. We will measure the impact closely, adapt quickly where it is needed and scale up what works. This reflects the Department of Health and Wellness's commitment to innovation and our belief that when the potential benefits are this great, sometimes the greatest risk is not trying at all.



The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, there are hon members that indicated that they wish to pose some follow-up questions. The first hon member was hon member Windvogel. I do not see her in Chamber or indicating online. I will now recognise the hon member Marais. Please proceed, hon member.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, hon Madam Chair. I just want to commend the hon Minister on this initiative, and I know it is a long-term vision of improving the prospects of many, yet to be born, going forward.

I wanted to know from the hon Minister. In terms of this pilot project, do you foresee the sustainability period, you quoted six months, to be extended and what is the, I do not want to go into a second question, but it is very interesting. I want to abide by the Rules. ...[Laughter.] I want to abide by the Rules, but it is so interesting, and it is commendable that civil society would want to come alongside to make this a success in the long term. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you very much. So, we are very grateful to have excellent civil society partners joining in on this programme and, you know, in its pilot phase it also allows for adaptability.

So, we are very grateful to the DG Murray Trust for their support as well as Grow Great in this pilot phase.

The reason why the support is up until the baby is six months old is because what we understand is that in order to access a grant for children, for small children, you can only do so once the baby is born. To complete all the paperwork and up until the time that you actually start receiving the grant, generally takes six months. So, there is a gap in support for babies, and this project will also then, through that nutrition support, fill that gap and help moms up until they can start to receive their social assistance.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Minister Wenger. I recognise the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon House Chair, my question would be I know that this is a pilot project, and one appreciates it. However, hon Chair, one cannot help but to have that knowledge that normally malnutrition is found amongst those that cannot afford, that are very poor or otherwise, drug abused parents et cetera. Now, the hon MEC has indicated that this project is done in the Breede Valley as part of the pilot.

What I would want to know is that how are the farmworkers benefitting? The moms that are farmworkers: how do they benefit and how do they access your Shoprite? For example, you were raising that you are in partnership or

working with Shoprite. In many cases, they are far from Shoprites, et cetera. How do they access that and how many of them have already benefitted? Thank you, hon Speaker.

*[The Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. So, we wanted to test or roll out the pilot, bless you, in both rural and urban because that gives us insights into what works and what does not work. I am just trying to find the statistics of the enrolment to date starting in Breede Valley. So, any woman that presents for antenatal care at one of our health facilities is screened or to be underweight and any woman that presents at our antenatal clinics in the Breede Valley automatically will then come on the programme if they consent to come on the programme.

So, Shoprite is one of those retail partners that has extensive stores all around but obviously, we understand that there are complexities in rural areas. So, we will see as the project rolls out whether that is, in fact, a challenge for women on farms who are part of the programme. So, we have a dynamic feedback loop, and I have briefings every four weeks on the programme so that we can understand what some of the challenges are and how do we address them as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The final follow-up, hon Lekker. †  
Agb Lekker. [The hon Lekker.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): No, thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. I would like to know what is the prevalence of stunting in the Western Cape, also, what are the numbers of mothers that ...[Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Lekker, [The SPEAKER: Hon Lekker,] I heard that second follow-up. Hon Minister, there was more than one follow-up question. I am not going to dictate how you respond to it.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. Of children under five in our province, 15, sorry, 17,5% are stunted and 19,7% if you look at children under two.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of that question, our Question 5. We move onto Question 6 and I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

### *Local government audits*

#### **6. Mr D W Bryant to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environment Affairs and Developmental Planning:**

Following the 2023/24 local government audits, which revealed that 111

municipalities across South Africa tabled unfunded budgets:

Whether any of these municipalities were located in the province; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you and thank you to the hon Bryant for the question. Following the 2023 local government audits which revealed that 111 municipalities across South Africa tabled underfunded budgets, the reply is yes. There were municipalities located in this province that had tabled underfunded budgets in the 2023/2024 financial year. The relevant details as monitored with the provisions of the requisite support by the Provincial Treasury are as follows.

The five municipalities that adopted underfunded budgets in the 2023/2024 financial year are Cederberg, Matzikama, Laingsburg, Beaufort West and Kannaland. The Beaufort West Municipality was already under the intervention in terms of 139(5) of the Constitution and had a financial recovery plan in place. The other municipalities were assisted to prepare budgets on funding plans which if fully implemented, would provide a credible path to achieving a funded budget.

To enhance support provided by Provincial Treasury, the Department of Local Government additionally provided the following focus support to enlisted municipalities. To the Cederberg Municipality, support and guidance was

provided to the Cederberg Municipality with a review and amendment of their systems of delegations 13 and 14 of July 2023. Also in Cederberg, we conducted a workshop at the Cederberg Municipality on 11 August on the Draft Rules of Order and Bylaws, Uniform Standards and Procedures for councillors, the roles and responsibilities, and the Code of Conduct for councillors.

In the Kannaland Municipality, support was provided to the Kannaland Municipality with the review amendment of the following: bylaws, water, services, traffic, roads, regulations, the keeping and controlling of animals, street trading, electricity supply and community fire safety.

In the Matzikama Municipality, support was provided to the Matzikama Municipality with the review amendment of its draft water and sanitation policy, and the Department of Local Government facilitated the antifraud and anticorruption workshop in conjunction with COGTA, HAWKS, SIU, SALGA for all municipalities of the West Coast district on 14 and 15 November 2023. In this respect, attendees included the councillors as well as officials from the Matzikama Municipality.

In the Beaufort West Municipality, in order to capacitate the members of impact at the Beaufort West Municipality, a workshop was conducted with committee members on 4 March 2024. All the municipalities, with the exception of the Cederberg Municipality, had support plans in place in 2023/2024.

The following grant allocations were provided to the relevant municipalities. To the Beaufort West Municipality, the intervention in the ICT firewall R335,000, engineering capacity R300,000, the purchase of personal protective equipment R500,000 and the urgent repair to water and sanitation also R500,000. So, a total of R1,635 million in the Beaufort West Municipality.

Then, in the Cederberg Municipality on municipal service delivery capacity building, technical capacity appointment of the technical directors. We helped them with that process, and we put in R300,000 into that process. Intervention in the backup service in the municipality, R400,000. So, a total for Cederberg of R700,000 was spent.

Then, in the Kannaland Municipality, to enhance their engineering capacity we spent R300,000. On HR communication capacity, another R300,000. So, we spent R600,000 in the Kannaland Municipality.

Then, in the Laingsburg Municipality, on backup services, R400,000 and in the Matzikama Municipality, four backup power for existing services, OM stations, et cetera, R877,000. On engineering capacity, R600,000; technical engineering capacity, R600,000; backup services, R400,000; and HR communication capacity, R300,000. So, a total of R6,12 million from the Department was invested in this municipality to help to get them to fund their budgets.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister, hon members, the time has expired for Oral Questions. I have all the hon Minister the latitude to conclude the answer because there was a question posed. That brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

### **QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE**

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204. Hon members, just a reminder that two follow-ups by the hon member posing the question which relates to the original question. So, you cannot ask a new question when you pose your follow-up and it is only the hon member that is posing the question and can ask follow-up questions. I recognise the hon Nkondlo. I recognise hon Nkondlo. I then move on to hon Mbombo. I then move on to hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you, I would like to ask from the hon Premier: what insights to the results of the Q2 2025 Quarterly Labour Force Survey offer into the Western Cape's job market?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you very much



to the hon member for the question. In actual fact, I was reading something about that earlier today. Obviously, the job survey is something that really interests me a lot as I think people that know me, it is about the economy, it is about growth, and it is about jobs. Of course, that is our number one priority here in the Province.

I do notice that the one thing that I am a bit unhappy about is that we have gone from just below 20% in our employment to just above, and we really are trying to keep it below 20% and keep pushing it down. But, you know, the low economy and economic growth rate in South Africa, less than 1%, continually quarter after quarter, year after year, has its impacts on jobs and the employment numbers in our country. Of course, we do not escape that. We are under pressure, but it also puts other pressures on us and that is the pressure of in-migration of many people coming to look for jobs in this province.

Because the one thing that does stand out is that your labour force participation, if you look at those, at that data, we are still by far the highest in South Africa at 67,9%. Of course, if I look at the year-on-year rate. So, the year-on-year rate last year this time, we were sitting at 22,2%. This year at this time, we are sitting at 21,1%. So, it is above the 20% mark that we had achieved in the previous three quarters, which of course was very, very welcome.

But the interesting thing for me is that we are still 69 000 jobs up in the

Western Cape from where we were at this time last year. Of course, in South Africa, the problems are exacerbated because if I take our narrow unemployment rate of 21,1%, the closest out of the provinces with a narrow unemployment rate, of course, is the Northern Cape. We are at 21,1%; they are at 32,7%. So, I mean, just that gap in narrow and that is the closest other province. I mean, the narrow unemployment rate in the North West Province now sits at 40,1%. The narrow in the Eastern Cape Province at 39,5%, so 40%. So, it is like almost double what we are in the Province.

Obviously, it concerns me. I am worried about the unemployment rate in the Eastern Cape. I am worried about Gauteng, the engine room of the economy of our country and if Gauteng is not working it hurts the Western Cape and it hurts South Africa.

So, ja, the insights into the labour force survey are concerning. The unemployed in South Africa, you know, we are talking about 8,4 million people that are unemployed and those that have given up looking for work, 3,5 million people in South Africa. These are a lot of people without work, a lot of people without opportunity and the number of people that are on social grants. And if you just think about a social grant, how can you even make ends meet with a social grant. So, of course...

The insights are that quite frankly, if we do not arrest and fix our economy in South Africa and do it rapidly: change policies, start to think about how do we get economic growth in our system, which policies and what is failing in

our economic system? If we do not address that, then how do we expect to change these numbers and if you do not change these numbers, of course, South Africans just get poorer and poorer every time a quarterly survey comes out.

So, I mean, I think that is the most significant insight is that South Africans are getting poorer, the economy is not growing at any rate that is going to make a difference. You know, in actual fact, at a quarter of the inflation rate, all that is happening in our country is that we are going backwards at a rate of knots. Now, if we are going backwards at a rate of knots, well, that does not help South Africans. So, I think that would be the insights.

It is tough out there, it is difficult to find a job, and South Africa needs to change this. That means, we have got to change policies that are not working. We have got to fix things that are broken. That has got to be the focus of the way going forward.

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the hon Premier. Hon Premier, what impact has global trade uncertainty in recent months had on the Western Cape's ability to grow the economy and to create those much-needed jobs?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Of course, and maybe, I should have answered a little bit of that with the first question but thank you very much for the follow-up.

Of course, our country has to sell our products. We have got to bring foreign exchange into our country if we want it to grow. If you have a household and you do not increase your income coming into your household, you cannot buy more food and put it on the table. That is what we have got to do. We have obviously got our inner government, our inner country trade, but we have got to get money coming into the country. That grows your economy.

Quite frankly, the global uncertainty, I think, post the American election and the tariff uncertainty that has been here for the last couple of months around the planet, that really is exacerbating the position across the world. I think for us primarily as South Africa, our biggest challenge now is the tariffs in the US.

I must say that I am hugely frustrated and hugely disappointed that we have not managed to do a deal with regards to tariffs. I mean, it is just quite astonishing that we cannot get that right. I mean, we had a mess with not having proper representation from an Ambassador position or a Trade and Economic position in the US. Then, we messed it up a second time and an Ambassador was sent home. We have got a trade envoy that has never gone

to America.

I am very glad to see that there is now another mission going. The Deputy President announced it. So, he was in the Eastern Cape, which is also again, the Eastern Cape is going to be hit hugely because of this tariff uncertainty and the Deputy President was there now. He has announced a further delegation going to the US.

But what is really frustrating for me is that we have known this since the beginning of the year that tariffs are coming. Then, there was a huge ruckus for us and a bit of a door-opening after the President's visit to the White House, but then it is almost as if we did nothing after that. There is no real action. And what has happened? We are stuck with 30% tariffs: 30%! A 30% tariff!

The countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, not one other country in Sub-Saharan Africa has a 30% tariff. Half of them, around 15 of them, have a 15% tariff. Another 14 or 15 of them have a 10% tariff actually and they are still in negotiations. So, it could stay at 10%, it might end up at 15%, but not 30%! 30 per cent! That makes us so uncompetitive.

Now, it is interesting. So, the Deputy President is in the Eastern Cape right now because there are 100 000 jobs at stake right now in the Eastern Cape alone because of the automotive industry and that market in the US that has now been really decimated because of the lack of the ability of our teams to

go over there and put a deal together. How on earth? [Interjections.] I mean, where is the urgency in that? And then, while we are trying to do this, what do we do? We antagonise the system. We invite Iran. [Interjections.] We send the head of our military while at the same time, we are going to send another delegation to America. [Interjections.] We have got another military delegation in Iran now scoring a massive own goal. [Interjections.] So probably, at the end of that negotiation, they will probably purposefully put up the rate again! And we will not ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He shot himself in his foot!

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order. Hon Premier, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...supporting genocide as you ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Genocide supporters!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon member, hon Minister ...[Interjections.] Hon Minister ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: They are supporters of genocide! [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...[Interjection.] †Moordenaars! [Murderers!]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja, at least we do not support genocide.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, we are busy with Questions to the Premier. The hon Premier is responding to ...[Interjections.] If you do not like the response, I would encourage you to have a coffee with the hon Premier outside of the Chamber, but please, hon members, we still have a long way to go through the Order Paper. Can I please ask for your cooperation. Both the Chief Whip of the Majority Party and the Chief Whip of the Opposition, if you can please assist so that we can get through the Order Paper. Hon Chief Whip, I did not recognise you, but you are on your feet. So ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes.

The SPEAKER: ...if that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker, I am on my feet, and I am quite alarmed. I would ask that you please ask the hon Windvogel to withdraw her comment referring to the hon members on this side as ‘murderers’.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members!  
[Interjections.] Hon members, I, with respect, I do not need anyone's assistance to keep the decorum and rule. There was a point of order. Hon Windvogel, did you refer to any hon member in the House?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The hon Windvogel indicated that she did not refer to any hon member. I will, however, revert to Hansard and I will come back to the House. I will come back to the House with ...[Interjections.] Order! I will come back to the House with a ruling and like always, I will take the pretext, the context and the posttext into account when I make my ruling. But until that point, there is no ruling, and I will continue. Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, it's fine because you already reprimanded the Chief Whip and me. ...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. And then I also ...[Interjections.] Order! Hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members, I am on the floor! Hon Lekker, I also saw your hand. Was that a point of order?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): It was a point of order, but then, you made a ruling



on the context upon which hon member Windvogel was referring to.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon members, I am not going to re-open ...[Interjections.] Order!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Yes, when people are talking and ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Are you talking to me?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I am talking to you because you asked me what progress ...[Interjection.] They are asking what progress. I am explaining to you because you do not listen. [Interjections.] I have got some labour back.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I am not going to try and shout over you. I have made the ruling. I have asked that you please allow me to come back to the House after I have had an opportunity to consult Hansard. I did indicate that I will look at the pretext, the context and the posttext. So, hon Lekker, I think I have addressed your point of order. With that being said, hon members, the hon Premier was still on the floor. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and I am sorry that we had this interruption because this is a very serious issue in our country. I

mean, the question was about jobs, and you know, this is the follow-up on that and the implications for further job losses in our country.

I was talking about the Eastern Cape, and I mean, the Deputy President, as I said, has just been there: 100 000 jobs at risk in the Eastern Cape in the automotive industry and the value chains that sit around it. Of course, that has a huge concern for me. A huge concern! It should be a massive concern for the ANC, massively, but they obviously do not seem to understand the consequences. [Interjections.]

Do you know that while we have got a 30% ...[Interjections.] while we have got a 30% tariff laid on us ...[Interjections.] even Lesotho has negotiated a 15% tariff. I mean, it is unbelievable. [Interjections.] There is no urgency, there is no commitment, there is no determination, there is no will. It just seems to be we do not actually care and the more unemployed people in our country, the better, which is totally unacceptable. So, that is in the Eastern Cape. [Interjections.]

In our province, I am hugely concerned. Here, it is not driven by the automotive industry, it is driven by agriculture primarily and the export industry into the US. [Interjections.] Of course, if you look at the data on our export growth over the last 25 years, from almost negligible to billions. It has taken 25 years to develop that value chain, that market. In citrus, 30 000 jobs just under threat in our province right now because of these tariffs. And where is the urgency? No one seems to care about it. It really

is unacceptable, and we need to make sure that the ANC stops treating this system with the disdain that they are busy with.

I mean, we made a joke about shooting oneself in the foot with our military chief going off to Iran, but that has huge consequences for global positioning of our country and how we trade and where we trade. And then, we say well fine, do not worry. We will just ignore this, and we will go and find alternate markets. That US market took 25 years to build to where it is right now. But that is the disdain and the absolute.

I mean, that is what this opposite side of the House thinks of jobs in South Africa. That is why we do not have a growth rate ...[Interjections.] that we can even talk about and that is why there is absolutely zero urgency in trying to find a best deal possible to retain as many jobs in our economy as possible. It is actually quite disgraceful that we have treated the citizens of this country with that kind of disdain and not worried about those jobs. Not worried about the food on those people's table ...[Interjections.] and the ability of those families to even see a future. Their jobs will just be lost just like that. It is absolutely unacceptable.

This province is going to have to now start having a look at other ways ...[Interjections.] of finding traction in that specific market, which is a clear and very, very important market for the Western Cape. Whether it be foreign direct investment, whether it be trade and of course, this is trade that influences it. It is actually also just about how two regions of the world

work with each other to the benefit of their citizens. Quite frankly, the ANC here has dropped the ball critically and it is just going to make these job numbers in the next quarter even worse. They do not care at all.

Now, what happens, over time is the direct consequence of that is that votes get lost. There might be a GNU at the moment, but I was looking at the latest data and positioning for the next election and ...[Interjections.] how many provinces do you think the ANC will retain according to the current data? Two provinces. Why? Because they cannot even find a job for their citizens and those that have jobs, they do not care that another 100 000 in the Eastern Cape are going to lose jobs because they cannot get their act together. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon ...[Interjections.] Hon members, the second opportunity, hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the hon Premier. Hon Premier, given the Western Cape's consistently lower unemployment rate and higher labour force participation compared to the rest of the country, what specific policy reforms would you recommend at a national level, to prioritise and stimulate economic growth creation across all provinces and how can the Western Cape's approach be replicated nationally? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, there was more than one follow-up question. I

am not going to dictate to you how you respond.

The PREMIER: So quite frankly, I think the first policy reform ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Can you put on your microphone.

The PREMIER: ...the first policy reform should be having a look at how you can devolve power. How you can allow us to deal with crime here in this province. There was a lot of noise made about crime but give us the power to deal with it. Give us the power to deal with ports and rail ...[Interjections.] because if you sort those things out, you will start to exponentially see economic growth. [Interjections.] Follow some of the G4J, follow some of the G4J positionings that we have already put out into the public domain and ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! You are drowning out the hon speaker on the floor. Hon Premier, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! You are drowning out the hon speaker on the floor. Hon Premier, my apologies. You may continue and can I just remind you, hon Premier, that your time has expired, so please conclude.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So, concluding on the last point would be at a national level to follow what the DA is busy doing in this province and what this Government is busy doing in this province. We have

just launched today in Gauteng at the Stock Exchange, our investment summit which is taking place at the end of the year. We are really putting ourselves [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ...to show you how we can attract investment ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The PREMIER: ...in the economy.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that concludes the Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204. [Interjections.] Hon members. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, again, my appeal to the Chief Whips on both sides of the House. Can you please assist me so that we can get through the Order Paper.

## **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

The SPEAKER: We move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, in the Western Cape we do not just commemorate women: we celebrate, empower and uplift them. While some departments nationally reduced women's issues to tick box exercises and talk shops, we take action.

The challenges facing women and children are not subject for debate, they are urgent calls to action. I stand today to commend the Artscape Women's Humanity Festival for its unwavering commitment to these ideals. From 25 July to 31 August, this festival has showcased a powerful tapestry of voices, arts, music, literature, and lived experiences all under one theme, Peace in Action: Working Together.

Notable events include Pass the Flame, Generations, Remembering Women Who Sang us Forward, a musical celebration uniting three generations of women who shaped our cultural landscape. Voices in Unition, a powerful choral performance celebrating South Africa's rich musical challenge. I want to call you Daddy, a theatrical production exploring complex familiar relationships, as well as *Afrisnaaks*, a showcase of Afrikaans humour highlighting diversity and the richness of our cultural expressions. The Woman Zone book launch and book swap also celebrated literary activism, as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Woman Zone.

Hon Speaker, these events go beyond discussion. They provoke platforms for women to make real, lasting impacts across communities. This festival culminated on National Women's Day with a humanity walk, a symbolic

procession of camaraderie featuring interfaced blessings, inert speeches, performances and interactive art. I call on every public leader in this House to actively support and engage with and amplify the efforts of women.

Allow me to also highlight the intervention of Ms Tracey Lange who showed that she leads from the front, by rallying to raise funds to bring young people stuck in Portugal back to Cape Town. Let us make sure that these platforms continue to grow and inspire similar initiatives across the country. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the ANC. Can I just ask for the podium, please. [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Greetings to our ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: It is called a podium.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...leadership of the ANC in the province, Henry Glatola and the regional executive committee leader, Mr Sidney Setera[?], who is here in the gallery from the Overberg.

In the DA-led Swellendam Municipality, two brave individuals, one inside the municipality, one outside, uncovered a web of tender fraud: Leigh Johnson and Noel Goliath. They found evidence of fabricated documents,



falsified meetings and tenders allegedly steered away from those who won the bid, the adjudicated winners, towards the personal favourites of municipal insiders. Instead of being thanked for protecting public money, these whistleblowers have faced intimidation and violence.

Johnson, who is our guest in the gallery today, has had a brick thrown through his window. He has been assaulted outside his home. His house was set on fire. As for Mr Goliath, his property was vandalised. Yesterday, he was suspended by the Municipality on spurious allegations. The local newspaper has run a sustained smear campaign against him, even falsely claiming that a police case was opened against him.

Despite this, the HAWKS are investigating and yet, the threats continue. Our concern is not just for the safety of these two individuals, but for the message this sends to every honest person working in our municipalities. If exposing corruption means losing your safety, your livelihood and your dignity, then we are telling the corrupt that they have nothing to fear. The DA, with hon MEC Bredell and hon Premier Winde at the forefront show no interest in dealing with the rogue actors in their municipalities. Like in this Legislature: no interest was shown in investigating the allegations that hon member Bans brought from a whistleblower.

Hon Speaker, we cannot ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time is up. Can you conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, we cannot allow that. We call on this House to demand urgent protection for those whistleblowers to ensure that the HAWKS work is not obstructed and to make it clear that in Swellendam ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and across the Western Cape ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...will be defended ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time is ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and those people will not be silenced. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I have tried to allow, throughout this Sitting, to give you an opportunity to conclude your sentence or your thought. So, can I please ask that you do not abuse that. Hon Sayed, that was no intention to silence you. They are the parliamentary Rules. Hon Chief Whip, I do not

need you to assist me to chair. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Today, as we stand in the midst of Women's Month, I rise to honour the immeasurable strength of women, a strength that is not merely defined by physical endurance, but by the resilience, courage and the ability to rise time and time again in the face of adversity.

A woman's strength is found in her voice that speaks truth to power, even when the rooms grow silent. It is in the hands that build and rebuild homes, communities and futures, often from the ashes of hardship. It is in the heart that nurtures without limit and in the spirit that refuses to be broken, no matter how heavy the burden. We have seen it in our mothers who work tirelessly to put food on the table. We see it in young women shattering glass ceilings and refusing to be defined by stereo types and we see it in the women who survive unspeakable violence, yet transform their pain into purpose, becoming advocates for change.

Hon Speaker, the strength of a woman is not just a personal effort, it is a societal necessity. When we empower women we strengthen families, communities and the province as a whole, but that empowerment requires more than words. It requires action, policy and the dismantling of barriers that still hold women back.

So, as we celebrate Women's Month, let us not only applaud the strength of

women, but commit ourselves to a Western Cape where every woman's strength is recognised, protected and given the opportunity to thrive. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Stephens. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Speaker, esteemed hon members of the Provincial Parliament. It is with deep sorrow that I reflect on the life and legacy of Chief Derrick Damons, a man whose unwavering commitment to service has left an unforgettable mark on our province. A firefighter for 27 years with the Drakenstein Fire Services, Chief Damons's life was one defined not by the recognition he received, but by the countless lives he touched through his courage, humility and quiet leadership.

As a colleague, a mentor and a father figure to many, Chief Damons embodied the values of integrity, discipline and steadfastness. Under his leadership, Drakenstein Fire Services became more than just a firefighting unit, it became a family of men and women who took their cues from his example of service above all. His influence reached far beyond the fire station as he was a steady hand and a trusted voice guiding not only his team, but the community at large through countless challenges.

Chief Damons's dedication to duty, his spirit of service and his tireless commitment to the people of Drakenstein and beyond will forever remain a

beacon of inspiration for future generations. As we mourn his loss, let us also honour his memory by embracing the values he held dear: service, compassion and selflessness. His light may no longer shine among us, but it will continue to guide us as we carry forward his legacy. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters would like to take this opportunity and condemn the DA-led City of Cape Town over the continued closure of Philippi Brown's Farm Library. The library continues to be closed since 7 August 2023 after it was vandalised during a taxi strike which was subsequently overtaken by thugs who looted and damaged the library, which included books, computers, windows, doors, ceilings, as well as the electrical infrastructure.

The City of Cape Town ...[3:38:36 - Audio distorted.] has since been dragging its feet when it comes to fixing the library and often citing the budgetary constraints as the main reason why it cannot commence with repairs despite its claims that it is committed to progressing with the work.

Before its closure, hon Speaker, the library was mainly used by learners, students, community and civil organisations as well as the general public for study purposes, as well as research purposes. The length of its closure coupled with the lack of progress at the site, is causing frustrations among

residents who regularly used the library in the past. Moreover, hon Speaker, what also makes the matter worse is that the nearest library for the community is kilometres away and is in Crossroads. It costs one about R20 per day for a round trip, which is not affordable for most learners.

Our people, Somlomo, continue to live in an economy that is not creating adequate employment opportunities in order to afford certain necessities of life, while those armed with the public purse, such as the City of Cape Town, are dragging their feet when it comes to rendering the services which are much needed by the poor, especially in Black townships. It is a known fact that ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): It is a known fact that if this library was situated in a predominantly White area, then the repairs would have been done a long time ago. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the NCC. The NCC? And for the final time: the NCC? I then move on to the ...[Interjection.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker. ...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Saved by the bell! Hon Jacobs, you may continue.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Ja, thank you. Hon Speaker, the NCC raises its glass to congratulate Tracey Lange, our Cape Town hero, when she was made aware of the youngsters in Spain who were left behind ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Jacobs?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Yes?

The SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt you. That is. We are not dealing with Motions now. You have indicated that you want to deliver that as a Motion. We are at Member Statements now. Would you like to make a Member Statement?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay, apologies for that one, hon Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: No worries ...[Interjection.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker, the NCC notes with profound happiness and joy the launch of the Heritage Visitor Centre at the Amazon African headquarters in Cape Town. This is not a formal museum or a public heritage site in the traditional sense, instead the development itself located in Observatory along the Liesbeek River is steeped in cultural and historical significance.

Hon Speaker, the land where Amazon headquarters is now standing was once a part of a contested heritage zone. It holds deep spiritual and historical meaning for the Khoi and the San people, South Africa's first inhabitants. This is a huge step for South Africa as our country is a co-signatory of the UNDRIP Resolution recognising the aboriginal nations.

Hon Speaker, while there is not a dedicated heritage visitors centre open to the public, the developers have incorporated symbolic gestures and narratives, acknowledging the site's cultural importance. These include memorials, interpretive signage aimed at honouring the legacy of the land and its people. †Ouma Katrina, ons se taal gaan gepraat word. [Ouma Katrina, our language will be spoken.]

Hon Speaker, the NCC notes the challenges that were overcome to have this site established and as the NCC, we are proud to have this as a symbol of the first nation recognition in our country. Amasie.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Jacobs. I recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we note with outrage the disgraceful incident that saw the Western Cape youth stranded in Portugal after BT Football Academy Tour. The principal culprit, Brandon Timmy lived lavishly in Spain before abandoning our children abroad and fleeing back to South Africa. His conduct was a betrayal of trust



and a gross dereliction of duty to the young lives in his care.

We commend the heroic efforts of Mary-Ann van der Merwe, Tracey Lange, the Deputy Minister Alvin Botes and the DIRCO team, and all South Africans who dug into their own pockets to secure the safe return of the children. Without their swift, selfless action, these young people would still be destitute on foreign streets.

In stark contrast, hon MEC Mackenzie and his Department contributed nothing. Instead, he wasted money flying from Spain to Portugal to pose for pictures and grandstand. [Interjections.] Those funds could have bought return tickets for the stranded children. This, on his reply to my question, he could not provide his total expenses to Lisbon. We demand accountability, hon Speaker. Alongside his namesake counterpart, he earned the title of being the biggest *mampara* for this week, ...[Laughter.] exposing a shocking lack of care for the province this week.

We welcome the ongoing fraud investigation against BT Academy and the closure of this discredited entity, but that is not enough. The Standing Committee must summons SAFA, the parents and the BT Academy leadership to account. SAPS should investigate possible child trafficking charges against those who send children to Europe without return tickets, leaving them sleeping on pavements. This Legislature must demand full accountability so that such a disgrace never happens again in this province. I thank you, hon Speaker. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Democratic Alliance, the DA.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, saved by the bell.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, while other provincial economic development agencies lay idle in the face of a geopolitical trade impasse, Wesgro, our clean, corrupted-free State Owned Enterprise is built in resilience and diversifying trade links. In the past financial year alone, Wesgro facilitated R14,5 billion in new investments, supported R5,4 billion in export declarations, led 75 outward missions to 48 countries and reached an audience of 31,9 million people through tourism, trade and investment campaigns. This is why our province boasts the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

The 30% tariff imposed by the US on South African exports poses a direct threat to these gains. The Western Cape accounts for over 70% of South Africa's agricultural exports to the US valued at more than R3,5 billion, including R1,8 billion in citrus alone. While Lesotho has swiftly negotiated better tariffs, the ANC Ministers responses have been slow and inadequate. In contrast, the Western Cape has acted decisively. This is what a proactive, strategic approach looks like, one that positions our Province to withstand

shocks, open new markets and grow the economy despite global uncertainty. It is a model the rest of the country should follow.

In May 2024, South African held their national dialogue at the ballot box and delivered a clear verdict: we do not trust the ANC to govern alone. The Western Cape cannot shoulder the national trade and investment promotion burden alone. The ANC cannot sit in endless national dialogues while millions of jobs remain at risk. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus welcomes the apology of the Open Chat presenters after we lodged a complaint at the South African Human Rights Commission. These are derogatory comments made against Coloured people, the Coloured community, of which the Khoi, the San and Griqua descendants are part of.

†Maar daar moet gelyke behandeling wees wanneer iemand van rasdiskriminasie beskuldig word of skuldig bevind word, agb Speaker, ongeag wie die opmerking maak. [But there should be equal treatment when somebody is accused of racial discrimination or is found guilty, hon Speaker, irrespective of who is making the remark.] Blacks are not exempt of being racists and there must be equal treatment across the racial and cultural divide in cases of this nature.

Further, hon Speaker, this is a difficult time in our democracy. We have many uncertainties, especially as the nation seeks to find solutions to the impact of the recent tariff hikes on our exports, threatening thousands of jobs. That should be the focus now, hon Speaker, of all South Africans.

Rome is burning and the fire must be extinguished. We must find common ground and a common way to put out this fire. The Government of National Unity must function as a unit in the interest of all South Africans, irrespective of what your race or culture is. When Rome burns, we are all going to burn and we call for a solution, an immediate intervention to save the thousands of jobs at risk. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, one of the outcomes at the Pakistan SADC Chamber Trade Federation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pakistan Africa Trade Summit which started on Monday. It was held on Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 August 2025, is that of a willing buyer to purchase South African oranges which were not exported to the US because of Donal Trump's high tariffs.

The oranges, if not sold soon enough, will most likely go rotten and/or get dumped if no buyer will be found. Pakistan who is hosting a two-day trade summit in Johannesburg, remains South Africa's largest trading partner on the African continent. Al Jama-ah's leader, hon Ganief Hendricks, who is the

Deputy Minister of Social Development, addressed the summit on sustainable livelihoods for economic upliftment and social transformation. The high US tariffs have created the trading of oranges an uncompetitive market.

Pakistan's orange season starts when South Africa's season ends. This opens up an opportunity for both countries to enjoy oranges all year around, says Hendricks. The trading of oranges was endorsed by Pakistan's Federal Minister for Investment, Mr Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh. The Al Jama-ah Party congratulates its leader on receiving two awards from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, which was handed over to him at the summit by Mr Sheikh. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis and please allow me at this point, to also on behalf of all hon members, to wish you a happy birthday. I hope that the year ahead is filled with only the very best. ...[Applause.] Hon members, now you are taking it a bit further.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, for that beautiful message. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: No problem. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP is shocked and very concerned to learn that Coloured secondary school pupils have the lowest levels of school attendance. This information comes

from researchers at the Department of Statistics and Population Studies at the University of the Western Cape. There are more Coloured learners in the age group of 16 to 18 years out of school.

The study found very disturbingly that previously disadvantaged Coloured families transfer their educational disadvantages to their children, meaning that the cycle of poorly educated children continues from parents to children. The study recommends further research to have a better understanding of why Coloured learners have lower levels of participation in secondary education. The study suggests that Government agencies or non-government organisations should prioritise the intervention for the Coloured racial group.

Hon Speaker, this is disturbing because we know and the study further showed that factors such as poor living conditions, unemployment, child labour, poverty, child-headed households and even children caring for the frail and the sickly are among the reasons for non-attendance of pupils at schools. These dropouts are lured by gangs and because they are soft targets.

Hon Speaker, this is a serious problem, and something needs to be done so that we do not have more youngsters losing their lives through alcohol, drugs and gangs. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. I have no statement.

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, South Africa has become far too familiar with ANC corrupt scandals in Government entities. We all remember the billions looted from Eskom during the state capture. We remember the brazen theft at Transnet, the chaos and criminality at PRASA, the PPE looting spree during the COVID-19 pandemic. From municipalities to State Owned Enterprises, the pattern is always the same: tender rigging, cadre deployment and a total disregard for the people these institutions are meant to serve.

Now, we are faced with yet another unfolding scandal. The R800 million oxygen plant tender at the Independent Development Trust. The IDT plays a critical role in delivering social infrastructure projects to millions of South Africans, building schools, clinics, community facilities and housing in the poorest communities. Entire towns and rural villages depend on the IDT to bring life-changing services closer to home.

Hon Speaker, given the ANC's track record, hon Speaker, it is no wonder that South Africans are asking: is this just another ANC corruption scheme? [Interjections.] While the DA supports Minister Dean MacPherson's decisive action to bring in independent investigators, refer criminal matters to the HAWKS and hold implicated officials to account, we must remain vigilant. [Interjections.]

The ANC's culture of corruption runs deep and without strong oversight, the rot will continue unchecked. The tragedy is that every rand stolen from the IDT is a school not built, a clinic not equipped, a community left behind. South Africa cannot afford to keep paying the price for ANC corruption. The DA will keep on exposing ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): ...demanding accountability and fighting for a clean, transparent infrastructure delivery because the people ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Your time has expired.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): ...not steals.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please take your seat. Hon members, that concludes Member Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish. I see the hon Minister of Finance, hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I just had a quick look. I cannot find any matter of financial misconduct in terms of Swellendam that has been reported to myself. So,



what I would like to request is that the hon member please just forward the respective evidence and then between myself and hon Minister Bredell, whether it is a financial or nonfinancial matter, we will assess the matter and report back to the House in terms of the committee system if necessary. Thank you so much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am going to share just two emails quickly with the House. I am willing to forward it to the real *mampara*, which is hon member Bans. These are emails from her colleagues, the National DIRCO, sent to me and all the other people involved, thanking us for being present. [Interjections.] If you have your kids stranded in another country and I hope it does not happen to anyone in the future, the great thing to find out and I will read some of the WhatsApps as well from the parents, to know that there is somebody there to help.

But they will never appreciate it. People who have destroyed this country will never understand it, ...[Interjections.] so I cannot expect it from them. But let me take you to the timelines. On that Monday morning, I personally spoke to Mr Brandon Timmy at least eight times. I hope I have got enough time. I will try to do this quickly, but I will give them the longer answer in writing because they are so predictable. I even have the answer in writing

because they do not understand what is happening to deal with a crisis. The police have collapsed, SAPS have collapsed, they do not understand where the crises are needed. [Interjections.]

So, on that morning, I personally spoke to Mr Timmy who gave me so many stories, hon members. He sold his car; he is waiting for money. This is happening. The money will be in in an hour. So many stories. So, we have to make executive decisions. At that point, at 10 o'clock Monday morning, Mr Brandon Timmy could not give me an answer. Does he have the flights? No. And I have got some of it in writing. I am willing to bring it to the Standing Committee, so that you can understand how executive decision-making works.

At that point, he could not give us credible answers about flight bookings. So, the decision was made to go to Portugal. It was a brilliant decision, and I will do it again tomorrow. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I got a call from the Tracey Lange initiative to say they have got 50% of the funding raised. Well done to them! Incredible work done by them. You cannot take a cent away from what they did. That was at midday, the afternoon when I was at Madrid airport enroute to Portugal.

An hour after I landed, after having met with Mr Karel le Roux, the author of this email and the author of the venue, an hour after I have met with the coaches we sat in the restaurant with the logistic teams. I created a WhatsApp group with the Tracey Lange Foundation and the Chief Director in

our Department, to start talking logistics and see how Government, us, can book the flights.

Fortunately, fortunately, and thank God, fortunately, Abongile informed me, ‘Minister Mackenzie, we do not need the funding from Government. We have raised the funds.’ It was a blessing. That was an hour after I landed. Again, we made the right decision to go. It is a decision I will make again tomorrow.

At that point, they then said, and I said, ‘well done!’ Everybody was happy and they took over the flight arrangements. That was an hour after I landed, hon members, and the parents during that time, obviously they thanked me, but at the time they did not know who it was. I informed them ‘you know via social media: Tracey Lange has done it. Do not thank me, it was Tracey Lange Fund initiative that has raised the funds. It was not Government money.’ The point is clear as daylight.

I hope you would appreciate, hon members, why the parents were happy at that point that there was somebody on the ground. So, hon members, if you are not in that situation, if you make decisions that have destroyed the country, somebody goes to Iran as the hon Premier indicated, ...[Interjections.] while we are fighting, negotiating with ...[Indistinct.] labour, you would not understand these decisions. But men and women like us who understand that in that moment, you make a decision that you cannot predict what is going to happen and an hour later, somebody else would have

raised the money. And well done to them! But it is a decision this Government will make again in the interest of children.

Again, I hope these hon members will assist me. Somebody mentioned Alvin Botes's number. Please send him a WhatsApp now. There is a letter waiting on Ronald Lamola's desk sent by me to create an emergency fund for situations like this. Please send them a WhatsApp because somebody mentioned their name. Thank you, hon Speaker. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Thank you very much, hon Minister. There are still 16 seconds left. Does any other hon Minister of the Executive want to respond?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: A WhatsApp, hon Speaker, I will WhatsApp that letter to them that they can send to Alvin Botes.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon ...[Interjections.] Order! Order! The time has now expired, but hon Minister in future, to please indicate and do not just jump up and start speaking. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members Statements.

## **MOTIONS**

The SPEAKER: In terms of in terms of Rule 151, all notices of motions by

the hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have duly been submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

### **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates the chronic crisis of high vacancy rates in the Western Cape Government and particularly the Mobility Department and its impact on the workers' service delivery.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates the prevalence of mental health illnesses in the Western Cape, and the inefficiencies of Government response programmes especially for homeless people.

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates the Western Cape's rising violent crimes, which

have made the province one of the most violent and dangerous places in the country, as well as the efficiency of Government programmes to combat crime, especially drugs and gang violence.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates food insecurity in the Western Cape, according to the 2015 General Household Survey, 17.4% of Western Cape households experienced inadequate food access, and 6.6% faced severely inadequate access. In urban informal settlements in the Cape Town metro, the situation is more dire: around 78% of these households were classified as severely food insecure. In an agriculturally rich province, this should not be the case.

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates informal settlement upgrade programmes in the Western Cape. Persistent winter storms have led to widespread flooding in settlements such as Masiphumelele, Lwandle, Khayelitsha, and others. This happens every year and affects working class communities. There needs to be clarity on what informal settlement upgrading programmes

the province is working on.

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates if women in senior Government positions are supported to be able to succeed in their roles. Women may hold seats, but do they have equal power in decision-making and budget control?

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

The SPEAKER: We then move to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 12 August 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that by the Programming Authority that at the meeting of 12 August 2025, political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been

submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon D G Jacobs, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon T C R Walters, hon T C R Walters, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon M Booysen, hon D W Bryant, hon D W Bryant, hon B N Stoffel, hon F Kamfer, hon M K Sayed, hon B Ngqentsu, hon R Windvogel, and hon P Z Lekker.

## **MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with appreciation the outstanding efforts of Ms Tracey Lange, a Cape Town resident and media personality, in responding to the plight of a young South African individual stranded in Spain after being allegedly abandoned by the BT Sport Academy; commends Ms Lange for taking swift initiative under the banner 'Bring our kids home', demonstrating exceptional leadership, compassion and commitment to the well-being of our youth; acknowledges that, through her extensive network and public platform, Ms Lange successfully raised the necessary funds that ensured the child had access to food, and arranged travel for the child to be safely reunited with family in South Africa; recognises that, while the situation began as a distressing and



traumatic ordeal, it ended in relief and safety thanks to Ms Lange's dedication and action; conveys heartfelt gratitude and admiration to Ms Tracey Lange for her selflessness and unwavering community spirit and salutes her as a true Cape Town and national hero.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the continued success of Wesgro, the Western Cape's official Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency; acknowledges its vital role in implementing the Province's strategic goal of tripling exports by 2035, and its achievements in the 2024/2025 financial year, including the facilitation of R14,5 billion in new investment and R5,4 billion in export declarations; further notes that Wesgro undertook 75 outward trade missions and engaged with 48 countries in the past year, successfully promoting the Western Cape as a destination for business, tourism and investment on the global stage; recognises the agency's contribution to public infrastructure, including support for the construction of four new schools; and congratulates Wesgro for its innovative and results-driven approach, reaffirming its place as a cornerstone of the Western Cape's Growth for Jobs strategy.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the commendable work of Reach Out Athlone, a non-profit organisation established to support vulnerable groups in the community; further notes that, since its inception, the organisation has consistently fed between 500 and 700 people every week – a remarkable contribution to food security and human dignity; acknowledges the support provided by the City of Cape Town, and notes the gratitude expressed by founding member Aziza Hendricks, who highlighted the positive impact of this assistance; further recognises the initiative taken by the organisation to establish a food garden, growing produce such as peppers, with proceeds from the sales reinvested into their feeding programme; and congratulates Aziza Hendricks for her selfless community work through Reach Out Athlone, and commends the organisation for its sustainable approach to uplifting lives in Athlone and beyond.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes that Paarl has once again hosted the world's biggest rugby interschools match between neighbours, the Paarl Boys' High School and Paarl Gymnasium – a rivalry steeped in history and tradition; further notes that, while all school sports are important, rugby

remains the pinnacle of this annual event; acknowledges that this year's thrilling encounter saw the Paarl Boys' High School narrowly defeat Paarl Gymnasium by 35–33; recognises the strong values of sportsmanship, friendship and community pride fostered by this fixture, which continues to unite generations and attract visitors from across the country and beyond; and congratulates both schools for preserving this proud tradition, and for hosting an event that significantly contributes to the local economy and cultural life of Paarl.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes and commends Ms Tracy Lange, the Tracy Lange Cares Initiative and Pastor Dane Mesane for their tireless efforts in raising funds and mobilising public support to ensure the safe return of South African children who were recently stranded in Portugal; acknowledges their critical role in bringing this matter to national attention, uniting communities and acting decisively to prioritise the well-being and safety of the affected young people; and applauds their extraordinary dedication, compassion and leadership in responding to a crisis that required swift and humane intervention.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House commends the four coaches, namely Jesse Julius, Clayton Levendal, Keeno Damons and Jayvin Chrisholm, for their exceptional care, courage and commitment in protecting and supporting the South African children who were left stranded in Portugal; recognises their bravery in speaking out against the wrongdoing that led to the crisis, and their steadfast efforts in safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of the young people under extremely difficult circumstances; and extends appreciation and best wishes to these individuals as they continue to serve as positive role models in their communities.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House commends the swift and decisive action of the City of Cape Town's Fire and Rescue Services in responding to the house fire in Abattoir Street, Strand, on 16 July; and further notes that their rapid intervention contained the blaze, prevented injuries and protected neighbouring properties – once again proving the professionalism, readiness and bravery of our emergency services personnel.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House commends the Helderberg Pony Club for hosting its final fundraising show on 2 August at the Firlands Equestrian Estate, featuring an exciting programme of showjumping and dressage; and further notes that the proceeds will assist young riders in competing at provincial and interbranch levels, thereby nurturing sporting excellence, fostering youth development and preserving the proud equestrian tradition of the Helderberg region.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the False Bay Angling Club for being crowned overall champions at the Western Cape Shore Angling Association awards; and notes with pride that the club achieved the highest aggregate score of the season, and that its members excelled in multiple categories, with representation across under 16A, under 21, and senior A provincial teams – demonstrating exceptional skill, teamwork and community spirit.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House expresses its sincere condolences after the passing away of Ms Maria Swarts, who was laid to rest on 25 July 2025; notes that Ms Swarts was born in Calvinia and moved to Cape Town in 1976, where she built a life of quiet dignity and hard work, including two decades of dedicated service as a cook at the Western Province Preparatory School; further notes that she was a loyal and constant companion to her life partner of 49 years, Mr Michael Orphan, often accompanying him on trips to Calvinia where they both supported residents in need; acknowledges her deep commitment to family, leaving behind one son and three grandsons, and remembers her as a figure of steadiness and support in her home and extended community; extends heartfelt sympathy to Mr Orphan and the family; and honours the quiet strength with which Ms Swarts lived her life.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences after the passing away of Mr Willem Erwee, a respected educator and valued member of the Paarl Boys' High School community; notes that Mr Erwee led the school's marketing team with unwavering dedication and a deep commitment to integrity and purpose; further acknowledges his impact

as a mentor, colleague and friend – whose life and example left a lasting impression on learners, staff and the broader community; pays tribute to the legacy he leaves behind: one of service, vision and dignity, woven into the fabric of the Paarl Boys' High School and remembered with deep respect; extends heartfelt sympathy to his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and all loved ones during this time of sorrow; and honours a life that truly inspired those around him.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Karoo Pak, a farm based in Calitzdorp in the Garden Route, on their outstanding achievements at the 2025 SA Food and Beverage Awards, where they won gold for their Karoo Wonderful Pomegranate Reduction and Karoo Pomegranate Rouge Liqueur; silver for their Karoo Wonderful Pomegranate Juice and Karoo Fruit Pop; notes that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the Garden Route District Municipality played a pivotal role in the farm's early development and research, with the Department of Agriculture funding an underground water study, and the Garden Route District Municipality funding the boreholes and piping once sufficient water was confirmed; recognises that this partnership between the government and the private sector demonstrates the tangible benefits of strategic investment in agriculture, unlocking economic opportunities in

rural communities; and wishes Karoo Pak continued success in producing world-class products that showcase the excellence of Western Cape agriculture.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the official declaration of the Wilderness Nature Reserve near Heidelberg as a Provincial Nature Reserve, which covers over 643 hectare of critical biodiversity; further notes the reserve's vital role in protecting freshwater ecosystems, safeguarding endangered species, such as the Breede River redbfin and black harrier, and strengthening ecological corridors through its connection to the Boosmansbos Wilderness Area; acknowledges the importance of this step in advancing environmental protection, ensuring long-term ecosystem resilience, and supporting essential water catchment areas for surrounding communities; recognises the valuable work of CapeNature and its collaboration with landowners in making this conservation milestone possible; and encourages further efforts to expand protected areas in response to biodiversity loss and climate change.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I move without notice:



That the House acknowledges the City of Cape Town on the adoption of the Cape Town Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2025, a key tool for guiding spatial planning, environmental assessment and natural resource management; notes that the plan incorporates the updated Cape Town BioNet 2024, covering 55 697 hectare – over 22% of the municipal area – and aligns it with the Western Cape Biodiversity Act, 2021; and acknowledges that this initiative strengthens the City’s commitment to protecting biodiversity and supporting sustainable urban development.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences on the tragic loss of four students whose untimely deaths have deeply shaken Cape Town’s tertiary institutions in recent weeks; notes that the fatalities include a 23-year-old University of Cape Town student whose body was discovered at an off-campus residence in Woodstock; Lugcobo Mbolekwa from the University of the Western Cape; Chris Scheffers from Stellenbosch University; and Justi ‘Mmeli’ Gaqa from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology; further notes that these deaths – occurring in a short space of time – have caused deep grief and distress to fellow students, staff and families, and have highlighted the urgent need for strengthened support systems, mental health services and safety

measures for students on all campuses; extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, friends, classmates and the broader university communities affected by these tragic losses; and recognises the potential and promise that each of these young lives held and mourns the loss of the contributions they would have made to our society.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its deepest condolences on the passing away of Yolanda Matala from Kensington; notes that Yolanda's death is a profound loss to her family, friends and the broader community who knew and loved her; notes that she will be remembered for her warmth, compassion and the positive impact she had on those whose lives she touched; recognises the pain and grief her loved ones are enduring during this difficult time; and extends heartfelt sympathy to her family and friends, especially her father Comrade Sibusiso Mtila.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its deepest condolences on the tragic passing away of 76-year-old cyclist Dennis Hammar who lost his life following a

violent attack while cycling from Paarden Eiland on the N1, joining FW de Klerk Boulevard on the Foreshore; and condemns in the strongest possible terms the growing lawlessness and violent crime on our roads and public spaces; extends heartfelt sympathy to the Hammar family and his loved ones during this time of immense grief; and trusts they may find comfort in the legacy and memories of a life well lived.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates 15-year-old Peyton Connor from Cape Town on her outstanding achievement in representing Team South Africa at the 2025 Dance World Cup held in Burgos, Spain; notes that, competing against dancers from over 60 countries, Peyton showcased exceptional talent, dedication and discipline, earning a Golden Ticket to Masterclass for securing fourth place in the highly competitive Junior Commercial Solo category; notes that her success is not only a personal triumph, but also a proud moment for her family, community and the nation, as she continues to inspire young South Africans to pursue their passion on the world stage; and applauds Peyton for her remarkable performance and wishes her continued success in her dance career.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its deepest condolences on the heartbreaking passing away of four-day-old baby Lee-Hogan from Wesbank, who tragically died in hospital; extends heartfelt sympathy to the grieving family during this time of profound sorrow; and acknowledges the immense emotional toll this tragedy has taken on them and the Wesbank community.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Cape Town Marimba on breaking the Guinness world record for the largest marimba ensemble in the world, with an extraordinary 1 276 players performing together at Grand West's Grand Arena; notes that participants ranged in age from 8 to 62 years old and represented over 70 schools, showcasing the rich diversity, unity and talent of our communities; notes that this remarkable achievement not only celebrates our vibrant cultural heritage and love for music, but also places Cape Town proudly on the global stage; applauds every participant, organiser and supporter whose dedication and passion made this historic moment possible; and commends the role of music and the arts in bringing people together across generations.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The SPEAKER: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Hon members, are there any objections?

Hon MEMBERS: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if the member had read them out aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members, you are reminded that for this session in terms of Standing Rule 150(3)(d), there will be 30 minutes allocated and that will start now. I recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with sadness and expresses its deepest condolences following the horrific and senseless murder of seven-year-old Lolitha Kowa from Kuyasa, Khayelitsha; notes that Lolitha was reported missing by her mother on the evening of Tuesday, 22 July 2025, and that her

body was tragically discovered the next morning at a nearby dumping site, brutally assaulted, wrapped in bloodied clothing, and with a screwdriver lodged in her skull; notes that autopsy reports further confirmed that she was sexually violated before being killed; notes that this barbaric crime has once again laid bare the continued failure of the Western Cape Government and its law enforcement agencies to protect our most vulnerable, especially women and children living in poor and underserved communities; notes that it is unacceptable that communities, such as Khayelitsha, continue to suffer from inadequate policing, under-resourced social services and poor infrastructure, all of which contribute to the growing climate of fear and lawlessness; notes that we cannot allow the murder of yet another child to pass without accountability or systemic change; calls for an urgent review of the Province's Safety and Security Strategy; challenges this Government to prioritise the lives of the marginalised, not only in words, but in action; and expresses deepest sympathy to the family of Lolitha Kowa. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

*[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]*

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

Hon MEMBERS: No.

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection to it being moved without notice.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sorrow and outrage the brutal rape and murder of 25-year-old Zenande Tshazibane from Nyanga, who was tragically killed just days after seeking a protection order from the authorities; further notes that Zenande's death reflects a devastating and systemic failure by the justice and law enforcement system to provide timely and effective protection to women who are at risk of gender-based violence; condemns in the strongest possible terms the ongoing violence against women in the Western Cape, particularly in working-class communities, such as Nyanga East, which remain under-policed, under-resourced and neglected by the Provincial Government; acknowledges that Zenande's murder is not an isolated case but part of a broader crisis of gender-based violence and femicide that continues to claim the lives of countless women and girls in the province; calls on this House and the Western Cape Government to prioritise the safety of women urgently through improved access to justice, stronger accountability mechanisms in the SAPS and the court system, and the

expansion of gender-based violence prevention programmes; and conveys its sincerest condolences to friends and family. I thank you.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

*[The Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: No.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection to the motion being moved without notice, not to the motion itself. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences following the fatal shooting of 46-year-old Naeema van der Vindt, a resident of Kalksteenfontein, who was gunned down in cold blood in what is believed to be a targeted attack; notes that it is alleged that Ms Van der Vindt was a key witness in an active criminal case, raising serious



concerns about the safety and protection of whistleblowers and witnesses in our justice system; notes that this incident has not only robbed the family of a mother, sister and loved one, but also struck a blow to the broader fight against crime and corruption as it sends a chilling message to those who dare to speak out; condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the continued failure by the Western Cape Government and law enforcement agencies to implement adequate witness protection and community safety measures particularly in crime-ridden areas, such as Kalksteengefontein; notes that the ongoing pattern of intimidation, violence and the silencing of witnesses undermines the rule of law and obstructs justice, especially for communities already living under the siege of gangs and violent crime; calls on the Provincial Government and the South African Police Service to strengthen mechanisms that guarantee the protection of witnesses, whistleblowers and vulnerable individuals who come forward in the interest of justice; and conveys its sincere sympathy to the Van der Vindt family and the Kalksteengefontein community. May her life and bravery not be forgotten, and may her death serve as a catalyst for change and accountability in the Western Cape's criminal justice system. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Windvogel. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The SPEAKER: Is there an objection to the motion itself?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: Alright. There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I then move on to hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That this House expresses its grave concern and mounting frustration over the alarming and persistent safety failures plaguing the MyCiTi N2 Express service, as recently reported: breakdowns occurring with alarming frequency, doors failing to close properly, and buses even catching fire, all of which have severely compromised commuter safety and shaken public confidence in the City's transport commitments to date. This intolerable state of affairs constitutes both a public safety crisis and a gross failure of governance by the Western Cape Provincial Government, which must be held accountable for oversight breakdowns, inadequate maintenance protocols, and the neglect of essential transport infrastructure. Commuters, workers, students, and families depend on reliable public transport. Instead, they are being exposed to danger, unpredictability, and unrest on daily journeys. We therefore call on the hon Premier and the hon MEC for Mobility to immediately conduct a comprehensive safety audit of the MyCiTi N2 Express fleet, including independent engineering inspections, maintenance records, and

emergency response readiness. I so move. Thank you.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Is there an objection to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Can I just remind the hon members ...[Interjections.] Order! Hon members, I have allowed the hon member to continue because I did not want to interrupt him during his delivery of that motion. The Programming Authority has agreed on a sequence. So, hon member, you jumped the sequence. So, just when you get to the next opportunity to remember that that has happened. I then move on to hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I without notice:

The House expresses deep concern and outrage over the recent break-in at the Lwandle Library, which has forced its indefinite closure. Library staff discovered the aftermath of the attempted burglary early Monday morning, finding that perpetrators had gained access through the ceiling, bypassing security in a highly unorthodox and alarming manner. Once inside, the criminals vandalised the electrical system and damaged

crucial water pipes, resulting in substantial flooding and rendering the library unsafe and unusable, and condemns the Provincial Government for failing to provide adequate security, maintenance, and oversight for public infrastructure that serves vulnerable communities. The Lwandle Library is more than a building; it is a critical hub for education, literacy, and community development. Its closure represents not just physical damage, but the denial of essential resources to learners, students, and the broader community, highlighting systemic neglect and mismanagement, and calls on the hon Premier and the hon MEC for Cultural Affairs and Sport, together with the hon MEC for Community Safety, to urgently intervene by ensuring the following: that immediate security upgrades are implemented; that the library is repaired and restored to full functionality without delay; and that a broader assessment is conducted of public libraries and community facilities across the province to prevent similar incidents. The Provincial Government must take full responsibility and act decisively to protect public assets, safeguard educational resources, and uphold the rights of citizens to access learning spaces without fear of crime or neglect. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Again, hon members, I wish to remind you, hon Lekker, also to follow the sequence. I recognise hon Lekker again, and this is the congratulation motion. Alright, okay. Ja. Then, I will recognise hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Certainly, I am on the sequencing, okay. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House expresses its outrage at the recent incident in which 25 junior soccer players from Cape Town were left stranded in Portugal in July 2025 after the BT Football Academy failed to secure their return-flight tickets following their participation in a tournament in Spain. This disgraceful negligence not only endangered the safety and well-being of these young athletes but also brought shame to the name of our province. While we acknowledge the heroic efforts of private individuals and community initiatives in raising funds to ensure the children's safe return, it is unacceptable that such a crisis was allowed to happen in the first place. This incident exposes the urgent need for stricter oversight, regulation, and accountability for sports academies operating in the Western Cape. We call on the Provincial Government to introduce and enforce clear compliance standards, vetting processes, and safeguarding measures to protect young athletes from exploitation

and abandonment when representing our communities abroad. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: There is no need to justify, hon Minister. I have ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is no need to justify whether you object or not. There is no objection, and the motion is therefore agreed to.

An HON MEMBER: No!

The SPEAKER: I will then, go back to hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

The House congratulates the Wynberg Dedicated Sexual Offences Regional Court for delivering a landmark verdict in the case of State vs Thamsanqa Makhumsa on 22 April 2024, finding the defendant guilty on multiple counts of sexual assault and rape. We commend the Acting

Regional Court Prosecutor Fazlin Cupido and investigating officer Sgt Charles of the Nyanga FCS for their unwavering commitment, meticulous work, and professional collaboration, which were instrumental in securing justice for the survivor. The young girl, who was just 10 years old when the abuse began, displayed remarkable courage in breaking her silence, enabling the full might of the law to hold her abuser accountable. The life imprisonment sentence handed down to Makhumsa reflects the National Prosecuting Authority's intolerance of such heinous crimes and reinforces society's commitment to protecting vulnerable children. The House acknowledges the bravery of the survivor and applauds all those involved in this successful prosecution, whose dedication upholds justice, safeguards children, and strengthens public confidence in South Africa's legal system. I thank you, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. Now I move on to hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without

notice:

That this House notes with deep concern and outrage that nearly 200 school assistants in the Western Cape have not received their stipend payments for several weeks, leaving many of them who already earn meagre wages unable to meet their basic needs and fulfil their family responsibilities. This House further notes that these school assistants play a critical role in supporting teachers, enhancing classroom learning, and ensuring the smooth functioning of schools, yet they are being treated with disregard and disrespect by the provincial administration, and condemns the unacceptable delays in payment as a gross failure of governance and financial management by the Western Cape Provincial Government, which has once again demonstrated its lack of ability to prioritise the livelihoods of ordinary working people over bureaucratic inefficiencies. It is a disgrace that in a province where the cost of living is amongst the highest in the country, the very people who contribute daily to the education and development of our children are left without income for weeks on end. We call on the Provincial Government to immediately release all outstanding payments to school assistants, to put in place clear and enforceable timelines for stipend disbursement, and to account to this House for the administrative failures that caused these delays. Furthermore, we demand the implementation of stronger labour protections and contractual safeguards to ensure that no school assistant, or any other vulnerable worker in the provincial education system, is ever again subjected to



such hardship and indignity. I thank you.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Yes! Object!

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you can object but can I just table it. There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes with alarm and outrage that ongoing gun violence in the Steenberg community forced Steenberg High School to dismiss learners and staff early on Tuesday due to a surge of shootings in the area. This House further notes that this is not an isolated incident but part of a long-standing pattern of violence in many working-class communities in the Western Cape, where learners' right to education is repeatedly undermined by the Provincial Government's failure to address the root causes of crime and ensure the safety of schools; that the House condemns the inaction and inadequate response of the Provincial Government, which continues to leave communities like

Steenberg trapped between gang violence and under-resourced policing. The safety of learners, teachers, and school staff cannot be treated as a secondary issue or left solely in the hands of overstretched police services. The provincial administration has the political and constitutional responsibility to coordinate urgent interventions, strengthen school safety programmes, and work with National Government to deploy additional policing, social services, and community development resources to violence hotspots. We therefore call on the hon Premier and the hon MEC for Education to account to this House on what concrete, immediate steps will be taken to protect learners and educators in Steenberg and other affected communities, and to present a comprehensive, time-bound safety plan to addresses both the security crisis and the socio-economic drivers of violence; that this House further demands that the Provincial Government stop shifting blame to national authorities and instead exercise its own powers to deliver the safety, stability, and peace that our communities have been demanding for far too long. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the hon Ngqentsu. Hon Ngqentsu, you have delivered that motion, so now you need to go back to the first one that you were initially supposed to deliver.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much. No. No. You want us to sell our national sovereignty to imperialists. Thank you, hon Speaker. The DA is confused. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness and alarm the tragic death of Amanda Manentsa, a mother of three, who was fatally shot on the R300 highway after experiencing a burst tyre; notes that this shocking incident not only highlights the ever-increasing danger on our roads, but also raises serious concerns about criminal activity and the safety of motorists on key transport routes in the Western Cape; condemns this brutal act and the apparent lawlessness that continues to claim innocent lives, particularly those of women and mothers, who bear the burden of raising families and contributing to society; notes that the continued violence on our roads and highways, especially in areas, such as the R300, reflects a deeper failure of the Provincial Government and law enforcement agencies to implement adequate patrols, surveillance and emergency response systems; calls on the Western Cape Government and relevant law enforcement authorities to take urgent steps to secure high-risk routes, such as the R300, and to work collaboratively with communities and national stakeholders to improve visibility, response

time and road-user safety; and extends its heartfelt condolences to the Manentsa family, her three children, and all who knew and loved her. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection for the motion being moved without notice, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Bans. Hon Bans?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

The House notes with grave concern the latest unemployment statistics released by Statistics South Africa for the second quarter of 2025. The national official unemployment rate has risen to 33,2%, up from 32,9% in the first quarter, marking the highest rate in a year. This translates to an increase of 140 000 unemployed individuals, bringing the total to 8,4 million South Africans without work. Equally alarming is the situation in the Western Cape, where the official unemployment rate has surged

by 1,5 percentage points, from 19,6% in the first quarter to 21,1% in the second quarter of 2025. This increase is the highest among all provinces and underscores a significant deterioration in the provincial labour market and condemns the Western Cape Provincial Government's failure to implement effective economic policies that can reverse this alarming trend. The lack of substantial job creation, particularly in sectors with high labour absorption potential, and the absence of a comprehensive provincial employment strategy are evident. We therefore call on the hon Premier and the hon MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities to urgently present before this House a detailed, time-bound economic recovery and job creation plan. This plan must prioritise the most vulnerable communities, include measurable targets, and be backed by real resources. Additionally, we demand immediate action to address the systemic issues contributing to the province's rising unemployment rate and to restore the dignity of work to the people of the Western Cape. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Before I have not even tabled it, hon Minister, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, hon Speaker. I would like you to rule the motion invalid. There is no hon MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities in the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: I was going to deal with that after I have tabled it because in terms of Rule 150(3), I have the power to amend a motion. So, I was going to get there, hon Minister. I put the motion. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and then, hon Bans, in terms of Rule 153, I just want to enquire from you: which hon MEC are you referring to? Because as the hon Minister correctly pointed out, there is not an hon Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities. There is a Minister of Finance and a Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture. So, I just need to know for the record's sake, to whom is this motion attributed to?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Hon MEC Meyer and hon MEC Baartman. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Okay, hon members. I will amend the motion in terms of Rule 153. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! If the Table staff

can please note that. I am amending the motion in terms of Rule 153 to read: the hon Premier, the hon MEC for Finance, and the hon MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture. We then therefore move on. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: No, you have already objected. I am making sure that the record and Hansard reflect accurately and that the Rules of the House are applied. I therefore move on. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

This House expresses profound alarm and indignation that more than half of Cape Town's Early Childhood Development centres, over 1 310 out of 2 620, remain unregistered, as confirmed by Deputy Mayor Eddie Andrews at a recent ECD indaba, with as many as 63 000 children being cared for in unregulated facilities that do not qualify for the current R24 per-child-per-day subsidy. The unacceptable maze registration process, plagued by burdensome development charges, zoning barriers, expensive compliance requirements, inconsistent regulations, and protracted time frames, has pushed crèche owners into crippling debt, often leading to unpaid staff and hungry children. This situation is a humiliating failure of governance that leaves the most vulnerable children without safe, reliable, or quality early learning environments. The Provincial

Government cannot wash its hands of this crisis by citing red tape or logistical challenges. It is structurally incapable of fulfilling its constitutional duty to safeguard children's rights by providing equal access to foundational education and care, particularly in impoverished and informal areas. We therefore call on the hon Premier, the hon MECs for Social Development and Education, and the hon MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities to intervene with urgency. This House demands that they immediately simplify and streamline the ECD registration process by removing punitive development charges for small facilities, waiving zoning restrictions in informal settlements, and introducing a pro-poor, tiered compliance system tailored to informal operators. The Provincial Government must also provide emergency financial support to centres that have accrued unsustainable debt due to delayed compliance or registration processes, ensuring that staff salaries and child welfare are not sacrificed at the altar of this red tape. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Premier, is that a point of order?

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, again there was a wrong mention of an hon Minister in our Government, and so I would suggest that perhaps the speech writer gets it right. And this is the new speech writer that has obviously been



deployed by the Rasool team to try and get this team up to scratch ...[Laughter.] and that he or she be told about the actual structure of this Government. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Honourable ...[Interjections.] Order! Hon Premier, that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: This is in terms of Rule 153 that the motion offends the practices and Rules of this House, and therefore, because there is no hon MEC of Finance and Economic Opportunities, that the motion be disallowed.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. The Rule 153 gives me the discretion to amend the Rule or to deal with the motion, in whichever way I deem necessary. The motion has been submitted. I am about to put it to the House for consideration. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the

Order Paper. I just want to confirm with the hon Windvogel. In terms of Rule 153, who are you referring to? Which hon MEC because is there is no hon MEC for Finance and Economic Opportunities? Just for the record in order for us to amend the motion.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: So, then if the Table staff can please amend the motion to reflect the hon MEC for Finance in terms of Rule 153. Hon members, that unfortunately brings us to the end of Motions ...[Interjections.] Order! That brings us to the end of Motions without Notice. We then move on, and I will ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill [B 15–2025] (Ratification of final mandate.)

The SPEAKER: Thank you. The House received the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill conferring on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ??? Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to declare our support for the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill. This Bill is more than a technical adjustment to the

National Budget. It is a statement of principle. It seeks to stabilise public finances, protect social spending and promote equitable resource allocations across all spheres of government. The ANC supports the Bill because it reflects a balanced approach to fiscal discipline, without abandoning the constitutional duty to progressively realise the rights of all citizens.

In an environment of sluggish economic growth, high unemployment and rising living costs, the Bill safeguards the social wage by ensuring that the majority of public spending remains directed towards Education, Health, social protection, house and community development.

At its core, the Division of Revenue framework is about fairness. It is designed to distribute resources in a way that recognises both national priorities and the unique needs of provinces and municipalities. It strengthens inter-governmental cooperation, ensures that funds for essential services are protected, and invests in infrastructure that can unlock economic potential while addressing the legacies of spatial and social inequality.

However, principles on paper must be translated into practice. The Western Cape Government's budgetary choice too often fails to align with these national objectives. By undermining social priorities, cutting vital posts in Education, underspending on housing and favouring prestige projects over the urgent needs of the poor.

We are seriously concerned by the cuts to teacher posts for the 2025

academic year, as well as the fact that there is no provision for growth in teacher posts for the 2026 school year. More concerning is the underspending of human settlement conditional grants while our people need houses and services in informal settlements.

Hon Speaker, the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill provides a sound national framework for both fiscal sustainability and social justice. Our task in the Western Cape is to implement it faithfully, ensuring that every rand allocated serves to improve the lives of all our people, especially those in need. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Patriotic Alliance supports the recommendation and mandate for the Budget Committee. We understand that we are underfunded, but it must not be an excuse for us not to deliver services and empower the people of the Western Cape. Hon Speaker, it is important that the BFI funding be aligned with the national development goals.

†Ons moet toesien dat die lot van ons mense verander word. Ons weet almal se gevoelens, agb Speaker, dat die Wes-Kaap steier onder geweld en ander sosiale probleme. Dit het tyd geword dat die geld wat ons ontvang gemeet word aan uitkomst en resultate. Verskoon. Ek het 'n probleem met die liggie, agb Speaker. Dankie. [We have to see to it that the fate of our people

is changed. We know everyone's feelings, hon Speaker, that the Western Cape is reeling under violence and other social problems. The time has come that the money we receive is measured against outcomes and results. Apology. I have a problem with the light, hon Speaker. Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Dit is geen probleem. Dankie, agb lid. [The SPEAKER: It is no problem. Thank you, hon member.] The EFF. The NCC? The Freedom Front Plus? Al Jama-ah? ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): I do not have a statement, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, we support the mandate.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. And the Democratic Alliance.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, today the House considers the Division of Revenue Bill, a crucial piece of legislation that determines how the Western Cape's budget is shared between its departments. It is about ensuring that the people of this province receive the resources that they need to live, work and thrive.

The Western Cape faces unique pressures. Over the past decade, our population has grown by more than 19%, far above the national average.

That means more children in our classrooms, more patients in our hospitals and more families in need of housing and other services. Yet, the Provincial Equitable Share formula still lags the reality reflected in the latest census data. If budgets do not match the scale of the demand, service delivery inevitably suffers, which is why the Budget Committee unanimously submitted recommendations to the NCOP.

One of the most urgent recommendations is that of the funding for the Tygerberg Hospital mega project. This is a vital investment in health infrastructure that has already been prioritised through the budget facility for infrastructure, but remaining funds have yet to be released by the National Treasury. Every delay costs lives and every delay compounds the pressure of our overburdened health system. We have also called for clarity on the financial implications of the recent Public Sector Wage Agreement. Without careful planning, these costs could undermine fiscal stability and crowd out essential service delivery.

Local governments too need much stronger support, particularly those grappling with revenue shortfalls, disaster recovery backlogs and the infrastructure demand that come with rapid growth. And if we are serious about job creation, we must continue to invest where growth potential is greatest in sectors like agriculture in line with the Western Cape's Growth for Jobs strategy.

The recommendations in the Western Cape's negotiating mandate are

constructive, evidence-based and focused on real solutions. They recognise that resources must follow the growing need and that responsive budgeting is the foundation of a more equitable and sustainable fiscal future.

Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance believes that this Bill with the proposed recommendations, will help ensure fairer, more responsive budgeting for our province. We therefore declare our support for the Division of Revenue Bill. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Johnson. Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 32 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House that the report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

My apologies. Thank you very much. Secretary, the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill has therefore been adopted. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Appointment of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children.

The SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration, if they so wish. I recognise the ANC. No longer than 3 minutes. My apologies.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The African National Congress welcomes the appointment of the highly skilled Sarah Helena Roberts as the new Western Cape Children's Commissioner.

We commend our caucus of the Sixth Administration for working collaboratively across political lines to champion the implementation of the Western Cape Constitution, by ensuring that the Office of the Commissioner for Children is not just an idea on paper, but a real and functioning mechanism to protect the rights of our province's youngest citizens.

We also would like to thank the hon Chairperson of our Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Development for leading us on the front in a united manner to arrive at one candidate at the end, and we worked well together across party-political lines. We trust that this appointment will build an important foundation laid and that it will not be reduced to a mere tick-box exercise.

The role of the Commissioner must be one of active advocacy, visible leadership and fearless defence of the rights of children. The ANC calls on



the hon Premier Winde to not only fulfil the legal requirement of appointing the Commissioner, but to also empower and to adequately resource the Office so that it can carry out its mandate effectively. Sadly, this Office was not adequately supported by the Executive and could not fulfil its role optimally. This is why the previous Commissioner did not even avail herself for a second term.

We cannot ignore the reality. Children in the Western Cape are dying. This year alone, we have mourned the loss of 4-year-old Davin killed by stray bullets and 7-year-old Lolita whose life was cut short in another senseless act of violence. These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a pattern of tragedy that must end.

The establishment and strengthening of the Commissioner's Office are meant to be part of the armour protecting our children. But the Office alone, is not enough. It must be back by political will, community partnerships and targeted interventions to address the root causes of violence, neglect and abuse. The ANC stands ready to work with the Commissioner, civil society and communities to ensure that no child in this province is left unprotected, unheard or unsafe. The lives of our children demand nothing less. I thank you.

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

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Speaker, as the Patriotic Alliance, we

welcome the appointment of Sarah Helena Roberts as the Commissioner of Children. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the EFF. The NCC? The Freedom Front Plus? Al Jama-ah? ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No statement, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. We support the nomination of Ms Roberts as the new Child Commissioner. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. The Democratic Alliance.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Speaker, the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters has concluded its deliberations on the appointment process of the next Western Cape Commissioner for Children. The Committee's recommendation, arising from the rigorous and transparent process, will now be tabled for adoption by this House in terms of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children Act 2019.

This process, rooted in public participation, saw 61 nominations, open comment, public interviews, objective scoring and comprehensive vetting. We also, as a matter of fact, had suggestions made by various child monitors

as well. It reflects our Province's unwavering commitment to fairness, transparency and accountability in public appointments.

The Commissioner for Children is an independent voice for the protection and promotion of children's rights, the first such institution on the African continent. As the inaugural Commissioner's term is concluded, this appointment ensures the continuity of that vital mandate. I also, hon Speaker, would like to take the opportunity to extend my greatest thanks to all the parties involved and for the participation in the process. It was truly very, very fortunate that we managed to have a common approach and found agreement on this matter.

The Democratic Alliance fully supports the Committee's recommendation and the integrity of the process which has brought us to this point. We reaffirm our support for this process and look forward to the hon Premier's appointment in line with the law so that the work of safeguarding our children's future continues without interruption. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 29 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House is that the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional matters on the appointment of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children be adopted. Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to.

The report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional matters on the appointment of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children has therefore been adopted.

Hon members, with that being said, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited from the Sitting, and the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 19:15.