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FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2023

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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 10:45.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Order, hon members, please, settle down. Hon members, order. Firstly I want to take this opportunity again to welcome all our esteemed guests to the Sitting today but before we proceed I would like to remind members of some of the logistical arrangements. The quorum requirements for the Sittings are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance, and when a member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such hon member may address the Presiding Officer, as expected, but must mute their microphones when they have completed speaking.

Hon members are also requested to please ensure that their microphones are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them and when they are done speaking to please mute their microphones. The media have also been granted access via the MS Teams as guests of the WCPP. However, the members of the press may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. If an individual, who is not a member of this House, activates the microphone and video camera, such an individual will be removed from the Sitting immediately. I request that those that are here today, who are not members of the House, please observe the decorum of the House.

Hon members are also reminded that no interjections are permitted during hybrid Sittings. To this end I draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. For this Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber, as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House must please access the Language Translation Services via a second device, for example your cell phone and if you have earphones available please use them for the Language Translation Services. That is the logistical arrangements, hon members.

I now recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

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

That, in terms of Section 62(5) of the National Constitution, read with Section 2(3) of the National Council of Provinces (Permanent Delegates Vacancies) Act, 1997 (Act 17 of 1997), the House resolves to appoint Mr Mbulelo Jonathan Magwala as a permanent delegate to the National Council of Provinces.

I so move. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion?

No objections? The motion agreed to.

The Secretary will now read the first Order of the Day.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

The SECRETARY: Debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I have received a copy of the Premier's State of the Province Address delivered in this House on Thursday, 16 February 2023. The Address is printed in the minutes of the proceedings and I now place it before the House for debate.

I recognise the Leader of the Opposition, hon Dugmore.

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

†'n AGBARE LID: Gooi kole!

[An HON MEMBER: Throw coals!]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, hon members of the House and hon guests. I want to start with some of the lyrics of a song by something that you might remember, those of you that are my age, by someone called Johnny Cash, and it is called "Man in black." Johnny Cash writes:

“Well, you wonder why I always dress in black  
Why you never see bright colours on my back  
And why does my appearance seem to have a sombre tone  
Well, there is a reason for the things that I have on  
I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down  
Living in the hopeless, hungry side of town  
I wear it for the prisoner who is long paid for his crime  
But is there because he is a victim of the times

I wear the black for those who have never read  
or listened to the words that Jesus said...  
I wear it for the sick and lonely old  
For the reckless ones whose bad trip left them cold  
I wear the black in mourning for the lives that could have been  
Each week we lose a hundred fine young men  
And I wear it for the thousands who have died  
believing that the Lord was on their side..."

I am starting with those words because compared to what Johnny Cash was singing about there, those that died in the Vietnam War, there are hundreds of young men mainly that we lose in our communities every week, every month, and from Hanover Park, talking to Avril Andrews, she mentions Elcardo, she mentions Tyrese, she mentions Byron. She mentions Rory, Nathaniel, Kyle, Monre, Devon, Ashram and Gesant as just some of the few that have died.

Yesterday, Speaker, the Premier focussed on 14 key issues in his speech and as is typical for this Premier, if one pays close attention, one can only notice in particular what he did not say in his speech. We have member Sayed, member Windvogel and our Chief Whip who will be speaking to some of these issues, the 14 issues that the Premier raised. It is worth noting that one of the key constitutional imperatives is the need for redress, in particular for those who have suffered unfair discrimination and even in a section of the Provincial Constitution which this Premier clearly has never read. It refers to

the protection or advancement of persons or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

†Nou wie is daai mense? Dit is die bruinmense van die Wes-Kaap. Dit is die swartmense van die Wes-Kaap. Dit is die plaaswerkers, [Now who are those people? It is the brown people of the Western Cape. It is the black people of the Western Cape. It is the farm workers,] but never in the last four speeches that this Premier has made, has he ever used the word “black, coloured, African” and I think that is where the problem with him, with due respect, Speaker, and his party remains. This might be seen at one level as classic race denialism, but in fact it is indeed exposed as racism, actually, in the cold light of day. It is Premier Winde and the DA’s recipe to hang on to the apartheid and colonial legacy and to actually at all costs try and preserve the privileges of the wealthy and the minority. So it is actually racism, although one might say it is race denialism, but he says race does not exist.

Speaker, the DA is panicking. They are losing votes by the thousands to the Freedom Front. They have lost the City of Johannesburg. They are about to lose Tshwane as a result of their corrupt Mayor, who they actually protected for years. Ekurhuleni will be next. In by-elections in our province and across our country... [Interjections.]

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

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: Ekurhuleni, julle gaan verloor daar, julle

gaan verloor. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Ekurhuleni, you are going to lose there, you are going to lose.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I am coming there. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Across the country in by-elections they are bleeding support. On Wednesday, on Wednesday, Speaker, we saw the DA connive in Cederberg with certain farmers, not all farmers, and Mr Van der Westhuizen, you know about the conniving. [Interjections.]

†Jy was betrokke daarby. Jy weet. Moenie lieg nie. [You were involved with that. You know. Don't lie.]

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: To lock the gates, what they did, Speaker, they locked... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members, order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: They locked the gates of certain farms so that ANC voters could not go and vote. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, hon Dugmore, please take your seat. Order, members, there is a member on the floor. Hon Bredell, is that a point of order? Hon members, there is a member on the floor for a point of order. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Labour referred to [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We informed you.

An HON MEMBER: What point was it? [Interjections.] Listening to him, what point is it?

The SPEAKER: Honourable... [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Cederberg. As I recall you are not allowed to say that members lie in this Parliament. It is unparliamentary.

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, have you referred directly to a member?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Speaker, I hope that this time is not being wasted, but what I want to say is that that honourable member who I



am pointing to, member Van der Westhuizen, † hy is bewus van die geknoeiery wat daar plaasgevind het. [he is aware of the conniving that took place there.] He is aware of it. That is why – † kyk hoe bloos hy. Kyk hoe bloos hy. [Tussenwerpsels.] [look how he blushes. Look how he blushes.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, can I ask, did you refer... [Interjections.] Hon members! Hon Dugmore, I will recognise you now, hon Sayed. Hon Dugmore, did you refer to hon Van der Westhuizen as lying?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: No. †Ek het gesê hy moenie lieg nie, want hy is bewus van die knoeiery. [I said he must not lie, because he is aware of the conniving.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, that is not a point of order. Hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker, thank you very much. Both hon Bredell and the hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance have stood up first before you could recognise them to raise a point of order. That is not allowed. You sit down. When the Speaker recognises you, you have your hand up and then you stand up. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, that is not a point of order. In fact it is the other way around. [Interjections.] Hon members, order members! In fact it is the other way around. You stand up and you switch on your microphone when I

recognise you. Hon Dugmore, you can proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I had 16 minutes. I am probably on 14 minutes now. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, you are on 11 minutes. Hon Dugmore, just for your time, you have 11 minutes and one second.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay, they colluded with certain farmers to lock the gates and deny farm workers the right to vote. Speaker, MEC Bredell witnessed this with his own eyes and was a willing accomplice. [Interjections.] Even worse was the DA complicity in the Cederberg Eerste, Cederberg First Strategy to commit fraud by registering voters for a special vote without their permission, and that is something that hon Van der Westhuizen knows about and that is why the ANC, Speaker, that is why... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, can you please take your seat. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 59(1), member Dugmore specifically mentioned Minister Bredell's name and inferred that he was involved in fraud and I would like you to rule on whether or not the member has imputed improper motives regarding Minister Bredell. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright, I will study the Hansard and revert back to the House to the content of that statement. Hon Dugmore, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That is why the ANC will today before five o'clock this afternoon in terms of the IEC Regulations, lodge an objection with the IEC in regard to the Ward 6 by-election Wupperthal and despite all of this, Speaker, the ANC grew from 24% to 32%. This was never our ward. [Applause.]

In Struisbaai, in Struisbaai the DA lost again hundreds of votes to the Freedom Front Plus while the ANC held its support amongst the fishing communities of Struisbaai † en ons het eintlik gegroei met 4%. [and we actually grew by 4%.] The DA, Speaker, has an identity crisis. Helen Zille has pushed the DA further and further to the right, but it is not working. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, is that a point of order? Members, there is a member on the floor, can I please ask that you allow the member to raise her point of order.

Ms C MURRAY: My point of order is that it appears that hon Dugmore is speaking to a branch meeting as opposed to engaging in a SOPA debate. We are here for a SOPA debate. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.]  
Hon Dugmore, you may proceed. [Interjections.] Order, members.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Speaker, could I...

The SPEAKER: Members, there is a member on the floor. Can I please ask that you allow the member an opportunity?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Speaker, could I just address you?

†Ons praat eintlik met tak-lede, want hulle luister, hulle kyk na die debat, so ja, ons praat met hulle. Ons praat met die *delegates* en die tak *members* ook.  
[Tussenwerpsels.]

[We actually speak to branch members, because they listen, they are looking at the debate, yes, we are speaking to them. We speak to the delegates and the branch members as well.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So they have an identity crisis. They are supporting... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, hon Dugmore, can I please ask that you do not directly engage the members, but that you speak through the Chair.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay. The DA has a crisis, they are supporting Cape Exit in their attempt to break away from South Africa and form a separate republic of the Western Cape, and, as the ANC, we want to say it directly. We want to place on record that this attempt of a Western Cape Volkstaat is a pipe-dream.

†Dit sal nooit gebeur nie. [It will never happen.]

And we want to say that. It is never going to happen. This reveals the fundamental flaw with the Democratic Alliance and the Premier. The motivation is not informed by the need to transform our society. National oppression of black South Africans in our province, African, Coloured and Indian, as well as the systematic attempt to wipe out the first nation people of this province, has left scars and the impact of colonial dispossession and economic exclusion over decades. So when Premier's frame of reference deliberately ignores this, one can clearly see that his agenda and that of the DA is to preserve the privileges of the wealthy and protect those who actually benefited from colonialism and actually to perpetuate inequality. I find it interesting that the Premier broke from his prepared speech towards the end and wax lyrical about the so-called Cape of Good Hope. I would like to ask the Premier, whether he has any understanding about the colonial origins of that term? What? Whose hope was he referring to? This is a colonial construct referring to the hope of colonisers who saw hope for themselves of taking land, of generating wealth and mistreating and

oppressing the indigenous minority. That is the “Good Hope” that he talks about.

I want to – the President addressed the nation last week and on Energy, I want to say to this House, in November 2020 over two and a half years ago the Premier then announced the Municipal Energy Resilience Project. Millions have been invested in five municipalities and to date, Speaker, not a single megawatt of power has been produced.

The other 25 municipalities – the other 25 municipalities, they do not know how to access the MER. Premier Winde refused to talk about financing. How much will this energy cost, Premier? Not a single municipality has even produced a project preparatory plan, after two and a half years and over R100 million. Ja, they have not. Premier Winde remained silent about the unlawful surcharge imposed by the City of Eskom... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Imposed by the City of Eskom?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: No-no, imposed by the City of Cape Town on Eskom power. This surcharge has never been approved by NERSA, yet the poor are suffering because of that surcharge.

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And we must remember, hon Speaker,

that while this is happening – †arm mense wie agterstallig is op hulle rekeninge byvoorbeeld vir water; hulle gaan om krag te koop met R100.00. Hulle betaal daai R100 en hulle kry net R10 daaruit, [poor people who are behind on their accounts for example for water; they go to buy power with R100.00. They pay that R100 and they get just R10 out of that,] and now you want to come and talk about energy, whereas your municipalities are basically exploiting the poor. That is what you are doing. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You go with the R100.00. You get R10.00 and MEC Bredell who is sitting there smugly, for years in out Standing Committee he has never once said that he will get a legal opinion about whether this is lawful or not. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Untouchable.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That is what he does, because he is untouchable... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He is untouchable. ...(intervenes)

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...because he is your boss and that is why you – through the Speaker – this Premier is the weakest Premier because his senior Bredell is here, Helen Zille gives me instructions and all he can do

is shine, but have no substance. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: We welcome the announcement by President Ramaphosa. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And this is important that President Ramaphosa said yesterday that the finance Minister will announce in the Budget next week, a National Plan to subsidise rooftop solar across the country and that is going to be mentioned in the Budget speech, so renewable, Speaker, are part of our energy mix. They are important... [Interjection.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: That has always been. That has always been.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So is nuclear, so is hydro, so is thermal, so is natural gas...

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: That has always been.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And we ask through you, Speaker, that the Premier must stop the spin. What we want, as the ANC in this province is



to build a genuine inter-governmental initiative and a partnership with the private sector to actually resolve the energy crisis, not to come here and play politics. The Premier refers to a country in chaos. Perhaps the President referred to the Premier yesterday, when he described the critics as the merchants of despair and he mentions their dishonest and self-serving rhetoric. That is this Premier, dishonest and self-serving rhetoric. The President said, the President said ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members! Hon Bakubaku-Vos, you have a member on the floor and you are conversing in dialogue on the other side. Can I please ask that both sides of the House please afford hon Dugmore the opportunity. He is on the floor.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Ja. The President, Mr Speaker, said that they – referring to people like Premier Winde – have determined that their political fortunes are best served by depicting a country in chaos, instead of being parties that acknowledge the challenges, and that are determined to work together to find solutions, so that we leave no one behind. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You should look after the Post Office. [Unclear.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Last year the Premier boasted about the following in his speech and member Windvogel will say more. He says:

“Last year, in addition, we have already completed Helderberg, Laingsburg, Victoria Hospital Emergency Care.”

Yesterday he mentions the very same facilities, hoping we did not notice that they are already completed projects. Premier, you do not get to double-dip on your claims. When it comes to energy, Mossel Bay Natural Gas has got nothing to do with you. It is a national initiative so do not claim things in the way that you do. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, speak to the Chair. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The SPEAKER: Speak to the Chair.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Ja. Our spokesperson of Education will deal with the education issue. When it comes to jobs we have made the point that in an economy that is not growing, the impact of COVID, the national recession from 2008, you have to focus on public employment. Our President has ensured that over 1 million people have been employed in the schools, but you do not believe that public employment from provincial funds can have any work. You talk about let us just let the businesses do what they are doing. Come and tell me what provincial money, besides your 1000 LEAP safety officers, which by the way, the reduction in those areas and you should have asked Patekile because he told me yesterday, they deliberately deployed

more police members to the very areas that... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja, that is it.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So do not mislead this House. Do not tell lies to this House. [Interjections.] So the presidential youth, †en ons moet beseef, daai presidensiële projekte kom van die President, maar dit baat mense in die Wes-Kaap. Dit kom nie van Premier Winde nie. Dit kom direk van die President. [and we have to realise, those presidential projects come from the President, but it's to the benefit of the people of the Western Cape. It does not come from Premier Winde. It comes directly from the President.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Ja, ja!

[An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: En ons mense moet dit beseef dat die DA... [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And our people have to realise that the DA.]...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, speak to the Chair please. [Interjections.] Hon members, there is a member on the floor. Please allow hon Dugmore an opportunity to... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: The Premier lauds new policies related

to this matter of GBV but we are reminded that a former member of his Cabinet resigned for allegations of sexual misconduct. Farrel Payne, who has allegations in court of rape, remains in his position in this Department.

I want to go further. Yesterday you invited John Steenhuisen, the very person who described his ex-wife as a victim of road-kill. That is the attitude that you do not want to address, the inherent sexism and patriarchy that you ignore and that is why I want to ask, I want to ask you directly, and in terms of the Code of Good Practice and elimination of harassment in the workplace, are you aware of any allegations of sexual harassment that have been made against any of the Heads of Departments of this province, within the Western Cape from 1 January 2019 to date? Please tell us the truth. Do not spin. Just tell us if you are aware and what has happened. [Interjections.]

If yes, please provide the details of these allegations which have been made and how these allegations were investigated and what were the outcomes of these investigations? You say you want – you are serious about GBV. The first thing you should do is just suspend Farrel Payne whether he is guilty or not, he is charged in a court of law. Just suspend him until – over the... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Can you not do that?

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, can I please again remind you to speak through the Chair.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Now when we come to the issue of mobility, I have with me, this morning there is a crisis in this province with taxis' learner transport. The Khayelitsha Development Forum sent a WhatsApp to this Premier this morning. If he was at all serious he just would not say: "Oh, I cannot make two o'clock." I saw your response. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Not this morning!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: If he could not make two o'clock he could easily have said: "This is a crisis, I am going to come at four." But no, this Premier is the Cape of Good Hope.

†Hy gee nie om vir Khayelitsha se mense nie. Hy sal nie uitgaan saam met sy waarnemende Minister van Mobility nie, [He does not care about Khayelitsha's people. He will not go out with his acting Minister of Mobility,] and that is shocking. It just shows that you are a Premier of glamour and spin and you will not go to where the crisis is actually affecting people. If an organisation like KDF invites you, you make a plan! You say: † "Ek kan nie tweeuur hier wees nie..." [Tussenwerpsel.] ["I cannot be here two o'clock]..."[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, can I ask that you conclude?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay. I will, I will. I will conclude by saying that the reason and I have a document here from Krause [Interjection.]

The reason that Central Line is not open is because in 2021 they applied, as the City advised them, for land. Then two years later the City says “No, we should not have told you, apply for emergency...” The DA is responsible totally that the Central Line is not working. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. Your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Because I have the evidence. I have the evidence right here.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That is what they do, so they... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, hon members, hon members, hon Dugmore, your time has expired. Please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So I want to thank...

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I want to thank the Speaker...

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Members! Hon Dugmore, please take your seat. Your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I just want to conclude with Johnny Cash... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, please take your seat. Your time has expired. [Applause.] Hon Fry, I recognise you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr T FRY: Hon Speaker, Premier and hon members of this House. Today we are debating and replying to the Premier's State of the Province Address. I firstly want to express my gratitude to the Premier of the Western Cape for giving an address that inspires hope among the Western Cape residents and demonstrates the urgency with which our Provincial Government is committed to providing all elements of services.

Hon members, Premier Alan Winde opened his speech with a quote from Martin Luther King Junior on the occasion of the march in Washington in

August of 1963. The quote was:

“We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilising drug of gradualism.”

That speech was the embodiment of the struggle for justice and equality in America and it was one of the fulcrums that eventually led to the abolishment of racist legislation and segregation. The Premier was correct in using this quote because we are now a nation in crisis. The national power utility cannot keep the lights on. The police service is dysfunctional. The South African Post Office is on the verge of collapse. The Department of Home Affairs is in a state of despair. Many of our municipalities are crippled by inept governance and corruption continues unabated. Because of these and a plethora of other factors, our people, especially women and children, are not safe. Our people are struggling to find work and those who have their own businesses have either had to close the doors or are desperately close to doing so. Our people have been denied the dignity that they are entitled to. They have lost hope and confidence in the National Government, in Eskom, the South African Police Service and countless government services that have been hollowed out by the ANC National Government, but yesterday Premier Alan Winde, however, gave residents of the Western Cape and indeed the country a reason to have hope in the Government during his speech yesterday. As Dr King said:

“Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy.”

Hon Speaker, while the President seeks to throw more bureaucracy at the



electricity crisis by adding yet another Minister to his already bloated Cabinet and further cementing a super presidency or what is the beginnings of a state-centre in the office of the presidency, this Government chooses to act and act now.

Energy security is without doubt currently South Africa's biggest existential threat. It constitutes an existential threat because it has an impact on every aspect of society, including jobs, food security, access to clean water, safety, and education.

As we have previously observed, rolling blackouts has had a negative effect on our economy. Due to a lack of power one dairy farm in KwaZulu Natal had to destroy approximately 12 000 litres of milk in a single day. Furthermore, the price of goods has spiked due to a considerable rise in input prices across all industries, which has raised inflationary pressures and eventually making the cost of living more difficult to afford, especially for the most vulnerable in our society.

Hon Speaker, we see water and sewage systems buckle under the pressure of being constantly switched off and putting our entire water system at risk. Children are being forced to study in darkness, both in the classroom and at home, placing their education at risk. It is not only the darkness but the lack of connectivity during loadshedding that threatens the quality of education they receive. The Department of the Premier has invested billions around the province in the Cape Access Programmes, which are unavailable during

loadshedding periods and thus deny young people access to free internet where they can apply for employment and education opportunities. It is a well-known fact that in all our neighbourhoods, the risk of crime escalates dramatically during night-time blackouts, again, with the poorer households bearing the brunt of this phenomenon. These households do not have the means to pursue alternative forms of generation and hence are susceptible to robbery, assault, and the most heinous of circumstances, murder. But, in the Western Cape there is hope. It is not a cowardly ineffectual hope. No, this hope is deep-rooted in the desire to continue being the Government for the people of the Western Cape. This help is founded on the values of being caring, competent, accountable, having integrity, being innovative and responsive. The LEAP programme has demonstrated its efficacy, and in fact given our residents hope, after they had seen and experienced the differences in our Community Safety. The most recent Crime Statistics have shown a reduction in contact crime in Gugulethu, Delft, Harare and Khayelitsha.

Hon Speaker, R1 billion has been requested from Provincial Treasury to respond to the energy crisis and keep Government services running. This is why an Energy Resilience Council has been constituted and is already working to mitigate the dangers posed by rolling blackouts. This is why R88 million has been allocated to municipalities to support their efforts in combating loadshedding. This is why the City of Cape Town now seeks to allow independent power producers to sell energy back to the City and add more capacity to the grid.

Hon Speaker, this is the hope we speak of, realistic and practical solutions. We are already seeing the effects that good government has on society. Tourists, both local and international are returning in their numbers to the Western Cape, thereby facilitating a solid recovery in that sector. Further to that more and more events are taking place in our province, both of national and international importance. This collaboration with the private sector is providing opportunities, which enhances the potential for job creations and with every new job created there is hope.

Hon Speaker, the Cape Access Centres continue to provide communities across the province with vital broadband access. This initiative allows our people to access job, study and bursary opportunities and the chance to upskill themselves in information and computer technology to ready themselves for the fourth industrial revolution. We look forward to an even greater rollout of this initiative to all areas where they are most needed. Another such initiative, the Premier's Advancement for Youth Programme has a stellar record of preparing our young people to enter the workplace. 7 704 people have benefited from this programme since its inception in 2013 2014 and currently there are 496 people completing the programme this year. I am excited to see what yields the upcoming year will bring and Mr Speaker, might I add that hon Dugmore has come to quote figures and facts about the elections, the by-elections that just took place. I would like to remind him of the figure that the ANC has already said they are 40%. That is what they are going to get next year in the National Election.

An HON MEMBER: Ah, come-on!

Mr T FRY: 40%. In conclusion, hon Speaker, we know that our nation is in crisis. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! [Interjections.] Order, members! Order members, there is a member on the floor, please allow the member to conclude.

Mr T FRY: In conclusion, hon Speaker, we know that our nation is in crisis and that many of our people are writhing in despair with no hope of finding a job, being safe or learning in peace, but like Dr King said on that sunny august day in 1963: "Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

Our of the mountain of despair that is South Africa, the Western Cape is the stone of hope. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. [Applause.] Thank you, hon members. I now see the Minister, Minister Allen.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues, hon members, to those in the gallery, our guests, thank you so much for your attendance.

Today is a political speech. However, I would want to from the onset state

that I would like to commence today by paying homage to the six SAPS officers who have sadly lost their lives since January to December of 2022. May they continue to rest in peace, and may their loved ones also find comfort.

Every day, Speaker, our men and women in blue leave their properties, leave their families, not knowing if they will ever return home. We know that we have dedicated SAPS officers in our provinces and in our province here, but particularly, they are dealing with extreme and difficult circumstances where criminality is constantly on the increase.

Furthermore, my thoughts are also with three LEAP officers who have sadly lost their lives: 23-year old officer Alessandro Heyns, was cowardly killed last year; as well as 26-year old officer Sixolile Maram, and 29-year old officer Simphiwe Ntsham, who tragically lost their lives a month ago.

Speaker, it will be remiss of me to also not highlight that one of those officers that was killed, was killed by a person – a person that personifies evil, a person that has consistently showed that he is not suitable to walk our streets and he was out on parole and he was killed in Parkwood.

We would be remiss to also not highlight Tazne van Wyk who was brutally kidnapped, murdered and assaulted, and her perpetrator was also out on parole for similar offences. So when we consider that National Government, Speaker, under Correctional Services has highlighted via a parliamentary

reply, that we have 29 000 parolees that Correctional Services is unable to locate. 29 000. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order members! Hon Minister Allen, please take your seat. Hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, Speaker, I wanted to call a point of order, Speaker, on the Premier, who is conversing aloud and he is disrupting the MEC that is on the podium and at least making some sense about the issue of crime. Can you please protect him from the Premier?

The SPEAKER: Alright, hon members, if there is a member on the floor, can I please ask that you allow the member to do their presentation and I am speaking to both sides of the House to please not drown out the speaker on the floor. Hon Mackenzie, is that a point of order?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Speaker. I follow on my colleague, if perhaps if Minister Allen can then repeat that information, it will help so we can hear him. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members! Minister Allen, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Speaker, thank you so much and, through you, thank you to member Kama for

requesting the protection and I trust that he will continue to support us because we want to protect the residents of the Western Cape. So let me repeat, Speaker, 29,000 parolees were not located by the Department of Correctional Services in our country. 29 000. 21 899 is in the Western Cape. 29 000 across our country, but 21 000 not located by the Department of Correctional Services here in the Western Cape.

Tazne van Wyk's killer who personifies evil, out on parole twice already; an eight-year old had to be buried. We would not want similar instances to be repeated, so let me say, may their souls rest in peace, and may their families find comfort during the very difficult times.

Speaker, I am reminded of my late mom that used to tell me in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain, and she used to tell me: "Do not withhold good or good things from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act."

We have always remained consistent that as a Government, we are wanting to act because across religious texts, if I look at the Quran, there is also information with regards to "do not withhold good from people that deserve it. Do not do bad unto others." It is a universal undertaking that reverberates through our country, and as a government, we are wanting to commit that we would always want to act in that regard, because, Speaker, it is no secret that many communities across our country and province is plagued by gang violence, criminality and lawlessness. For residents of these communities every day can be a struggle to keep themselves and their loved ones safe. So

allow me to re-emphasise the words of Premier Alan Winde during his State of the Province Address, and I quote:

“As leaders, we feel a deep sense of responsibility to our citizens. I have said many times in this House, if any person wants to accuse us of being biased, yes, we are biased towards people and regardless of whether those people are in Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Swellendam or here in the CBD, we will remain biased towards people, that is why we want to reduce and make sure that crime is reduced year-on-year.”

But Speaker, during the State of the Nation Address by President Ramaphosa, the President stated:

“We will also use data driven methods in a more sophisticated way to identify and target crime hotspots.”

Let me repeat, the hon, His Excellency, the President of our country stated:

“We will also use data driven methods in a more sophisticated way to identify and target crime hotspots.”

Speaker, that is exactly what we have been doing. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No, no, no.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
That is exactly what we have been doing through the Western Cape Safety



Plan, because since the President is taking a leaf out of the book here in the Western Cape, and that is Premier Alan Winde's Safety Plan, because we knew we needed real time data to not only guide our deployments based on past incidents, but also to anticipate where new hotspots may appear so that we can deploy the necessary resources before lives are lost. The Safety Plan which we have consistently stated, it is a two-pronged approach law enforcement, because there is under-resourcing in the South African Police Service, we are 20 years behind... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, order members! There is a member on the floor. [Interjections.] Order members! Order members! Premier and hon Bans, there is a member on the floor. Hon Minister Allen, you can continue.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you so much. The Safety Plan, like I have said, is a two-pronged approach, law enforcement, because it is needed. We are 20 years behind resourcing in our country; that has been confirmed, but also the violence prevention, because we all know those root causes that affect our young people, and that is something that this Government is tackling to work across each and every Department, the ward safety is in our Safety Plan, and I am saddened that we are often asked where is the Safety Plan, when we have communicated the Safety Plan. There is something called electronic mail that we have sent on to you, so we have sent that on.

But, this leads me, Speaker, to the Minister in the Presidency, Hon Mondli

Gungubele, who is a committed and stance and disciplined member of the ANC. He is a fearless defender of his party. Well, that was probably until last week, Speaker, when he concurred with us in the Western Cape that police stations in this province are in a dire state. That is a fact that we have consistently raised via our Policing Needs and Priorities, which is never taken into account by National Government. If I had known, Speaker, and through you to the Premier, Premier, if I had known we had an ally in the Presidency, I would have reached out to him a long time ago, as I have no doubt that we are on the same page, because, Speaker, that page is that SAPS should be immediately devolved to a capable provincial government such as ours, and that the New Policing Model must not only be adopted but immediately be implemented. But, let me also state for the record, Speaker, we are not... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, order! There is a member on the floor.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
And I want this to... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: If there is one thing that my colleagues across the aisle should remember from this speech it is probably just this one line, we are not and never have been interested in separating from South Africa. Never! We believe in our

national team. We support the Springboks. We love South Africa. We have family members in Joburg, in Northern Cape. We would never want to separate from our beautiful country, South Africa, so when we talk about devolution, we know that federalism can work, it makes sense to bring policing closer to the people, Speaker, so that choices are not made in Pretoria 1 500 kilometres away from where we are, and I have also [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order members!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Speaker, I have engaged the Provincial Minister of Infrastructure, the hon Tertuis Simmers about us initiating a process to get a property where Browns Farm Satellite Substation is, to get it up and running again. This property is owned by PRASA, a national competency, and leased by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Speaker, in August 2021, while I was still the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, I inquired about the state of the satellite station, and on 7 February 2023, the Western Cape branch of the South African Policing Union issued a press release. In it they stated:

“The satellite station has been disqualified by three different reports including crime intelligence, declaring the place an unsafe place to operate from.”

And this is exactly what I have highlighted in 2021 already. The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, whose minister is Patricia de Lille, is tasked with the maintenance of that particular station, and in August 2021, I have it on record the PC's indicated that they were waiting for Patricia de Lille's office to attend to the various issues at this particular satellite station. It has still not been done, even as of this minute. So as the Western Cape Government, we cannot allow National Government and its alliance partners to continue playing with the safety of our residents, and that of SAPS members in our province, and as mentioned by the Premier, our aim is now to place a LEAP station at this site where both LEAP and SAPS officers can be based and deployed from.

The National Government is just incapable and inept of doing their duty. The National Commissioner is on record to say that they are unable to fulfil their mandate, so we have a National Minister that in 2020 also took funding away from SAPS during the Midterm Budget Policy Statement from the NPA, from Correctional Services, to bail out this failing state-owned enterprise in 2020, so we have seen it has no appetite to keep our residents safe, but let me go on, Speaker, we understand ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can I ask that you conclude. [Interjection.]  
Hon members, hon members, hon members!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: As I conclude... [Interjection.] As I conclude... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, allow the Minister to conclude.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: As I conclude I place it on the record that my speech will be circulated to Office, to the Table staff as well to be circulated, because I would not want my colleagues to miss out, because we are needing everyone in this House, Speaker, to play a role towards making our community safer.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Thank you, hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I have a firm belief that... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, please take your seat.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, I see the hon Nkondlo, is that a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Speaker. Can you please ask member Mackenzie, the incoming MEC of Mobility, not to record us here in the House.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon members, I now see the hon

Klaas, and, as is custom in the House, this is the hon... [Interjections.] Hon members! As is custom in the House, this is the hon member's maiden speech and I trust that you will allow him to deliver his maiden speech. Hon Klaas, I now see you. Can I please ask that you speak to the Chair.

Mr T KLAAS: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr T KLAAS: Speaker, yesterday people of this province, listening attentively hoping to hear the Western Cape State of the Province Address delivered to them. However, I am sure they were equally shocked, as I was, to hear the Premier of the Province standing up to reply to the State of the Nation Address, which took place in the National Parliament last week. [Interjections.] Speaker, now seeing that there is a vacuum, let me take this opportunity to offer Western Cape residents a real State of the Province Address. As we know here today that the Economic Freedom Fighters is the vanguard of the community and the worker struggle and the poor and it will always be on the side of the people. Speaker, the EFF is governed by the seven non-cardinal pillars which must be implemented without fail and they include, but not limited to, the expropriation of land without compensation for equitable redistribution; building state capacity and government capacity, massive investment in the development of Africa economy and nationalisation of mines, bank and the other key strategic sectors of the economy are very much integral for the achievement. [Interjections.]

Now it is not lost. [Interjections.] No, it is not, it is not the computer.  
[Interjections.]

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

Mr T KLAAS: I am coming, I am coming. Speaker, Provincial Government should be playing an international leading role when it comes to job creation and not folding arms with the expectation that the private sector will do such work for them. Do not depend on the private sector. The people of the Western Cape need real sustainable jobs that will improve their lives and that of the families and certainly not internships, which only offer stipends that will be exhausted in transport cost alone. Our people are not slaves with the sole purpose of improving business owned by the whites in an economy run by their Stellenbosch mafias. [Interjections.]

Speaker, the majority of black people and the people of colour still remain poor. The so-called catch for power initiative can only be afforded by rich households who will make millions out of it, whilst the whole process, which drives the cost of electricity up, and make sure that the affordability of electricity is out of reach of the majority of our people.

Speaker, as things stand, the municipality buy the electricity from Eskom and add their own tariffs on top. They buy, people buy electricity from Eskom in order to support again also the municipality. According to the 2022 statistics,

South Africa's Census reported title improving lives to data ecosystem. Between 2020 and 2021 municipalities such as Langeberg generated the majority of their total annual revolution count from electric territory ... [Inaudible, speaking simultaneously.] [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, can I please ask that you conclude, hon Klaas...

Mr T KLAAS: ... of the poorest of the poor processes... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, can I please ask that you conclude.

Mr T KLAAS: Yes, I will conclude. My conclusion is that †Agbare Speaker, die meerderheid arm mense in hierdie provinsie is werkloos en kan nie basiese lewensnoodsaaklikhede soos elektrisiteit bekostig nie. [Hon Speaker, the majority of poor people in this province are jobless and cannot afford basic life essentials such as electricity.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Klaas, please take your seat. Thank you very much. [Applause.] Thank you, hon member. I now see the hon Windvogel. [Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear! [Applause.] [Interjections.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Praat net die waarheid, nè.

[An HON MEMBER: Just speak the truth, hey.]



An HON MEMBER: Hi Rachel. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! There is a member on the floor.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Speaker...

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, Comrade Faez Jacobs, our IPC member, †die mense van die Wes-Kaap, goeie môre, [the people of the Western Cape, good morning,] *molweni*.

Speaker, a member of the public, after reading the Premier's speech, responded, and I quote:

“Winde must be talking about a province in some other country. Bring him back home.”

I concur with this sentiment. The Premier's Address was truly uninspiring, out of touch with reality and in a serious battle with the truth. So, Premier, let me bring you back home. It is clear in your Address that you have never set a foot in a community like Hermon in the DA-run Drakenstein Municipality. Hermon is in the... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hermon.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hermon... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hermon is in the grip... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Oh, you know Hermon.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! Members, there is a member on the floor.  
Hon Windvogel, you may continue.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hermon is in the grip of unemployment, abject poverty and drug abuse. There is poor service delivery, no development, no local clinic, no transportation, people literally struggle to live and to survive.

†Premier, kom net huis toe, nie Leeuwenhof daar in die skaduwee van Tafelberg nie. Kom huis toe. Kom grond toe. Kom af. [Premier, just come home, not to Leeuwenhof, there in the shade of Tafelberg. Come home. Come down. Come back to earth. Come down.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Ja, sê vir hom, kom grond toe.

[An HON MEMBER: Yes, tell him, come down to earth.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Speaker, to access healthcare service, people of Hermon

have to travel to another town, to other towns.

†Waar kom die geld vandaan, Premier? Hierdie is 'n gemeenskap wat sukkel.  
[Where is the money coming from, Premier? This is a community that is struggling.]

Hiking spots are far from their homes. As a result the people have been robbed, attacked and even raped. The community is desperate.

†Hier in u sogenaamde *best-run province*, Premier, kom af grond toe.  
[Here in your so-called best-run province, Premier, come down to earth.]

†*Hon* Speaker, as die Premier sy voet gesit het op Hermon sou hy geweet het van mnr Martin Thomas, 'n pensioenaris, [Hon Speaker, if the Premier had come to Hermon he would have known about Mr Martin Thomas, a pensioner,] who has to visit Tygerberg Hospital every month. He is forced to wake up very, very early and travel for tens of kilometres to get the transport that will take him to a hospital.

†Daar is geen genade nie. Hy moet daai selfde lang rit weer doen terug huis toe. Hy het nie die Premier se chauffeur en lyfwagte nie. Die Premier klim in sy groot kar, blou ligte en alles, verlaat Waalstraat nommer 7. In minder as vyf minute is hy by die huis, terwyl mnr Thomas sukkel en stoei om by sy bestemming te kom.

[There is no mercy. He has to do that same long journey back home. He does

not have the Premier's chauffeur and bodyguards. The Premier gets into his big car, blue lights and all, leaves Wale Street number 7. In less than five minutes he's home, while Mr Thomas is struggling and wrestling to get to his destination.]

†Die PREMIER: Want hy loop.

[The PREMIER: Because he's walking.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Daai is die realiteit daar buite, Premier.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: That is the reality out there, Premier.]

†'n AGBARE LID: In die Wes-Kaap.

[An HON MEMBER: In the Western Cape.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Kom af. Kom huis toe. Kom grond toe. Mnr Thomas se storie is nie ons mense se storie nie.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: Come down. Come home. Come back to earth. Mr Thomas' story is not our people's story.]

This is but one sample of life experiences of our people across working-class communities. Often it is worse in rural areas where you find the healthcare facilities with no doctors, medical emergency transportation, as a serious challenge.

†Ons mense slaap op die vloere, op banke in afwagting vir 'n ambulans.

Premier, word wakker. Kom huis toe. Kom grond toe.

[Our people sleep on floors, on benches waiting for an ambulance. Premier, wake up. Come home. Come down to earth.]

†Hon Speaker, die Premier moet huis toe kom. Dié is sy en die DA se rekord in die Wes-Kaap. Wat maak hulle verder?

[Hon Speaker, the Premier must come home. It is his and the DA's record in the Western Cape. What are they doing further?]

Because of their ideological differences they block poor children from the Western Cape from benefiting from a once in a lifetime opportunity to study medical medicine in Cuba. They further refuse to allow medical doctors trained in Cuba to work in the Western Cape. These doctors are willing to work in poor struggling communities. These doctors are willing to work in the rural communities. Why do you deny our people the healthcare? Why do you deny our people dignity? [Interjection.]

You, hon Premier, have the benefit of private hospitals and do not have to wait on an ambulance that might not even pitch.

†U is 'n Netcare *chappy*. Moenie dit aan ons mense doen nie. Stop. [You are a Netcare chappy. Don't do this to our people. Stop.]

Like you, they deserve dignity, irrespective of colour, class, sex or faith.

†Kom huis toe. Kom af grond toe. Los die verneukspul. Ons mense loer u en is wys. Kom af huis toe. Word wakker. [Come home. Come back to earth. Leave the crooked lot. Our people are looking at you and are wise. Come down home. Wake up.]

Surely the Premier did not have the poor people of Hermon, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Athlone, Heideveld, Philippi, Manenberg, Swellendam, Murraysburg, Beaufort-Wes, in mind when he claimed in his SOPA, 2022 SOPA that every person in our province deserved the dignity of healthcare, no matter who they are, no matter where they live, and no matter what they earn. Yesterday the Premier quoted the poor Virgil, saying, “the greatest wealth is health.” Indeed, the poor people of the province are poor for they are subjected to substandard healthcare services. In the Western Cape, dignified and quality healthcare is reserved for the wealthy, who are predominantly white.

†Speaker, as oplossing vir hierdie situasie motiveer en druk die ANC vir die finalisering van die National Health Insurance Bill, want dit sal verseker dat alle Suid-Afrikaners toegang het tot gelyke gesondheidsdienste wat basies gebaseer word op nood en nie op bekostigbaarheid om te betaal of op algehele sosio-ekonomiese situasies nie. Daar is geweldige ondersteuning van die publiek vir die *NHI Bill*. Daar is ook konsensus onder ons mense dat die status quo van die land se twee-vlak onbillike gesondheidsstelsel nie langer 'n opsie is nie, en integrasie moet plaasvind. 'n Voorbeeld daarvan is in Calitzdorp. Vier dae 'n week het daai gemeenskap dokters onder die *pilot* van

die NHI. Die ANC ondersteun ondubbelsinnig die *NHI Bill*. Dis 'n kanaal van transformasie om sodoende die gebroke, gefragmenteerde en ongelyke *National Health* sisteem na 'n eenledige en gelyke geen-rassistiese toegangbare en goeie kwaliteit gesondheidsisteem vir alle Suid-Afrikaners te bring. Premier Winde se Regering ondersteun nie hierdie *Bill* nie, en dit is nie omdat dit nie transformasie sal voortbring nie, maar omdat hy die private gesondheidsdienste se belange wil beskerm. In sy afkeuring van die *NHI Bill* in SOPA 2021 het die Premier aangehaal:

[Speaker, as solution to this situation the ANC is pushing for the finalisation of the National Health Insurance Bill, because it will ensure that all South Africans have access to equal health services that basically are based on need and not affordability to pay or on total socio-economic situations. There is tremendous support from the public for the NHI Bill. There is also consensus amongst our people that the status quo of the country's two-level unfair health system no longer is an option, and integration should take place. An example of this is in Calitzdorp. Four days a week that community has doctors under the pilot of the NHI. The ANC unequivocally supports the NHI Bill. It's a channel of transformation to thus bring the broken fragmented and unequal National Health system to a single and equal non-racial accessible and good quality health system for all South Africans. Premier Winde's Government does not support this Bill, and it's not because it will not bring forth transformation, but because he wants to protect the private health services' interests. In his rejection of the NHI Bill in SOPA 2021, the Premier quoted:]

“It will also end private healthcare in its current form, potentially

[Inaudible.] hospitals like Melomed, this is why we do not support the unworkable and unfundable NHI Bill.”

†Dis die waarheid, Premier. Hierdie is 'n klassieke boek-geval van die Premier wat nie omgee vir sy mense nie. Aan die armes van die Wes-Kaap, dit is duidelik dat julle op julle eie is. Hierdie swak en onverskillige Premier het julle verlaat. Geagte Speaker, wat vir my uitstaan in die Premier se aanhaling na Dr Martin Luther King gister was die sin:

“This is no time for empathy or complacency.”

Vandag merk ek 1 367 dae sedert die Alan Winde Administrasie en hy ingesweer was as die Premier in hierdie provinsie op 22 Mei 2019. Die Premier se 1 367 dae word ten beste gekarakteriseer deur dieselfde empatie en selfvoldaanheid wat hy aanhaal. Die selfvoldaanheid word geïdentifiseer deur sy Regering se gebrek om voldoende aan die belofte gestand te doen, die *Violence Prevention Unit* en die Wes-Kaap se Departement van Gesondheidsdienste. Dis ten spyte van seksuele oortredings wat oor 23% toegeneem het in hierdie provinsie, hierdie regering het nie die begroting vermeerder nie. Die oor R60 miljoen uitgawes rondom die *Victims Empowerment Programme* is nie genoeg nie. Die begroting moet vermeerder word. Die ANC versoek dat die Regering die slagoffers van GBV prioritiseer vir behuisingssubsidies dat hulle sodoende nie kan teruggaan na hul aanrander toe wanneer hulle uit die *Victim Empowerment Centres* kom nie.

[That’s the truth, Premier. This is a classic book case of the Premier who does not care about his people. To the poor of the Western Cape, it is clear



that you are on your own. This weak and uncaring Premier has left you. Hon Speaker, what stands out for me in the Premier's quote of Dr Martin Luther King yesterday was the sentence:

“This is no time for empathy or complacency.”

Today I notice 1 367 days since the Alan Winde Administration and he as the Premier were sworn in, in this province on 22 May 2019. The Premier's 1 367 days are best characterised by the same empathy and complacency that he quotes. The complacency is identified by his Government's failure to honour the promise, the Violence Prevention Unit and the Western Cape's Department of Health Services, that despite sexual offences that increased by more than 23% in this province, this Government has not increased the budget. The more than R60 million expenditures around the Victims Empowerment Programme is not enough. The budget must be increased. The ANC requests that the Government prioritises the victims of GBV for housing subsidies so that they don't have to return to their assailants when they come out of the Victim Empowerment Centres.]

The complacency of Premier Winde's Government has allowed Farrel Payne to remain in his job while his victim is at home without receiving any support from this Provincial Government. You failed our people.

The complacency of Premier Winde's Government was also exposed when he ended the Youth Safety Ambassador Programme a year after it was launched in 2021. As a result of this a thousand young people lost their jobs and

remain at home to this day. You failed the young people. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, the DA Government decommissioned the G F Jooste Hospital. This Provincial Government has not spent a cent in the rebuilding process of the New Klipfontein Hospital.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: This week I visited the old hospital site and were together with my colleagues. We got a chance to interact with local community members. The people say the closure of that hospital is morally unjustified. They feel that your Government, Premier, has failed them once again... [Interjection.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Ja.

[An HON MEMBER: Yes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: ...due to complacency when a Government closes a hospital with no plan to rebuild another one. In 2032, if this Government meets that said date, the people would wait for 18 years for the rebuilding of their hospital. We are aware of the ongoing dispute between the construction companies over a contract. Premier, your MEC owes the people an explanation why the contract was cancelled and readvertised after it was already awarded. Hon Premier, the people of the Klipfontein region are not happy that G F Jooste was closed. The people complained about the long

distance travelled to Heideveld CDC. Your Government misled the people of Manenberg to believe the Heideveld Clinic was the new G F Jooste.

Hon Speaker, while we welcome the Premier's meeting with the CEO of Vodacom around WiFi and connectivity matters, one hopes that after the said meeting all libraries in the rural regions will be connected to the internet. Many libraries in the rural regions are neglected and do not have any internet access.

In closing, Speaker, I am disappointed with the Youth Intervention announced by the Premier. These do not come close to dealing with the crises of youth unemployment, drugs and substance-abuse, involvement of youth in criminal activities, especially violent crimes. This is what you get when you do not have a Youth Intervention... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel, can I please ask that you conclude.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Youth Development is threatened as the sub-project in the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. Hon Premier, we call on you to protect ... [Inaudible, speaking simultaneously.] [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel, your time has expired. Hon Windvogel, please take your seat. [Applause.] Thank you, hon members. Order, hon members, thank you. [Interjections.] Hon members, thank you. Order! Order members, I now see the Minister, Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. Yesterday Premier Alan Winde detailed that here in the Western Cape we do things differently. We are accountable, and we are transparent. We are responsive and we take action to deliver the very best that we can so that our citizens can live a life that they value... [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And because this Government is doing all of these things, we give hope to the residents of this beautiful province. [Interjections.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 39 about conversing aloud. Speaker, I think it is bitterly unfair that we gave the previous speaker the opportunity to make her speech and now the Minister has not even started yet and the conversing starts. Can you please just maintain the order, Speaker. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Members, there is a member on the floor. We allow everyone to make their contributions. Interjections are

allowed but please do not drown out the speaker. Hon Dugmore, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, it is a point of order. I would like to address you about the following that every time the Chief Whip of the majority party tries to do your job, she tries to do your job, I was interrupted repeatedly. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! There is a member on the floor.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: This is a point of order.

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Hon Dugmore, just hold on. Hon members, hon members, there is a member on the floor.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you. Speaker, my point is this: that in the House yesterday, the hon Chief Whip of the majority party stood up at least five times on the same point of order, whereas you are the Speaker, and you are chairing this House. That actually interrupts other speakers so I would like to ask that you do not entertain frivolous points of order, which we are seeing from the Chief Whip. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the determination whether a point of order is frivolous or not is for me to make. Points of order are allowed as per the Standing Rules, and I also do so, but I want to appeal to all members on both

sides of the House to please allow the member on the floor to make their submissions. This is a political debate and I have been a bit lenient on both sides, and interjections are allowed, but please do not drown out the speaker. Hon Minister, my apologies. I now see you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. Premier Winde is demonstrating that we are moving with urgency so that the Western Cape remains a shining beacon of hope for the rest of the country and while the National ANC Government is failing us, where the National Government power utility is completely incapable of providing a stable power supply to the nation, we have moved urgently to release much needed funds of almost R89 million to municipalities in most need to procure backup generators to make sure that we can keep water flowing and to make sure that water is safe.

CNN reporter, Richard Quest, in his recent visit to South Africa said:

“The moment you call it loadshedding you are dressing it up with a nice bow and giving it a cutesy name. This is a power-cut, the sort of thing that should not happen in an advanced economy, period.”

So shame on you! The ANC Government was warned and did nothing. You were warned, and you did nothing and you were warned again, and you did absolutely nothing. Now we are in crises and the ANC Government cannot get us out of it. So we are going to do it ourselves and so our Premier is investing R1 billion rand to get this province independent from Eskom as

quickly as possible. [Applause.] And we applaud him for taking this bold step. This is real leadership, forging the way ahead to a brighter future to respond to the short-term impact of loadshedding, to secure diesel fuel, to buffer schools from loadshedding, to alleviate the impact on poor households, and to assist SMMEs to assess and implement alternative energy options. This is the difference that this Government brings. It is the action we are taking and this is why there is hope in the Western Cape. The hon Dugmore criticises the Municipal Energy Resilience Programme and he says there is no project preparation, no project preparation support. [Interjections.]

Well, let me tell this House – thanks to this program, Stellenbosch completed an integrated resource plan. [Interjections.] Mossel Bay, Overstrand, Bitou completed their cost-of-supply studies, while two further are in progress. George, Witzenberg, Cape Agulhas, Bitou, Swartland, Stellenbosch... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...have all been able to update their Electricity Master Plans. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And pre-feasibility work of five municipal IPP Projects has been done...

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, there is a point of order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: How is that for project preparation, Mr Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you. Speaker, my point of order... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, there is a point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: My point of order is to ask, through you, whether the hon MEC will take a question. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: No, hon Speaker, I have got lots to say. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question [Interjections.]. Hon members, order!



The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Oh, okay I ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Alright. So ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... according to hon member Dugmore there is no project preparation support, so let me tell this House again, thanks to the MER Programme Stellenbosch completed [Interjections.] an integrated resource plan, Mossel Bay, Overstrand, Bito completed cost of supply studies, while a further two are in progress. George, Witzenberg, Cape Agulhas, Bito, Swartland, Stellenbosch have been able to update their electricity master plans and pre-feasibility feasibility work has been done for five municipal IPP projects. How is that for project preparation? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members! [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: But the failures [Interjections.] of the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...  
National Government to invest in infrastructure ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... do  
not [Interjections.] only extend to electricity supply, National Government  
failures extend everywhere we look [Interjections.] and affect almost  
everything that we do. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: The Port  
of Cape Town, for example, is a critical hub that processes proudly Western  
Cape products [Interjections.] and make sure that we can get to market,  
supporting thousands of businesses and hundreds of thousands of jobs across  
the entire port logistics value chain and most notably jobs in rural areas.

However, the Port of Cape Town's performance is one of the worst in the  
world, languishing at number 365 out of 370 ports [Interjections.], at the very  
bottom of world rankings and it means that ships have stopped calling  
because of these inefficiencies. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: This has severely affected our fruit growers and thousands of jobs in the agriculture sector, [Interjections.] which is why we have been working very closely with all stakeholders to improve efficiency at the port because if our port works our economy works [Interjections.] and we have achieved some notable successes in increasing efficiency in the Port of Cape Town, but more needs to be done urgently.

Our research shows that an efficient Port of Cape Town with sufficient supply and capacity and key investment and infrastructure has the potential to contribute an additional R6 billion in exports; 20 000 direct and indirect jobs over; R1,6 billion in additional taxes by 2026 and an additional 0,7% contribution to the Western Cape's GDP, but to do this we need the private sector.

However, yet again any mention of private sector participation at the Port of Cape Town, which has been included for the ports of Durban and Ngqura, but was distinctly absent in the President's State of the Nation Address last week. Why? Because the ANC is anti-jobs and just as irrationally the National Government continues to deny economic growth [Interjections.] and job creation by failing again to introduce the remote working visa and by making it nearly ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... impossible for [Interjections.] companies to secure ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... investment and critical skills visas. We are inundated by complaints from companies wanting to create jobs by bringing in trainers or critical skills that we do not have and that we need to open factories and businesses. [Interjections.]

According to a recent article by the *Daily Maverick*, Professor Roy, Wits University, 90% of critical skills visa applications have been rejected by the Department of Home Affairs, 90%, [Interjections.] and we are inundated with complaints from people who want to come as tourists, most notably from other African countries, but who cannot because the eVisa system does not work. [Interjections.] In fact the Home Affairs backlog for visas [Interjections.] stands at 57 000 and it is going to take two years to deal with, to clear. [Interjections.] It cannot be that the National Government continues to deny the contributions these applicants would bring to our country or the benefits that a remote working visa and investment visa will bring. [Interjections.]

In fact ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... President Ramaphosa in SONA of 2022 promised the remote working visa would be introduced. One year later we still do not have it. Where is it? And our visa regime overall remains a significant obstacle to attracting investment to our country and our province. [Interjections.]

Just this week an entrepreneur who has created 1 000 South African jobs and who wants to grow their business, was denied a visa renewal. How is this rational?

The ANC says it wants to create jobs, but then does everything possible to make sure that no jobs are created.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Why? Because the ANC is anti-jobs. We need urgency, not empty promises. [Interjections.]

So I have called for a clear timeline for the implementation of these visas as a priority. We need to push hard for the introduction of this visa as well as

making it much easier for investment visas so that we can grow our economy.

I have to say I have been absolutely elated to see that our expectations for a bumper tourism season were not only reached, but in some cases exceeded. Hotel occupancy is surpassing 2019 levels and this is due in no small part to the excellent work being done by the Cape Town Access Team powered by Wesgro.

This team, between April and December last year, secured four new air routes and three new airlines into the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... bringing in an estimated ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... can I please ask that you conclude. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Alright. [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, allow the Minister to conclude.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: To conclude ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Under this Government under this Premier we are delivering what the ANC cannot, a better life, which is why South Africans of all races and all classes are moving here because as experts will tell you service delivery is simply better here. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, before I allow the next speaker, can I please ask, we are nearly halfway through the speakers' list and I know there are lots of emotions and lots of inputs, but can I please ask that your interjections do not drown out the speakers and allow everyone an opportunity to make their submission in order for the Premier to reply to those submissions later today.

I now see the hon member August.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Speaker, in his 2022 State of the Province Address the Premier said:

"Government must be judged on how we treat our vulnerable citizens."

And today I am here just to do that. How the Western Cape Government treats the poor is shocking. Your handling of the homeless crisis is disgusting [Interjections.]. Your land reform programmes remain wanting and your promises towards a better Western Cape for all are empty.

Hon Speaker, the people of the Western Cape are being held hostage by drugs, crime, violence and killings. Hon Winde, through you, hon Speaker, said yesterday he is a proud Premier. Proud of what I ask? [Interjections.] Proud of the Western Cape having some of the world's highest crime statistics? Are you proud of some of the areas of this province where people must plough through sewage, feces and waste and that is considered normal? Proud of that some public entities of the Western Cape Government has no persons with disabilities in the employment? Are you proud that the province's land reform programme is in a state of disaster? Proud that since 2019 your inner-city social housing projects were all lip service? Proud of your Government making R730 000 available to fight crime in the rural Western Cape in comparison to giving the City of Cape Town hundreds of millions for LEAP? I ask again, hon Premier, proud of what exactly?

Hon Speaker, Premier Winde is more concerned about a war that is being waged thousands of kilometres away from here, but they are wars taking place in our own backyard where sons, daughters, wives, husbands,



grandmothers, grandfathers and entire communities are killed daily and he remains quiet. [Interjections.] He is more concerned with the affairs of failings of the National Government when his DA is guilty ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr S N AUGUST: ... of a perpetual state of poverty and crime they subject people to.

The Premier is well-versed in matters outside the province, but is quiet about the 5 000 learners who was stopped from going to school by the taxi association because of the disagreements between his Government and his [Inaudible.].

The SOPA 2023 was devoid of vision and a real plan for people of this province. What we needed to hear was how they [Inaudible.] aggregate cultural muscle in the wake of our changing environment.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: There is no environment.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Speaker, I have said this before and I will say it again, simply locking up our young people as a solution to crime is not enough. We need a coordinated initiative between Departments of Social Development, Education and Health. Social ills require social interventions to fix our broken families and communities. We call on you, Premier, to

recognise this. Treating addiction as a health-related issue as opposed to deserving criminal consequences would be a start. Homelessness is getting worse by the day and Social Development is throwing millions down the black hole. Solutions for homelessness are not shelters and the concentration camps the City manages. It is transitional housing reintegration programmes, mental health and social interventions.

Hon Speaker, school dropouts, community programmes, retention of school learners, absence of sustainable job creation, the 28% spike in safety and security in rural areas, the absence of support mechanisms for black emerging farmers, black people being locked out of the agricultural sector and the growing divide between the rich and the poor.

Hon Premier, scrap the pipe levy in the City of Cape Town that we pay R116 for. Scrap the electricity that we are paying R140 for in the City of Cape Town.

If all of this was a measurement to go by the Government failed dismally, but we know the poor are not the point of focus for the Democratic Alliance and in extension this Government keeps the rich man rich and the expense of the poor is what we stand for.

Hon Speaker, now I would like to raise an issue that touches many people in this province. It is the abuse of farmworkers by farmers. We hear the stories, we see the article. I want to speak about Riaan van Wyk, a farm worker in De

Doorns.

He was born on this farm, worked [Inaudible.] for almost 15 years as an assistant manager and lived on the land. Recently his post was declared redundant and therefore Riaan must vacate his home at the end of February 2023. It is not the first time we hear such stories, and it certainly will not be the last. What is this Government doing to protect citizens such as Riaan against the abuse of farmers?

We know that farmers enjoy a great deal of protection from the Department of Agriculture, even in the face of the ESTA which should be applied without fear or favour. What is quite evident is that your Government is fearful of the agricultural elite.

Hon Speaker, in closing, SOPA lacked the vision and plans desperately needed for the Premier to take us into his confidence. Instead, using his podium to bemoan the affairs of the National Government was more important than being captain of his own ship. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member August.

Hon Murray. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, yesterday Premier delivered his State of the Province Address where he spoke on the importance of instilling hope and acting with urgency. Today I want to add to this potent message and state that nobody except for the Democratic Alliance can do this [Interjections.] and I say this confidently, hon Speaker, because today I have not heard anything that has inspired hope from the Opposition or that has shown urgency.

Hon Speaker, our businessowners are struggling to keep the lights on and to keep their employees in their jobs. Entrepreneurs are also deterred from starting and from growing their businesses because of cumbersome red tape. Families find themselves having more month than money with the interest rate continuing to increase and the cost of living becoming unbearable, with the food inflation also reaching 13,4% year-on-year in January. Our young jobseekers are struggling to find gainful employment, hon Speaker.

Across the province, whether you are in Struisbaai ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Murray, please take your seat. Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, it is not a point of order. Is the hon member Murray willing to take a question on job seekers? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Can you please take your seat, hon member Sayed.

Hon Murray, are you prepared to take a question?

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, I note that the hon member often likes to ask me questions, but in this case I also have a lot to say, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Murray, you can continue.  
[Interjections.] Order, hon members!

Ms C MURRAY: Across the province, whether you are in Struisbaai, whether you are in Lamberts Bay or whether you are in Bothasig, residents are struggling to keep their heads above water and that is why the same residents outright refuse to vote for the ANC in recent by-elections. [Interjections.] People have had enough and they know, they know that no one but the DA can tackle the energy crisis, reverse joblessness and cut red tape.  
[Interjections.]

Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Ms C MURRAY: ... why do residents have ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members, there is a member on the floor.  
[Interjections.] Hon member Murray.

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, why do residents have such hope in the DA? The answer is that we have achieved so much right here in the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Ms C MURRAY: The Western Cape has the lowest expanded unemployment rate in the country at 29,5% compared to 43,1%. 43,1%, you should be ashamed nationally.

The 2022 PERO further highlights that in the Western Cape the finance sector contributed a whopping 31,3% to the provincial GDP, which is well ahead, well ahead of the 25,2% contribution that Finance makes to the national economy.

We are a developed and more service-oriented economy in the Western Cape, so it is really no surprise that residents feel that no one but the DA can address the urgent issues that our province and also our country face nationally daily.

The DA-led Western Cape Government will be taking job creation and economic development to the next level with its growth for jobs strategy which was announced by the Premier yesterday. [Interjections.] This will be implemented ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Ms C MURRAY: ... under the strategic leadership of Minister Wenger.

[Interjections.]

By ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms C MURRAY: ... 2035 [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. There – order, hon members! Hon Premier and hon member Nkondlo.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It is difficult for her to talk  
[Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: No [Interjections.] – hon members, hon member Dugmore,  
[Interjections.] please allow the member the opportunity to make a  
submission.

Hon Murray, I see you.

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you. By 2035 this much-needed and exciting strategy  
aims to achieve growth [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, please. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: I believe the hon member is projecting his own concerns onto the Democratic Alliance and I do feel sorry for him.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Murray, can you please continue with your speech.

Ms C MURRAY: By 2035 [Interjections.] ... by 2035 this much-needed and exciting strategy aims to achieve growth in the Western Cape with up to 6% a year in real terms and I think it is important to note because it is not Government's job to create jobs and the ANC has stolen whatever money is left to create any further bureaucracy and any further jobs that are needed.

So please pay attention, please do not create extra red tape where it is not necessary [Interjections.], but having said that, again by 2035 the target is to achieve a R1 trillion provincial GDP that will create 600 000 new jobs [Interjections.] and it will prioritise investment, exports, energy, tech innovation, infrastructure, as well as access to opportunities.

Hon Speaker, this is because no one but the DA is asking the tough questions about unemployment in this country and no one but the DA is doing anything to support job seekers and to empower our entrepreneurs. [Interjections.]

While the ANC often argues that the DA is not supporting the township



economy I would like to remind them of the phenomenal work that has already been done through the SMME Booster Fund which was founded in 2019. The fund grows SMMEs in the Western Cape, particularly those that are township and rural-based, and that are owned by women, by young residents and by those who are differently abled. It has supported 700 SMMEs and is continuing to support 243 businesses this year.

Hon Speaker, what is essential about this programme and what is really moving about this programme is the effect that it has on those who have been undermined previously. This year it is supporting seven projects which are currently in their implementation phase and is also collaborating with RLabs to support 100 township businesses, which are predominantly located within our townships and particularly in communities such as Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Hanover Park, Mfuleni and Delft. [Interjections.]

Yes, I definitely ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, please speak to the Chair. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, I would like to focus a little bit more on Reasons For Hope and there is good news and that of course comes from the Democratic Alliance.

Just yesterday the Premier mentioned that it was confirmed that the Western Cape had passed more building plans than any other province in 2022, at the

value of R37 billion and also completed more buildings by value than any other province, with a value of R27 billion. [Interjections.]

The Investment Promotion Team within Wesgro has recorded an impressive R3 billion in new investments facilitated between April and December 2022, as well as R2,5 billion in new export declarations reached.

The Cape Town and Western Cape Convention Bureau has secured 29 conference bids for the Western Cape, which will attract an estimated 20 000 delegates and an economic impact of up to R393,4 million between 2022/2023, as well as 2024/2025 financial years.

Next weekend Cape Town will play an important part in hosting the Formula E and the world's first fully electric street racing series. This will bring a whopping R2,13 billion in direct and indirect economic impact to our province. [Interjections.]

In the coming months what we will further see and I think it is important for the ANC to note this. [Interjections.] People are coming to our province because of the confidence that they have in the Western Cape and the DA-led Government because no one but the DA can deliver this.

In the next coming months you will see Absa Cape Epic in Hermanus, you will see Rocking the Daisies in Darling, you will see Journey to Jazz in Prince Albert and you will see the Karoo Gravel Grinder. These are just a few

that I can name. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, no one but the DA can instil hope and do this with the necessary urgency to uplift our residents.

During the Premier's address last year he committed the Western Cape Government ramping up its efforts to cut red tape and he achieved exactly that. Red tape reduction and the ease of doing business interventions play a critical role in helping our businesses to grow by eradicating unnecessary red tape.

From April 2022 to date the unit has logged 488 cases of which 436 have already been closed. That means that their resolution rate is 89% and I think this is very important to note because their target was 85%. They are just excellent.

Hon Speaker, among those cases resolved by the unit is the support provided to a steel manufacturing plant from Atlantis. The unit encountered problems with application for coordination for the atmospheric emission certificate and it was not able to operate its business successfully. The unit then worked with various Government departments concluding the matter in just three weeks.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Murray, can I please ask that you conclude.

Ms C MURRAY: Yes, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

They concluded the matter in three weeks and created 300 jobs.  
[Interjections.] Atlantis, Atlantis, but hon Speaker, hon Speaker to conclude  
...[Interjections.]

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

Ms C MURRAY: To conclude ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Allow the member to conclude. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: To conclude, hon Speaker, it is abundantly clear to the  
people of this province that no one except the DA can instil hope and act  
with the necessary urgency that residents so desperately need to tackle the  
energy crisis, to reverse joblessness and to cut red tape ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Murray ...[Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: ... and we will do so ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... please take your seat ...[Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: ... nationally when we take ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... your time has expired.

Ms C MURRAY: ... the buildings in ...

The SPEAKER: [Interjections.] Thank you, hon members. [Applause.]

I now see the hon member Sayed. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, hon Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore, our guests in the gallery, [Interjections.] including selfless activists and the leadership of my school of thought, the African National Congress Youth League, comrades Insaaf Isaacs and Beulah Hewu, I greet you. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What about [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Before we commence with the input, I think we need to echo the sentiments of the broader Western Cape society and all progressive forces in expressing our condolences to the family of the black consciousness movements, Peter Jones and his sad passing. The African National Congress in this House supports the calls by the movement known as AZAPO for a state funeral for Peter Jones.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The State of the Province Address, hon Speaker, is an opportunity for the Premier to present his plans to address the province's pressing challenges. Unfortunately the Premier failed to do this. He chose to mislead this august House. In line with the DA's open opportunity neoliberal ideology, the Premier perpetuated a minimalist approach of the state to addressing social challenges. [Interjections.]

It is dishonest to claim that the Western Cape is showing an improvement in crime reduction. According to the crime stats for the second quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year, the murder rate in the province has increased by 3,9%, while sexual offences have increased by over 23%. [Interjections.]

More concerning is that Nyanga Police Station recorded the highest increase for the reported murders. This coincides with the relentless efforts by Premier Winde's administration to sabotage, undermine, underfund and weaken our community policing forums, or CPFs, in line with DA ideology. [Interjections.]

The ANC at its 55<sup>th</sup> National Conference and at our recent Lekgotla, reaffirmed the importance of CPFs as well as that of partnerships between SAPS and communities to combat crime. The DA's elitist posture of course negates the role of communities in fighting crime.

In his address at the Opening of Parliament in 2003, Comrade President Thabo Mbeki said, and I open quotes"

"Our ability to combat crime effectively lies within the ambit of mobilising communities to be driving forces [Interjections.] with the police to create a greater awareness about crime in our communities."

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Our former Community Safety MEC, Leonard Ramatlakane ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... heeded this call ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... can I please ask that you take your seat.

Hon member Murray, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, it is not a point of order ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

Ms C MURRAY: ... I would like to ask ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members!

Ms C MURRAY: ... the hon member a question, would he take a question?

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! There is a point of order. Hon member Murray?

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, it is not a point of order. I would like to ask if the hon member would like to take a question? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, are you prepared to take the question? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, we are dealing here with ideological debates [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Yes or no ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... at a totally different level? I cannot take those type ...[Interjections.]



The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed – order, hon members! Hon members, order. Hon member Sayed [Interjections.] ... hon members [Interjections.] ... order, hon members, there is a member on the floor.

Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: [Inaudible] Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Can you just please put on your microphone. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Would the hon member Sayed take a question from me? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed?

The PREMIER: Or is he scared? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members! [Interjections.]

Hon member Sayed, are you prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, clearly I have hit the neoliberal nerve. Thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed is not prepared to take a question.

Hon member Sayed, you can continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Can I continue? [Interjections.]

Our former Community Safety MEC, Leonard Ramatlakane, heeded this call by President Mbeki when he launched the Bambanani Against Crime strategy in 2003, with the endorsement of the 25 000 community members. [Interjections.] The achievements of the Bambanani Against Crime ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... initiative [Interjections.] with the backing of the strong and capable Premier Ebrahim Rasool ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... speaks for itself.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! Yes! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The ANC calls for the reinstatement of ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... the community Bambanani volunteers ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... who act as both the eyes, ears and as the first line of defence of the communities.

An HON MEMBER: Ja-ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Towards the end of his tenure as the Cape Town Mayor, hon Dan Plato attempted to reintroduce certain aspects of Bambanani in the City and he must be commended for that, hon Plato.

An HON MEMBER: Ja! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: But hon Plato sadly was blocked by the DA administration and DA establishment.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Even his Walking Bus Programme has now been scrapped as the DA crushes any semblance of community empowerment.

Hon Speaker, the Premier repeats frivolous calls to devolve policing functions to the province. This is part of the broader agenda of the Cape exit which the DA has now joined, [Interjections.] which hon Leader of the Opposition has spoken to.

Premier Winde's Government has failed to ensure that there is accessibility, adequate lighting and sufficient CCTV cameras in crime hotspot areas, yet the Premier wants more policing powers. [Interjections.]

In his maiden speech as the Premier he said that we have put R5 million in funding for CCTV technology. The Premier must come clean on what has happened to that promise. [Interjections.]

The crime stats shared earlier exposes the failures of the Premier's so-called Safety Plan.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: He has put my friend, hon member Allen, at risk ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... and setting him up for failure. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: We always maintain that the plan will fail ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... as long as it does not address the causative factors of crime and the need to address the environmental design.

MEC Bredell, as the MEC for Local Government, has failed to ensure that there is lighting in townships, that municipalities are doing that, that there is more CCTV cameras. Yet the weak Premier Winde takes no action against Bredell.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Never!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The Safety Plan is non-existent in rural areas. [Interjections.] It was confirmed to us by provincial community safety officials on our oversight visit in Calitzdorp two weeks ago. [Interjections.] Instead millions of rands are allocated to J P Smit for parallel activities which are not even accounted for in this House.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, yesterday the Premier conveniently tried to find scapegoats for his Government's failure to deal ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... with the extortion Mafia syndicate that is tormenting the province. He resorts to scapegoating because he knows full well that this DA-led City of Cape Town promotes these syndicates by awarding lucrative tenders to companies linked to known gang bosses. We all know who is linked to those companies. [Interjections.]

It is also alleged that MEC Maynier's Education Department awarded three security tenders in Delft to companies linked to a known gang leader. [Interjections.]

It is the same DA whose councillors in the City depose affidavits in courts pleading for lenient sentences for known gangsters. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, when security tenders for schools are allegedly awarded to gangsters, then naturally schools will be unsafe [Interjections.] breeding grounds for criminals.

As the Premier left the podium yesterday we saw footage of a learner at Cedar High School in Mitchells Plain being attacked by gangsters inside of the school premises. [Interjections.] Instead of supporting gangsters the Premier's Government ought to involve communities in school safety.

Hon Speaker, the Premier showered my good friend Education MEC with praises for learner placements and matric results. The weak Premier Winde is not in sync with reality.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, so true! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Whilst I have appreciated the transparency of MEC Maynier, it is important to note that our province recorded the lowest increase of 0,2% from 81,2% in 2021 to 81,4% in 2022 and thereby dropping to the fourth place. This was never seen when hon Dugmore was MEC [Interjections.], when hon member Yusuf Gabru was MEC. [Interjections.]

With four districts obtaining a pass rate ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... below 80%. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The situation at Heathfield High School where the pass rate decreased from 84% in 2020 to 61,1% in 2022 is a cause for concern. [Interjections.] The school has descended into chaos since WCED unfairly dismissed our hero ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... principal Wesley Newman and continues to waste millions of public funds on his persecution.

Colleen Titus of the Action Committee is present here in the audience. Whilst millions are spent to prosecute principal Newman ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... the Department is protecting the acting principal of De Kruin Secondary School in Touwsrivier who is accused



of mismanagement and nepotism. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, over 1 400 and possibly more learners are not yet placed in our schools. Contrary to the Premier's assertion most parents of these learners applied correctly and timeously and were rejected at numerous schools. [Interjections.] Contrary to the Premier's secessionist and racist assertion, many of these learners are born in the Western Cape and not the Eastern Cape. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The WCED is yet to account for the placement of over 8 500 learners who requested transfers to other schools for Grades 2 to Grade 7 and Grade 9 to Grade 12. The fact that Premier Winde and MEC Maynier maintain that this is not a crisis, further illustrates the DA scant regard for the development of the poor and working class in our province.

Whilst MEC Maynier claims to have placed 98% of learners, [Interjections.] his Department does not say where these learners are placed. It is in the already overcrowded schools in our disadvantaged communities.

An HON MEMBER: Jôh!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: This is while former model C schools

enjoy the DA's protection to keep learners from disadvantaged backgrounds out of schools and to keep class sizes well below the ratio of 1:35.

- 78 learners are crammed into a classroom in Calitzdorp High.
- At Excelsior Primary we have got 58 learners in a class.
- At Kayamandi Primary in Stellenbosch we have got 60 learners in a class and the list goes on.

We do not see this at Rustenburg Girls, [Interjections.] we do not see this at Westerford.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: We reiterate that no public school in the province should be allowed to have classes below 35. The Premier must direct MEC Maynier to instruct all former model C schools with 20 learners in a class to increase class sizes so that they can take more learners.

We reiterate our demand for a uniform admissions policy in the province to prevent elitist SGBs from randomly rejecting learners. This is what the BELA Bill, which the DA and its right-wing partners of Afriforum are opposing.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: This is what is currently happening at Hoërskool Oudtshoorn where the principal and governing body refused to

enrol African learners who come from feeder primary schools. Hon Mvimbi has highlighted this issue, and sadly political pressure is allegedly being placed on senior WCED officials to allow the principal to do as he pleases. Officials want to do the right thing, but they are being misdirected.

Hon Speaker, the learner transport crisis both in the Metro and rural areas has been allowed to blow out of proportion by the weak Premier. We see no meaningful engagement with stakeholders. Critical meetings are postponed on the eleventh hour. We know if maybe the Speaker was still there as the MEC the situation may have been different.

This Government is aware of the challenge since last year and has failed to act because these are the lives of the poor and the working class.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, can I please ask that you conclude.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: An amicable solution needs to be found. It is the Premier's fault that learners of Mfuleni and Khayelitsha cannot attend school. As I conclude ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed, please take your seat.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... as we approach 2024 let us unite  
[Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please take your seat, your time has expired. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

Hon member Sayed, please take [Interjections.] ... Can I just ask that the hon member [Interjections.] – hon members [Interjections.] ... hon members, hon members, there is a member on the floor.

Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Yes, thank you very much, Hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, may I please ask that you [Interjections.] advise Hansard, because whilst Minister, or rather hon member Sayed [Interjections.] was doing his address, the hon member Windvogel was contravening, I believe, Rule 59 by saying that, "You are criminals." [Interjections.]

So will you kindly revert to the House in that regard, please, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I will study Hansard and revert back to the House.

Can I just appeal to the members in the gallery and our guests to not participate in the sitting of the House. If we can please ask for your indulgence. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

Thank you hon members. Order, members! I [Interjections.] ... order, hon members.

I now see the Minister, Minister Meyer.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agb Speaker, agb lede van hierdie Huis, inwoners van die Wes-Kaap, kollegas in hierdie Kabinet.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, hon members of this House, residents of the Western Cape, colleagues in this Cabinet.]

Firstly I want to greet two outstanding public representatives in Mitchells Plain. Thank you for your presence here, DA councillors from the City of Cape Town.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agb Speaker, hoop is magteloos [Tussenwerpsels.] – agb Speaker, hoop is magteloos, kragteloos [Tussenwerpsels.] as dit nie op dae en aksie ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, hope is helpless [Interjections.] – hon Speaker, hope is helpless, powerless [Interjections.] if it is not built... [Interjections.]

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

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: ... gebou is nie.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... on deeds and action.]

The SPEAKER: ... please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Hon ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No, he knew I was going to stand up.

The SPEAKER: ... Mackenzie, is that a point of order?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Yes, it is. Hon Speaker, my colleague there, Khalid Sayed, referred to my colleagues as gangsters. He must withdraw that immediately and apologise. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members [Interjections.] ... hon members, there is a point of order.

Hon member Sayed, did you refer to any member in this House as a gangster?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I did not refer to any member in this House as a gangster, nor did I refer to anyone in the gallery as a gangster. You can listen to Hansard.

The hon member Mackenzie must not get too excited here. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please take your seat.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: We know that he wants to prove a point. Let him rather [Interjections.] just listen, please, man.

The SPEAKER: Alright.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I think that would be best. He is speaking ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, I see you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I am proud and deeply proud of those two members of the Democratic Alliance in Mitchells Plain.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: They are hon people, they are my friends, but more importantly, they are servants of the people. [Interjections.]

†Agb Speaker:

"Hoop is magteloos, dit is kragteloos as dit nie op daad en aksie gebou is nie, nie 'n werkwoord is nie, nie 'n vierletter kragwoord is nie. Daad is soos sade en hoop is die lote. Werp jou brood op die water en die hoop beskaam nie."

So skryf die joernalis Susan Booysen onlangs.

Geagte Speaker, landbou is die hoop en dit is nie magteloos nie en dit is ook nie kragteloos nie, want landbou is veerkragtig want 'n boer maak 'n plan.

[Hon Speaker:

"Hope is helpless, it is powerless if it is not built on deeds and action, is not a verb, not a four-letter power word. Deeds are like seeds and hope is the sprouts. Cast your bread on the waters for after many days you will find it again."

Such wrote the journalist Susan Booysen recently.

Hon Speaker, agriculture is the hope and it is not helpless and it is also not powerless, because agriculture is resilient because "n boer maak 'n plan".]

Hon Speaker, this misguided belief by some that they can hoodwink our people into holding onto an elusive, intangible idea vaguely described as hope will be shattered in 2024. In the Western Cape hope is more than a



wish. [Interjections.] It is a power capable of steering our destiny and yesterday the Premier steered our destiny in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, agriculture likewise is steering the destiny of the Western Cape and if there are matters that are concerning to members of Parliament, I will be taking that matter up as per the hon member of the GOOD party. Nothing of that sort must happen under my watch. [Interjections.]

The resourcefulness of the agricultural sector backs this up. COVID-19 demonstrated that what lies behind the success of the agricultural sector are the workers, the producers, our commodity organisations and our partners. They are the warriors of hope in the Western Cape and by the way "hope", hon members from the EFF, stands for higher opportunities for people to excel. It only happens in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, let me address you now directly. That is the point he wants to raise. [Interjections.] Sorry, I apologise ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... I will now direct you directly.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister .. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... the resourcefulness  
...[Interjections.]

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

Hon Deputy Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, no, I am glad that hon Doctor  
[Interjections.] has noted that what he has done is wrong. Mine was to put  
that on record. [Interjections.] He cannot speak directly to the members of  
the EFF, that is condescending. He must speak through you. [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can I please remind you to speak through the  
Chair.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I now speak through you.

I want to thank the EFF for catching out ANC Ministers sleeping in Parliament in the National Assembly.

An HON MEMBER: Well done!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you to them.

An HON MEMBER: Well done!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, the Western Cape [Interjections.] is a place of hope. It is a place of resourcefulness.

During COVID-19, the outbreak in March 2020 in South Africa ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... it resulted [Interjections.] in significant economic disruptions. The lockdown measures [Interjections.] halted economic operations and the movement of people.

In addition, hon Speaker, the pandemic exposed also the vulnerability of the international supply chains and the domestic food systems. Throughout this period the agricultural sector continued to create optimism. Optimism fuelled

with enthusiasm and inspired men and women within the industry to spread the message of hope across 129 000 square kilometres in the Western Cape.

Our worries of hope challenges the pessimists amongst us on becoming optimist. They dared us to maintain a gentle determination that will allow us to focus on potential alternatives and find solutions to adversity, but yesterday the Premier gave new momentum. [Interjections.] He put in urgency into that suggestions of finding possible alternatives.

There must be urgency. You cannot sleep in Parliament when the lights are off. [Interjections.] People want urgency in the National Assembly, but the Ministers are sleeping. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, allow me to demonstrate ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... the power of hope when it is backed by resourcefulness, resilience and respect. What have we done?

We gave a stipend to restore the dignity and brought much relief during COVID-19, specifically to the wine industry agri-tourism because this is a vibrant sector, the third most exported products from the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

In the words of my Head of the Department, Dr Mogale Sebopetsa, and I quote [Interjections.], he said:

"We recognise that the major portion of the industry's revenue is generated from domestic wine sales. In addition, smaller and black-owned wineries and brands heavily rely on sales channels such as tasting rooms and the extended hospitality offering. For this reason we deemed it critical to support the industry tangibly."

In response from the industry and its partners, wine tourism and agriculture in the Western Cape, we allocated R12 million for wine tourism worker stipend so that the workers can have an income for the three months and so ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... we welcome this suggestion that has happened because we protected 1 362 jobs in this industry.

In addition, hon Speaker, we helped 254 wineries to survive the financial restraints caused by this lockdown and other trade restrictions.

So we gave R3 000 stipend for those people working in the wine industry, in the distilleries, for three months R3 000 and that saved jobs specifically during the festive, bleak season. [Interjections.]

The difference the wine tourism stipend made to the sector has become even more apparent over time as the world gradually exited from the pandemic.

When other tourism industries have battled crippling staff shortages in the wake of COVID-19, our wineries were able to retain most of their permanent wine tourism workers and why is this important, hon Speaker? Because in the Western Cape we are the home of 98% of South Africa's wine, it is what you find, the wine cellars here in the Western Cape, employing 40 000 people, impacting on 250 000 people in terms of personal livelihoods, but Hon speaker, I have also introduced, as you know, a one home, one garden project.

People who have never went hungry must not shout here in this room. Another consequence of this pandemic and the various levels of lockdown was temporary and permanent jobs, sometimes leaving households without an income and therefore with no food on the table. I had raised this idea of a one home, one garden campaign to address food insecurity in the province even before COVID-19. We made funds available for about 1 800 gardens per year.

Hon Speaker, you will be pleased to know that we are now expanding it more to about 5 000 a year. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

In addition to having access to healthy, boosting vegetables, it is also evident that home gardening was also relaxing, stimulating during that difficult

period. During my visit to these home gardens I have witnessed teamwork, [Interjections.] joy and enthusiasm and moments of absolute fun in the families.

In addition, through these gardens ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... we saw the motto ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... "For the Love of Agriculture" in action. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Communities ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, this period we also gave support and lend a hand to small black-owned wineries.

Hon Speaker, Wendy Peterson, the operations manager at the South African

Wine Industry Transformation Unit, highlighted the industry went into saving mode to save businesses and people when the lockdown struck.

Hon Speaker, Pat Marran knows that black-owned brands and farm owners had worked hard over the years to stay abreast and sustainable in an ever challenging industry. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, [Interjections.] – hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: He knows that.

The SPEAKER: [Interjections.] Please take your seat, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chairperson, it is the hon Pat Marran, not "Pat Marran".

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: The hon Pat Marran ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: He must [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... knows how great work that we are doing in this Department ...[Interjections.]



An HON MEMBER: He does not know! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... hon Pat Marran is on record that he appreciates that this Department is the only one that injects hope in South Africa. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... hope is real here in the Western Cape, [Interjections.] that is why we have also allocated R13,5 million available to save the wine industries during COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, I have just yesterday spoken...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, we are already now the only province that provides hope for agri workers. The only province with an agri worker competition. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, one of our leading people in the province in agriculture is called Nigel Claassen. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Nigel Claassen ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can I please ask that you conclude?  
[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I think I must conclude.  
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: And I think I must conclude  
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I think I want to conclude, hon  
Speaker, because people must know what is the situation. [Interjections.]

The ANC incompetence ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... the ANC ideology ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... and the ANC corruption ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... is the reason the loadshedding in South Africa. [Interjections.] This is the corruption ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Minister, please take your seat, your time has expired. [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, your time has expired. [Interjections.] Hon Minister, please take your seat, your time has expired. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, thank you for recognising me, despite the fact that the hon Doctor did not want to sit down.

Just to indicate, hon Speaker, I am not sure whether you were keeping [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members, there is a member on the floor, there is a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Ja. Hon Speaker, so clearly they are impatient. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, can you please raise your point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Yes, Chair, I would like to continue.

Two issues here. The one issue is I do not know whether [Interjections.] our timekeeping was wrong or yours ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please take your seat. [Interjections.]  
Hon member Sayed, please take your seat.

Hon member Nkondlo, that is crossing the line. [Interjections.] Can you please adhere to the process of parliamentary process. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: You crossed the line, ja. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Chair ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, hon member Sayed, I was addressing the House.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I want to just conclude.

The SPEAKER: Alright. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, thank you.

The time that was allocated to the Doctor was nine minutes, [Interjections.] but he spoke for 13 minutes. That is number one, but that is fine, but more importantly on the basis of precedence, on the basis of precedence [Interjections.] and I may be corrected on the first one, it just an issue that I have raised ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... the second one, the second ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... point of order is on the basis ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Hon Speaker, on which – that is not a point of order, hon Speaker.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... of precedence. In this particular House...can the Chief Whip sit down, I am busy...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: This is not a point of order. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Not while I am busy. We never interrupt ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... when they are doing a point of ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP: Can they not tell that is not a point of order?

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: You are not the Speaker, this is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... Chief Whip, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... the Speaker, respect the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, can you please ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Ja, can I conclude?

The SPEAKER: Yes, can you please conclude ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Can I conclude? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: But I cannot conclude if members are...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Members! [Interjections.] Hon member Bakubaku-Vos and the members on my right, can you please [Interjections.], there is a member on the floor on a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The hon Minister Meyer has stood up with a poster ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He is the Speaker not you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... in this particular House just after the MEC Fritz debacle. ANC MPLs also had posters and it was deemed to be incorrect. Can you please rule on that matter?

An HON MEMBER: Now you are allowing it. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: When the Hon Minister stood up his time has expired and I have then at that point muted the mic of the Minister.

So Hansard will reflect that. I see the hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon members, it is your right. Hon Speaker, I want you to rule on this. Do those who speak have more rights to those who demand to listen? Are we going to protect the rights of people to speak here, shout and not respect the rights of those who came here to listen so that we can respond? How do you weigh up these two rights? Must I sit here and waste my time, hon Speaker?

You are a new Speaker and in this House new members are given the privilege of speaking uninterrupted if it is a maiden speech. You are a maiden Speaker [Interjections.] and they should give you that same right. [Interjections.]



The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. [Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon member Marais, for that.

Hon members, can I please ask that you respect the decorum of the House. We have members in the gallery and we have citizens listening to these replies. Can I please ask for your indulgence. I have in the beginning stated that interjections are allowed, but please do so respectfully. That is the nature of the beast of Parliament and we come here with different opinions and different suggestions, but do so respectfully.

Can I please that we now continue with the business of the day. I now see hon member Cassim and hon ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Can you please rise when you want to raise a point of order. Can you stand, please.

An HON MEMBER: No, I thought maybe the Rule is I must lift my hands and then you give me a permission to stand up, then I stand up. I do not want to just stand up without you ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No, can you please stand up in order for me to recognise you.

An HON MEMBER: Okay, no. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

I must actually thank you for being so much very fair, hon Speaker, because for the first time I had a Speaker saying, actually being able to call both sides of the House without any form of discrimination that if we are wrong that must be called on both sides, but one issue I wanted to raise, hon Speaker, I thought that you are going to speak on or rule on the issue of this poster.

We know in previous sittings we were told in no uncertain terms that posters are not allowed into the House [Interjections.] and then that was actually referred to members of the Provincial Legislature of the African National Congress.

We have now seen the Minister taking out a poster in the House. We would like to actually get a ruling in that regard.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, thank you very much. [Interjections.] I have already, I have already made a comment or ruling on that. The Minister's time has expired. I have asked the Minister to take his seat at that point.

So everything thereafter will not be recorded. Can we please continue with the business of the day.

I now see hon member Cassim. This is hon member Cassim's maiden speech and as is custom in this House we will allow the hon member to deliver her

maiden speech.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Cassim. Hon member Bakubaku-Vos – my apologies, hon member Cassim.

Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, is that a point of order?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes, but I want a clarity from the Speaker.

You are saying you mute his mic. So you are giving us a permission to bring our posters as long as we are quiet if you are doing that?

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: We will bring our posters and we would not speak. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, I have already given my ruling on the point of order raised. That is not a point of order. We have a member that is about to deliver her maiden speech. Can we please allow the member to continue.

Hon member Cassim, I now see you.

Hon member Klaas, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Mr T KLAAS: We ask you that we are here to deliver the speech for the province. Please give us a chance. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Klaas. Your point is well noted.

Hon member Cassim, let us see for the third time. [Interjections.]

I now see the hon Cassim for her maiden speech.

Ms A CASSIM: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, there was no true account given during yesterday's State of the Province Address of what is actually happening here in the Western Cape and he spoke lots of grandstanding and blaming, the usual mentality of the DA here in the Western Cape.

So it is very sad to know that almost 15 years later this DA-led Government still fails to properly address some of the most critical challenges faced by our people here in the Western Cape.

So let the EFF give you, hon Premier, a true account of what is actually happening here in this province. Let the EFF address the state of

landlessness, homelessness and joblessness of the poor and the working class, among other critical issues that this DA-led Government continuously failed to address.

So, hon Premier, grandstanding on 2 000 housing units will not have any impact on the challenges of housing and that is of hundreds of thousands of other poor people who are still homeless, landless and more so on the housing waiting list in the Western Cape. Housing should have been priority number one, but we need to continuously remind ourselves why this DA has failed to deliver and why they have not improved on the living conditions of the people in the Western Cape, because, hon Speaker, they have never really prioritised housing for the poor to ensure both black and even poor white people in this province are given lives of dignity.

Informal settlements will continue to mushroom under this DA administration as the poor are desperate for shelter, but are continuously faced with bullets and evictions instead of deliverance of houses, which is not prioritised once again here in this DA-led Government in the Western Cape province.

Hon Premier, you said that police are not always doing their job and removing the so-called illegal occupants. We all know majority of the poor people are black people and you said that they are stealing land and the rights of others, as you said yesterday which, by the way, is a very rich word coming from a colonist descendant, but it is obvious that many of these policemen and women themselves, as well as their families, are landless and

on a housing waiting list themselves because of the original illegal occupants who showed up on SA shores in the 1600s to colonise it.

But as the EFF we will no longer wait for the lacklustre DA to address the issue of land and to respond to the housing backlog of this province and therefore the EFF in the Western Cape will embark on its own programmes to identify vacant land to ensure that this Provincial Government starts taking housing seriously and they should also release a list of all vacant land which is suitable for housing purposes, because land is available, lots of it, all across the province. There is housing vouchers as well and there is no reason for any delay and there is no reason for our poor people to be waiting on housing waiting lists.

There is also absolutely no need to only speak about housing opportunities when it comes to election time. In the Western Cape we are also continuously hampered with apartheid spatial divide where the apartheid philosophy of separate development still prevails. Land should be made available in more affluent suburbs like Constantia, Stellenbosch and other fancy areas, instead of sending our poor people to underprivileged areas like Mitchells Plain and Philippi where people are already suffering, so which means you are sending them to an area where they will suffer much more than what they already are.

This is evident that there is a continuous apartheid spatial divide that seeks to keep the poor blacks as far from wealthier and more affluent suburbs in the Western Cape.

So in conclusion, hon Speaker, we know that housing and land will never be prioritised here in the Western Cape, not under this DA administration, and that it is only a government led by the progressive party like the EFF that will restore the dignity of our people, but, hon Speaker, while they are at it and currently useless in this province, let us remind them to start manning up and stop blaming other parties for the failure of this province. [Interjections.]

Our people are suffering. It is simple, hon Speaker, it is simple, hon Premier, just give them the service that they need. Thank you. [Interjections.]  
[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassim.

Thank you, hon members. Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That is from the ANC.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. I now see the hon Minister  
[Interjections.] – order, hon members! Hon Marran.

I now see the hon Minister Fernandez. [Interjections.]

Hon member Marran, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, hon Premier and Cabinet colleagues, hon members of the Provincial Parliament, distinguished guests, members of the media, citizens of the Western Cape, good morning, *goeiemôre, molweni nonke, asalamalekun, shalom.*

In his State of the Province Address yesterday, Premier Winde delivered a message of hope and the fierce urgency of now.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: She has got no disability.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Amidst the announcement of the highest food inflation in South Africa in 14 years, the continuous devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and wave upon wave of rolling blackouts, many citizens are in need of hope now more than ever before.

Hope and urgency also prevails within the Department of Social Development. We are resolute in our commitment to serving the most vulnerable despite the limited resources and budgetary constraints so prevalent in all Government sectors across the board.

Hon Speaker, there is an ever-increasing need for food relief services provided by the Department. Our current budget allocation of about R50 million is disbursed across community nutrition and development centres and community-based organisations. 68 CNDCs and 512 CBOs benefit from



this budget which provides food relief to nearly 183 000 beneficiaries every quarter.

An additional allocation of R25 million has been provisioned to the community-based kitchens and CNDCs for the period of January to March 2023.

Provincial Treasury has allocated R18 million in the coming financial year for capital works on a new shelter in the Cape Town CBD. This project is in partnership with the City of Cape Town to address the urgent need for accommodation for those living on the streets. DSD currently funds 2 398 bed spaces in homeless shelters per day. The New Hope Shelter will bring the total number of DSD sponsored bed spaces to its COVID recovery plan target of 2 500.

Hon Speaker, as the lead Minister on gender-based violence I remain committed to fighting the scourge, both within Government and civil society. I was in Swartland last year with the Premier where the municipality launched a GBV ambassador programme during the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Each one of the 12 ward committees has a trained GBV ambassador, working in a specific ward. Several Mayors who attended the event expressed an interest in establishing similar programmes in the municipalities. This whole of government and whole of society approach are what is needed to bolster the fight against gender-based violence.

There are eight Thuthuzela Care Centres across the province with the centre at Victoria Hospital being expanded. The Thuthuzela Care Centres are in the domain of the National Prosecuting Authority I might add. The expansion of the Stellenbosch centre is underway. There are 26 GBV shelters across the province and a planned one coming to the Overberg region soon.

To date approximately 18 000 individuals have sought and received psychosocial support from the Thuthuzela Care Centres and DSD supported GBV shelters.

In his address Premier Winde mentioned the Western Cape Government's Break the Cycle campaign. I believe it is the start of an important movement where boys and men feel comfortable in seeking help should they have unprocessed trauma from their childhood, to avoid them expressing their trauma through violence.

We are taking this campaign to Delft and other GBV hotspots, as well as schools, libraries, NPOs, communities, municipalities, amongst others. [Interjections.] There is still a lot to improve on in our attempts to combat gender-based violence and femicide in our province and in South Africa. We must be intentional and act with urgency to arrest the scourge.

Over the next few months it is envisaged that crime statistics on gender-based violence and femicide, data from the Thuthuzela care centres, protection order data and DSD victim support data, will be collated to

generate more complete datasets on GBV prevalence and rates in hotspots and across this province, and in this way we will be able to implement targeted data-driven interventions to break the cycle. [Interjections.]

Our Government is trying to assist cash strapped NGOs in the sector, but the saving grace for these institutions has and will be the private sector. Recently the Department was able to allocate an additional R1.6 million in addition to the R62 million already allocated to the Victim Empowerment Programme for the 2022/2023 financial year. This is one of the only programmes in the Department that did not experience budget cuts.

Hon Speaker, it is sad that the South African Social Security Agency, which is legislated to render social relief of distress, is completely dysfunctional.

An HON MEMBER: Shocking! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Where SASSA fails DSD steps in to assist where it can with limited resources. [Interjections.] This whilst fulfilling its statutory requirements. We are constantly requested to provide answers to grant beneficiaries who have found no joy in SASSA. Answers that we do not have despite our best efforts in drawing it out of National Social Development, Minister Lindiwe Zulu. [Interjections.]

*[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]*

Hon Deputy Speaker, may I ask for protection, please? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order please. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker, I have recently ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... I have recently conducted unannounced visits to SASSA offices in different areas to see what is happening on the ground and what I found was disturbing.

However, what is more disturbing is what is playing out at the South African Post Office and the Postbank and as a Provincial Government we continuously have to stand in the ever-widening gap left by our national counterparts, in an effort to support the most vulnerable in our province.

Entities such as Eskom, Home Affairs and SASSA and so the list continues.

An HON MEMBER: Jôh!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, however there is hope as a government. We have a recovery plan that instils hope and is being rolled out with urgency.

Departments work transversely to leverage synergies and optimise resources. The well-being workstream comprising of health, education, agriculture, DCAS and DSD is such an example.

Where corruption in the highest echelons of National Government has led to widespread disillusionment exacerbated by rolling blackouts, many are looking to the Western Cape as a beacon of hope and light. We are deeply grateful to civil society, all stakeholders ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... and all concerned citizens who have joined us to create a Western Cape that prioritises the well-being and dignity of its citizens. [Interjections.]

A province that epitomises good governance, a province that is responsive, caring and works for you. I thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

I now recognise the hon member Christians.

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

In the State of the Province Address the Premier spoke about the energy crisis that this country ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... and the province are facing. [Interjections.]

Now this is a crisis. So the Premier has mentioned that this is a national competency, but, Premier, if we are going to leave this to the ANC we are going to have blackouts all the time.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: The ANC has been declared redundant. [Interjections.]

The ANC ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... has [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Take your seat, please, hon member Christians. [Interjections.] Please stop the clock.

Hon members [Interjections.] – hon members on my left side here [Interjections.] – hon member Bans, hon member Windvogel, hon member –

no, it is not you, my apologies, it is your colleague. [Interjections.]

Hon members, hon member Christians is right at the back of the room and I struggle to hear him. If we could please just afford him his short period, he has only got a short amount of time [Interjections.] and he has to get through his speech.

You may proceed, hon member Christians.

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

As I said the ANC has failed this country in everything they have touched and the voter next year will give them, according to polls, only 39%. [Interjections.] So the ANC has been declared redundant and will be absolute ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: ... next year. [Interjections.]

Now, hon Premier ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Now [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed ...[Interjections.]

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Now, hon Premier [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon member Christians.

Hon members, you know what, we are getting quite close to lunchtime. So we are going to be delayed and we have people that have to observe their faith. Please, hon members, let us get through this debate. [Interjections.] As you have all had your – hon members, I am addressing the House.

As you have all had an opportunity to debate please allow the ACDP their right. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: .... You may proceed, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As I said, the ANC has failed this country in everything they have touched and the voter, next year, will give them, according to the polls, only 39%. [Interjections.] So, the ANC has been declared redundant and will be ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!



Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...obsolete next year. Our hon Premier.  
[Interjections.] [Applause.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Now ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Now, hon Premier ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Christians. Hon members, you know what? We are getting quite close to lunchtime, so we are going to be delayed and we have people that have to observe their faith. Please, hon members, let us get through this debate. [Interjections.] As you have all had you ...[Interjection.] Hon members, I am addressing the House. As you have all had an opportunity to debate, please allow the ACDP their right. [Interjections.] You may proceed, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, now, my question to the hon Premier is: the hon Premier referred to the Energy Resilience Council that is busy finding solutions to respond to the energy crisis. Now, hon Deputy Speaker, what the ACDP would like to know is the timeframes. When will the Western Cape be free of loadshedding? When will the Western Cape be free of the ANC's Eskom? So, as we know,

hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...that small businesses had to close down. [Interjections.] Small businesses are struggling. What is this Government doing in order to assist small business?

Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.] the criminals also now have a timetable of loadshedding, so they know when communities are most vulnerable and break-ins occur. So, I am asking the hon Premier, at least can we have the lights, the streetlights, on and vacant fields – because that is where people go to work, come back from work and they are robbed, and houses are being burgled. So, is that maybe an option that we look at, at least street lighting in the most vulnerable communities, to stay on?

Hon Deputy Speaker, our province: education is still unequal. It is still unequal. I just want to give the hon Premier an example. There are success stories, but there are communities that are still struggling when it comes to education. Just on Tuesday, we were on an oversight visit in Retreat. There were 109 children who entered matric. Only 99 wrote, but out of that only 58 were promoted, meaning 41 were not promoted. A pass rate of 58%. But what is most shocking is that of the 15 people in the class sat down for Mathematics, none of them got 50%. The same with Accounting. Accounting: 17 entered the exam, only 15 wrote and nobody got over 50%.

So, that is why I say that education is still, in disadvantaged communities, still a major factor. [Interjections.] But, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to say the following ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We know that the HOD of Education appoints principals, but there is nepotism and there is favouritism when it comes to the appointment of deputy principals and HODs. That is a major, major problem ...[Applause.] and I will bring it to the attention of the hon MEC who was helpful in the past. I will bring it to the hon MEC to investigate these matters. [Interjections.] So, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...another problem that we have as the ACDP are the SGBs that write down the policies for admissions. Just yesterday, I was again with parents ...[Interjections.] on the phone. They cannot get into schools. Manenberg learners cannot get to Wynberg schools. Bonteheuwel learners cannot get there because the subject choices are not there. We want our learners to thrive, but they cannot thrive because the opportunities are not there. So, I want that at least to be addressed, hon Deputy Speaker, that the admissions policies at schools be altered to accommodate those parents that want to give their children a better future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP also calls. Now, SAPS is a problem because the Province is giving millions and millions of rands for the safety of our people, but the ACDP yet again, is on record and I am calling for the devolution of powers to the provinces. [Applause.] We are calling for the devolution of powers. This is not politics. This is the ANC playing with peoples' lives. [Interjections.] This is not about politics. [Interjections.] This is about the safety of our people ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] The ACDP still believes that the solution to the problem is ...[Interjections.] and I want to know from the hon Premier: what are they doing to help our Neighbourhood Watches? [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock, please. Take a seat, hon member. Over to you, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Is hon Christians willing to take a question on the coalition, right-wing coalition?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, through me. [Interjections.] Over to you?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not take questions from the kindergarten of the ANC. [Interjections.] I do not take questions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed. [Interjections.] Proceed – stop the clock. Stop the clock! [Interjections.] Stop the clock. [Interjections.] Hon members, one minute. [Interjections.] Hon members! Hon members, we have guests in the gallery. One minute; one minute. I just want to – I just made sure the clock was stopped. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: that is ageism. The last man in this House to come up with that type of statement on ageism ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, that is not a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...was hon MEC Fritz.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, that is not a point of order ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We all saw what happened to hon MEC Fritz ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit, hon Sayed. That is not a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...after he made that statement to me in

terms of age. This is ageism. It is this ageism ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down, hon Sayed! That is not a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...that is declining the leadership we have.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He must withdraw that statement of ageism.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat! [Interjections.] Alright. Hon Christians, you may proceed. Your time is ticking. [Interjections.] You may proceed.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Minutes? How many minutes do I have left?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): How many minutes? How many minutes do I have left? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have got 46-seconds left.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Okay. Okay, hon Deputy Speaker. His mommy will come and fetch him now.

Hon MEMBERS: No! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Boo!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, proceed. [Interjections.] Hon Christians, your time is ticking. [Interjections.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Jy moet na jou ouetehuis toe gaan!

[An HON MEMBER: You must go to your old age home!]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Jy behoort in die ouetehuis! Jy behoort in die ouetehuis!

[An HON MEMBER: You belong in the old age home! You belong in the old age home!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, take your seat. [Interjections.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Jy behoort in die ouetehuis!

[An HON MEMBER: You belong in the old age home!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Go and retire; go and retire. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon members! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is what you need to do.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. I cannot recognise the hon Leader of the Opposition if you are making so much noise. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: In the old age home. The Mugabes must go and retire, †klaar! [finished!] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your – hon Dugmore’s hand is up. Hon Dugmore, I am going to recognise you because you are the only one who has put your hand up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order. Would it be in order for me to propose that you



investigate the ageist comments of the hon member Christians and report back to this House, in whether they contravene a discrimination ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I certainly will do that.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...anti-discrimination provisions in our Constitution.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will certainly check if it basically goes against the Rules, but again, I would like hon Christians to complete his speech. Hon Christians, focus on your speech, then we can have more order in the House.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You may proceed.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Just the hon Premier has mentioned that 300 guns were confiscated in the Western Cape, but we look nationally: there are 3-million guns in the hands of criminals. So, there must be a more concentrated plan to get guns out of the hands of criminals because we know those are the guns that kill. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. [Applause.]

I now recognise the hon Minister Mbombo.

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you. *Sekela somlomo*, the hon Premier of the Western Cape, the Leader of the Opposition, residents and media.

†Molweni. Masiyibulele Inkulumbuso yaseNtshona Kolini ngentetho yakhe egxininise kudanyadanya cimicimi izolo, apho osithwaxa khona wonke umzantzi, ngakumbi oosomashishini, eshiya ikati ilele eziko kumakhaya ngamakhaya.

[Translation: Good day. Let us thank the Deputy Speaker's speech yesterday with regard to loadshedding, a situation that has affected the whole of South Africa, especially how it has affected businesses and income in households.]

The hon Premier's Address reminded us that the Western Cape Government is the only hope for South Africa under the circumstances. [Interjections.] Under the circumstances of high unemployment ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: ...inequality, poverty aggravated by corruption, by blackouts and other pandemics, [Interjections.] such as GBV, the hon Premier reminded us to treat this with urgency ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: ...or else we may have no country left under the circumstances. The country is under the autopilot leadership: no compass, no direction. [Interjections.] South Africa is despondent; South Africa is hopeless. But here in the Western Cape, we refuse to be tagged along this potential State crash created by the National Government. We will ensure we rise above, [Interjections.] do as much as we can †ukuzisa ithemba kubantu abaseNtssona Koloni, [Interjections.]

[To bring hope to the people of the Western Cape.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: The Province of hope, the Province that will remain hopeful even when there is no hope. †Somlomo sekela. [In Health,] when the taps were running dry during the drought, we already had mitigation plans implemented. When COVID-19 came our way, we already had mitigation plans implemented. Now, the lights are out and guess what? We already have it covered. We have got this! This is done by having all hands-on-deck for all the Government departments, using the whole-of-government approach.

Sekela somlomo. Having an unreliable electricity supply is a disaster for the health system. When a patient is seeking admittance to an ICU on mechanical ventilation, sure death will occur if the electricity supply is interrupted. A patient that is in the middle of a surgical intervention can die when the electricity supply is interrupted. The various instruments and

machinery, for example the scans, the ultrasound, the X-rays, the nuclear medicine, all of those instruments in healthcare are very sensitive to operational changes and cannot be switched on and off like one does with a light bulb. Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, there are many lives which are quite literally dependent on an uninterrupted supply of electricity.

Noting that, we are in the process as well of creating patient records and patient encounters that need to be digitalised. And patients will not be able to have access to treatment when we have got these issues around this electricity. Hon Deputy Speaker, when we are confronted with situations of extreme stress and crisis, we innovate and deliver. We never rest on our laurels. [Interjections.] I need not remind this House of the 830 Hospital of Hope beds being built in a record time of only a month. [Interjections.] Our COVID-19 vaccination programme ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: ...our award-winning COVID-19 dashboard and let us not forget the boreholes that were built in healthcare which are currently even being used now for irrigation purposes.

For the longest time, we have identified the risk that loadshedding poses and have already implemented [Inaudible.] strategies to ensure we continue to provide the best healthcare. We have requested about 19 of our hospitals to be exempted from loadshedding, besides the three central hospitals that were

exempted in 2018, which are Red Cross, Groote Schuur and Tygerberg, which have already been implemented. but it is only up to Stage 6. It means if there is Stage 7, the whole of the health facility is gone, gone, gone! We only received exemption for a further five facilities which is the New Somerset, Mitchells Plain, Carl Bremer, Victoria Hospital and George Hospital.

Noting that electricity is a scarce resource. Back in 2015, hon Deputy Speaker, the Department joined the Global Green Hospital initiative where we pledged to reduce our carbon footprint by 10% through the reduction of energy consumption and a further reduction of 20% by 2030. As we know that globally, the health sector is the contributor of carbon and is the one that will actually have a huge impact contributing to the matters of climate change. The 2020 target has already been reached through making changes to the HVAC systems. In 2020 also, sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, the lighting, the heat pumps and the chillers, the digital metering and the ...[Inaudible.] changes by the users of electricity. All those have actually already been implemented. At the Red Cross Hospital alone, we have saved at least R17-million because of this. We remain powerful, even when there is no power.

Furthermore, hon Deputy Speaker, we have been installing UPSes, which is an uninterrupted power supply system, as well as installing and maintaining diesel generators at our hospitals and clinics to ensure we do have power. We have installed electronic systems for staff to log in, reporting on ten levels of diesel within our generators each and every time after loadshedding. Staff are empowered, even when there is no power.

Unfortunately, hon Deputy Speaker, acquiring diesel comes at a huge cost to the Department. Just to highlight it: between 2015/2016 up till now, the 2022 financial year, the Department spent close to R57-million on capital costs for backup supply systems, which needs about R2,4-million every year for maintenance. Additionally, hon Deputy Speaker, in the past year we spent millions on diesel to keep our generators running during the periods of power outages. We are forced to use money that was earmarked for care, to buy diesel. Yes, Aunty Sarah will not get her knee replacement because we need to buy diesel.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this year we have prioritised 12 hospitals, including Beaufort West, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Worcester, to be fitted with photovoltaic plants which will reduce the load by 5-megawatts on the grid. For primary healthcare facilities specifically, we are installing hybrid inverters in about 71 rural clinics. That will cost us about R7-million. By installing these, including the UPSes and strengthening the photovoltaic capacity together with various alternative energy sources, hon Deputy Speaker, we will continue to ensure that every patient receives the care they deserve. Patients must be empowered, even if there is no power.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, I need to note that in the Government when we see a crisis, it becomes an opportunity. The vision cannot be realised only through the work of the Health Department. It needs the whole of Government. It needs everyone. Health is everybody's business. There

are many challenges as is, with increased population, reduced budget, and ...[Inaudible.] burden of disease. We are not perfect. We are not perfect because we are the health sector that works 24-hours, seven days, 365 days in the year. There is no space that we do not work. There is still more to do. There is still more that can be done, but things are improving, and we are bringing hope so that we leave no-one behind. So that we remain powerful ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: ...even when there is no power. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I wanted to also respond about Cuba, but probably, I will do it during the other speeches.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Ja*, thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Deputy Speaker, ...[Inaudible.]. I also want to greet the Metro councillors of the Freedom Front Plus, councillor Paul Jacobson sitting in the gallery and my son, Grant Marais, also a Metro councillor of whom I am very proud. [Applause.]

†Vir die afgelope twee dae het ek aandagtig geluister na die oor en weer

woordewisseling in die Huis. Dit het my met weemoed en mismoedigheid gevul en toe vanoggend het ek weereens, soos altyd, my Bybel geneem vir wysheid en ek kom af op Psalm 127. Dit het my oog gevang en dit sê:

“As die Here die huis nie bou nie, tevergeefs werk dié wat daaraan bou; as die Here die stad nie bewaar nie, tevergeefs waak die wagter.”

[For the past two days I listened attentively to the to and fro exchange of words in the House. It filled me with sadness and despondency and then as always took my Bible this morning for wisdom and I found Psalm 127. It caught my eye and it says:

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain..”]

The SONA was a disastrous non-event because the South African’s State itself is a total disaster. If SOPA means State of National Anarchy, then we must be careful that this Province’s SOPA does not mean State of Provincial Anarchy. I was hoping and wishing that the hon Premier would take centre stage and inspire us by communicating his vision that would arouse us into action in 2023. I hoped that he was going to give us hope, but his speech was more of a report of a very good handyman who fixes and repairs National mistakes. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!



Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): He told us a lot of things about what he did with COVID-19, what he did with this, what he did with that, and he did an excellent job, but that is repair work. You were not repairing the Western Cape faults, we did. You were repairing the mismanagement that happened somewhere else. We want vision.

The ANC was an organisation created by strong, competent leaders, visionary, to serve the people, but it has become an obstacle to anything the people had hoped for. [Interjections.] In 1976 I was at UWC, a law student, and the only thing we heard was ANC, Walter Sisulu, Mandela, and if they come, it will be heaven on earth. We believed that. We were disappointed. We looked at the ANC as our Messiah and even the EFF is disappointed. Do not blame the EFF. They come out of the ANC's Youth League. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): They were taught what they now know  
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible] Messiah.

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Malema said he grew up in the ANC ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, take your seat ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...as a 9-year-old.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, hon Marais. There is a point of order. [Interjections.] Take your seat, hon Marais. Stop the clock. Hon member, what is your point of order?

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): Yes, the EFF was not in the State of Provincial Address.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, hon member. Thank you very much for clarity, but that is not a point of order.

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, you may proceed.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Do not worry, he is still new. He is learning. [Laughter.] Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed. [Interjections.] Hon Marais, your time is ticking.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): A leader should surround himself with people with high intelligence and more skills than he himself has, but our President has surrounded himself with incompetent weak men and women. How can we expect leaders to ...[Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker, how can a R350 ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon member, hon member Marais, where are we?

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...grant be freedom for poor blacks?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

An HON MEMBER: Where are we in ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): How can shacks be freedom ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Are we in the Western Cape ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order hon members!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...for blacks? How can non-water [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order hon members!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...no electricity ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Where are we?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais [Interjections.] please? Hon Marais – hon Marais, take your seat. Take your seat. [Interjections.] Please stop the clock.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Deputy Speaker, in this House ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais? Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...red overalls will not protect you ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, please take your seat! [Interjections.] Hon members, first of all – first of all, hon Marais, please do not talk to your fellow hon members in the House. So, you must ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): They are talking to me!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand. And then, to the ANC [Interjections.] who are talking to you [Interjections.] and to the EFF, hon members [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members! Please, we are

in the debate of words, not of any further action. Hon Marais, please focus on me. You are at the end of the Chamber, and I have to get ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...your eye here.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just, you may proceed.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): At least the National Party, they were wrong, but they looked after their white voters. [Interjections.] Yes, the whites became rich, ...[Interjections.] but the ANC ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...do not look after their own black voters.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down, hon ...[Interjection.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Hulle het ons doodgemaak.

[An HON MEMBER: They killed us.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Yes! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: In our pram.

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): I have to speak so you know what you are saying.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais! Hon Marais, take your seat. Please stop the clock. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: ...who kill our forefathers!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais! Hon Marais, take your seat!  
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Who kill our parents!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Deputy Speaker! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, take your seat. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You kill us!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Let us fight fire with fire! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You kill us!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, take your seat please. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): *Ja!* [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: They kill us!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais! [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): They are stupid, that man. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: They kill us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, I [Interjections.] I cannot talk to them.  
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. [Interjections.] Just sit. First, sit down everybody. I will recognise you. One second, just one. [Interjections.] Settle down. One minute. You are not the only one. Put your hand down. I will – okay. [Interjections.] Hon Marais, sit down. Down!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): *Ja*, I will fight you back. *Ja!* [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. [Interjections.] Hon members, can I have your attention please! Can you all turn around and look here. So, hon Marais, please do not further incite and I do not want you getting that angry. You are an esteemed politician with many years of experience. You know how to handle conflict. I will begin by recognising the hon Sayed if there is a point of order. It went a bit haywire there, but please, hon Sayed, could we just? I will hear you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, thank you. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Jesus!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I do not want to go ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no, no, no! Just one minute, one minute. Hon member, please: we cannot have those profanities in the Chambers. Please? You cannot be saying words like that. I am sorry. There are people who are Christian here.

An HON MEMBER: Which words?



An HON MEMBER: Jesus. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You know exactly what you are saying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no. That was – no, we do not do that because you know, there are people who are religious. [Interjections.] I will go back to the Hansard and review it. [Interjections.] Hon members. Hon members, I am trying to listen to hon Sayed ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You cannot do it ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...and I would like everyone else to keep quiet. Please. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, okay. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, look, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.] Hon Deputy Speaker, look, we respect hon Marais as the father of the House ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: An elder.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...and as an elder, and I think, possibly he got a little bit emotional and said certain things which deep down, he perhaps does not mean. So, I think let us also give him – but I just want to say, maybe in future and he was – we saw the hon Marais, as a point of order. Hon Marais pointed to the hon Klaas [Interjections.] and hon Cassim of the EFF and called them stupid. That, he needs to withdraw. We do not want to fight with him. He is the elder, but maybe just to withdraw that so that we can have progress and we say that ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...with the utmost of respect ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Ja.*

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...for the hon Marais.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed for your very calm words. Hon Marais, I did not hear it at the time. [Interjections.] Wait! Hon members. [Interjections.] Hon members! Hon Marais, did you say that? I did not hear it from here and if you did, would you be willing to withdraw, please?

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): I did say he is stupid, yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And will withdraw it?

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): And I withdraw the word 'stupid'. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member, okay? Any further points of order?

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): *Ja*, I want just to give him a word that she (*sic*) is old. She (*sic*) must not let the sugar [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): Sorry, he. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is fine.

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): He must not let the sugar go ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you for your indulgence. [Interjections.] Hon Marais, are you finally at the end of your speech? I have got 50 ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): No, I am not. But, you know, if a man cannot know I am a 'he', then what is he? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, hon Marais, please may I ask that you do the rest of your speech calmly, without enticing further reaction. Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Okay, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You may proceed.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Former President Bush once said, and I want to quote him:

“We abuse our power when we utilise it for self-gain.”

The Zondo Commission confirmed there is self-gain at play in this country. So now, hon Premier, your national leader is now prepared to co-govern not only at national level, but obviously, he will be prepared to throw in the Western Cape and some Gauteng metros, I suppose, in order to co-govern at a national level. I would like to know if you reply: how do you see your role as being Premier in 2024 if your national leader, Steenhuisen, said he is prepared to form a coalition with the ANC at national level. The ANC are hardened negotiators. They beat Roelf Meyer at Codesa at the negotiating table. They will play child’s play with you. They would say, if you want to co-govern at national level ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...we want to govern ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon member.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...in Gauteng metros and the Western Cape. What will you do?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Will you still be the wolf that marries a sheep, and a sheep thinks his flock is safe?

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

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): No ways.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now recognise the hon Minister Maynier.  
[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you, hon Marais. Either you may leave the Chambers or thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): You will see the ANC and I just ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much ...[Laughter.] I am very happy to hear that. [Applause.] Hon Maynier, hon Minister Maynier, you may proceed. [Interjections.] Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interjections.] The hon Premier is, indeed, correct when he refers to the ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...fierce urgency of 'now' because as we debate in the House today, thousands of learners are being prevented from attending school by a minibus taxi mafia, attempting to muscle in on transport contracts. Parents now find themselves with the terrible choice between keeping their children safe and making sure their education can continue. [Interjection.]

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): Taxis are ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: They should never have had to choose between those two. I share the anger of many parents that are expressed towards the taxi associations with protests being planned ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...against the blockade. Already, in Mfuleni there are reports that parents are stopping the taxis ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Where are [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...from operating [Interjections.] until they end the blockade.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: And I agree with them that such lawlessness ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...by the taxi mafia simply cannot be allowed to continue. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: We have had – we have had very productive meetings with the South African Police Service and they are putting plans of action into place to end this criminality. [Interjections.] Yesterday, I laid a criminal complaint with the SAPS ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...against the minibus taxi associations currently preventing our children from getting to school so that this matter can be investigated, so that the persons responsible can be arrested and so that they can be prosecuted and jailed. [Interjections.] The Western Cape Education Department ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!



The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...will not meet with any minibus taxi associations until they end the blockade and stop terrorising our children and our parents. Our Government is united. We do not and indeed, we will not negotiate with a gun to our head. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Haibo, where are the busses?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I want to thank [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No! Hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I want to ...[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I want to thank our schools [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wait! Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Marran, hon Nkondlo, hon Marran, please? [Interjections.] Hon members ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: Why do you [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because the hon Minister is further down the chambers, it is very difficult to hear him. [Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: Why do you not put him ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am trying to hear him, but you are having a conversation across the way. So, please can first [Interjections.] But you were speaking.

Mr P MARRAN: I did not [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, hon Premier, if I caught the Premier, but you were speaking across. [Interjections.] Okay, alright. I did not hear him, but I – no, you were not.

Mr P MARRAN: You can hear him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members [Interjections.] please! Let us just get through hon Minister Maynier's speech. ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: No, I will ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I want to

thank our schools for the work that they have been doing to cope with the blockade. Earlier this week, I visited Academia Primary School in Khayelitsha where 90% of the learners were absent. The school has been producing work-packs for parents to collect and distribute to keep some semblance of learning going. In one Grade 4 class, half had been absent for the past week. The teachers I spoke to, explained how when learners return, they will need to split them into groups ...[Interjections.] because some of the learners will be ahead of others. [Interjections.] Serious damage has already been done and the blame lands squarely with the minibus taxi associations, no matter what disinformation they spread. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What is needed, needed [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, nothing – nothing, absolutely nothing [Interjections.] can possibly ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...justify the taxi mafia preventing children from attending school. [Interjections.] And nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing can justify ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...criminal extortion and intimidation.

[Interjections.] And it is for that reason, hon Deputy Speaker [Interjections.] it is for that reason that I find it extraordinary, extraordinary, [Interjections.] extraordinary that when a bus is stopped ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon members ...[Interjection.] I think the hon Premier got – the hon Premier got caught in this one too, but I still see two of our ANC members talking to the hon Premier. Hon Premier, you are not allowed to answer them while he is speaking ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...otherwise, I cannot hear anybody. [Interjections.] Hon members, please! I am waiting. [Interjections.] Hon members on the left side. We are ticking quite closely to lunchtime, and we have to get through our debate. So, please may I ask that we have some indulgence? Over to you, hon Minister.

An HON MEMBER: We gave them ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] What I find extraordinary – extraordinary – is that when a bus is stopped, when a bus is stopped and children are offloaded, what is the Official Opposition's response? [Interjections.] Silence! [Interjections.] When a parent ...[Interjections.] When a parent is prevented ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

An HON MEMBER: We want [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order. The hon Maynier is misleading the House. I have personally. I have got WhatsApps where when these incidents started to happen ...[Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...I have sent it to his HOD and to everyone in his Department.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand, but that is not for me to rule on here and that is not a point of order. You may proceed. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I find it extraordinary ...[Interjections.] I find it extraordinary that what the hon member says is that when a bus is stopped and children are offloaded, his response is to send a WhatsApp. What is that? [Interjections.] What I find ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: What I find extraordinary ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...when a parent [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Minister [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: A parent ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...is prevented from driving a child to school [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Minister. Please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon members [Interjections.] Hon members! Hon member, hon Bakubaku-Vos, can I have your attention. Can I just not have the constant interjection so that we can all just hear everything that the hon Minister is saying. Again, time is ticking. Over to you, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. When a parent is prevented from driving their child to school, what is the Official

Opposition's response? [Interjections.] Silence! [Interjections.] When a bus driver is threatened ...[Interjections.] when a bus driver is threatened [Interjections.] what is the Official Opposition's response? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Silence! [Interjections.] When a teacher [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...a teacher has half of her class absent [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...take your seat, please. [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 40 ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, there is someone that is addressing me. Please, hon Nkondlo and hon Mvimbi. Hon Mvimbi? Constant running. Just one minute, please. Over to you, hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interjections.] I rise in terms of Rule 40 as well as Rule 42 [Interjections.] I cannot even hear the hon Minister of Education in terms of interruption and the maintenance of order of this House. [Interjections.] We are dealing with a very important topic. There are parents who are listening in ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...who want to know what the Education Department is doing, and I cannot even hear the hon Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): So, I am not sure if the people on the screen [Interjections.] can even hear the hon Minister. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, can the almost – almost Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance [Interjections.] maybe shed some more light on what, where exactly ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.



The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...is the issue because we can hear the hon MEC.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): There is no disruption to the hon MEC speaking [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. [Interjections.] Hon Sayed, I must admit – thank you very much, hon members. Can I just have your attention, please? I am struggling to hear being right at the end on this side and the hon Minister on that side. And remember, hon Mvimbi, I know you have got a constant running commentary, but that is fine. You can have interjections, but not to the point that I cannot hear the hon Minister. If I can just ask for your indulgence. Hon Minister, you may proceed. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. When a teacher has half her class absent because of a taxi blockade, what is the Opposition's response? Again [Interjections.]: silence! [Interjections.] Even worse, when a learner ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon member Cassim (*sic*), what is your point of order?

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your microphone. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am confused what is being discussed here. Why do you ask a question [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no!

Mr M KLAAS (EFF): The point of order is that you cannot ask a question while you are supposed to deliver the work. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Cassim (*sic*), that is not [Interjections.] hon Cassiem (*sic*), that is not a point of order. You may proceed, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: The hon member obviously thinks he is part of the Official Opposition, which he is not. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Let me come back to my point ...[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I come back to my point, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] When a learner ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...is hiding in a footwell [Interjections.] when a learner is hiding in a footwell to avoid being seen by criminals and thugs in the taxi association, what is the Opposition's response? [Interjections.] Silence! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Every hon member. [Interjections.] Every hon member of this House should loudly proclaim that the rule of law must be enforced in our province ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...and call for and support an immediate

end to the illegal blockade. [Interjections.] Any deviation from this call will indicate their tacit support for the thugs and criminals in the taxi associations. [Interjections.] And it will indicate their support ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...to the taxi associations' reign of terror and indeed, their terrorism of learners and parents in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] The learners of Khayelitsha ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...are suffering at the hands of the minibus taxi associations and parents are fed up ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...with their illegal actions. It is time for the Official Opposition to break their silence and for them to be clear where they stand. [Interjections.] Do they stand with the rule of law or with the taxi mafia? [Interjections.] The Leader of the Opposition was absolutely right: [Interjections.] this is a crisis. So, how do you explain his absolute silence on this issue? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 30 seconds left. Are you done? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Alright, thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis. [Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, hon Premier!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Al Jama-ah questions where this SOPA serves to advance white rule and paving the way for whites to come from all corners of South Africa, to establish a laager in the Western Cape and in the City of Cape Town and in other municipalities, like Stellenbosch and Drakenstein. We call on the Province [Interjections.] we call on the Province and its municipalities to take heed of the City of Johannesburg's new model of governance which is capturing the imagination ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...which is capturing the imagination of many South Africans. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): The new co-governance structure embraces the manifesto promises of the minority block of parties and the three parties with numbers. [Interjections.] Al Jama-ah invites the hon Premier to take the lead by introducing co-governance in the Western Cape and its municipalities. [Interjections.]

The model of co-governance benefits. The model of co-governance will also give all voters a taste of some of the benefits promised by the members of Legislatures and councillors in power. There must be a soft issue for co-governance, but for the DA it is a matter of the winner takes it all. [Interjections.] This province needs real and good leadership ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...from the hon Premier. [Laughter.] There is no reason why the DA and the ANC and Al Jama-ah, and other parties together, can get devolution of powers in positions held as MEC, Mayor or committee members and members and chairpersons of standing and portfolio committees, and subcouncil chairpersons.

Al Jama-ah says ‘thank you’ to the hon Premier. [Interjections.] Al Jama-ah says ‘thank you’ to the hon Premier for calling on the presidency to declare a State of Disaster on loadshedding. This will urgently bring a new generator to the grid [Applause.] and it looks like the President is listening. It looks like the President is listening. [Interjections.] The President must devolve the emergency powers to the hon Premier, to the Western Cape so the Western Cape can take the lead to put an end to loadshedding. [Applause.] Hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Hon Premier, the compliments will stop there now. [Laughter.] Hon Premier, you have failed. Yes, you have failed to give hope to the citizens of the Western Cape that constructive plans are in place to deal with crime, housing and the crisis in education. Yes, the crisis in education.

For the past five years, the province has seen a massive increase in the number of learners in the Western Cape. We find no consolation in you stating that you are in the process of placing 1 400 learners in schools. We are almost into the third month of the school year and thousands of learners, yes, thousands of learners are still waiting to be placed in schools. There are some schools where the classrooms are overflowing with 80 learners. Our schools are not safe for learning. This is not the way to maintain a high standard of education.

The Western Cape Education Department is wasting millions, wasting millions on a disciplinary hearing against Heathfield High School's principal, Mr Wesley Neumann. The Department is hellbent on using the old apartheid tactics of banishing him from the school. We need principals and educators like him to maintain the high standard of education the school once enjoyed while he was the principal. Al Jama-ah calls – Al Jama-ah calls on the Department to drop all charges against Mr Neumann and that he returns to Heathfield High School.

Hon Premier, you are removed from reality in our townships on the Cape Flats. Crime, gangsterism and drug peddling have never declined. There is no political will from the Province to effectively address these matters. You understand shebeens are hotspots for all criminal activities, yet our townships have more shebeens than recreational facilities. You have failed to give any plan on how to eradicate crime, no plan on how to act on the high unemployment. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Hon Premier, you should take the lead from President Ramaphosa who has rolled out plans to create employment ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!



Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...and sustainability of small businesses. In conclusion, Al Jama-ah reminds the hon Premier of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, its apartheid policy, its genocide of Palestinians, destroying Palestinians' livelihoods, torture and detention of Palestinians, including that of young children. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Baartman. [Interjections.]

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Agb Adjunkspeaker, mede-inwoners van die Wes-Kaap Provinsie. Ek het vandag saam met my 'n ryp puur protea gebring [Tussenwerpsels.] wat ek vanoggend ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow residents of the Western Cape Province. Today I brought with me a ripe, pure protea [Interjections.] that this morning I]...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...van my eie tuin afgepluk het. Hierdie protea kom van 'n bos vanaf my tuin wat ek drie jaar gelede geplant het. Daardie bos was miskien nie eens groter as die lengte van 'n gewone waterbottel nie en hierdie protea is nou langer as my eie lengte, die bos wat nou in die tuin is. En gewoonlik, agb Adjunkspeaker, wanneer ek in die tuin

is, is ek verskriklik gelukkig, maar vanoggend was ek nogal hartseer gewees want as ek na hierdie blom kyk, agb Adjunkspeaker, sien ek sweet, bloed en trane, maar ek sien ook hoop, ek sien geleentheid, ek sien harde werk, vasberadenheid en liefde.

Maar agb Adjunkspeaker, wat kos hoop? Wanneer daar vir ons gesê word dat die Wes-Kaap Onderwysdepartement 'n versnelde bouprogram gaan implementeer om 842 nuwe klaskamers te bou, dat 662 van daardie al klaar reeds gebou is en dat hulle met die konstruksie-industrie moes onderhandel om regdeur Desember te werk. Dit is getuienis van harde werk en dit gee my hoop. Wanneer daar vir ons gesê word dat amper 99% van ons leerders al klaar geplaas is en dat die meerderheid van die laaste 1% eers in Januarie opgedaag het as laat aansoek om te vra vir 'n plek in 'n skool, dit is getuienis van vasberadenheid en dit gee vir my hoop. Ek is bly dat die Sekretaris-generaal van die Departement 'n belofte gemaak het dat elke leerder geplaas sal word, insluitend diegene wat laat in Januarie hierdie jaar eers vir 'n plekkie gevra het.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, daar is 1,1 miljoen leerders in die Wes-Kaap. Van die 1 476 aansoeke wat nog geplaas moet word, is 1 325 na die 2023 jaar gekry. Daar is 48 dae in hierdie jaar sover. Die meerderheid van daardie laat ansoeke het in Januarie 2023 opgedaag. Agb Adjunkspeaker, dit kan nie wees verder dat in 2023, dat ons met afpersers in die taxi-sektor moet onderhandel ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...from my own garden. This protea

comes from a bush in my garden that I planted three years ago. That bush was probably not even higher than the height of a normal water bottle and this protea is now taller than my own height, the bush that is now in my garden. And usually, hon Deputy Speaker, when I'm in the garden I'm extremely happy, but this morning I was quite sad because when I look at that flower, hon Deputy Speaker, I see sweat, blood and tears, but I see also hope, I see opportunity, I see hard work, determination and love.

But hon Deputy Speaker, what is the cost of hope? When we are told that the Western Cape Education Department is going to implement a fast-tracked building programme to build 842 new classrooms, that 662 of those are already completed and that they had to negotiate with the construction industry to work throughout December. That is testimony of hard work and it gives me hope. When we are told that almost 99% of our learners have already been placed and that the majority of the last 1% only arrived in January as late applications to ask for a place in a school, that is testimony of determination, and it gives me hope. I'm glad that the Secretary-General of the Department made the promise that every learner will be placed, including those who only asked late in January this year for a place.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there are 1,1 million learners in the Western Cape. Of the 1 476 applications that still have to be placed, 1 325 were received after the 2023 year. There were 48 days so far this year. The majority of those late applications arrived in January 2023. Hon Deputy Speaker, it cannot further be that in 2023, we have to negotiate with blackmailers in the taxi

sector]...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, take your seat, please. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, is it parliamentary for the hon former Acting Chief Whip to mislead the House on when learners applied?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I cannot ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Is it parliamentary to mislead the House?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot rule on that. That is not a point of order, hon Sayed. You may proceed. [Tussenwerpsels.]

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Agb Adjunkspeaker, indien die mense van die Parlement in hierdie Huis nie weet nie ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in case the people of the Parliament in this House do not know]...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...ek het van die persentasie wat voor ons Komitee was deur die Departement van Onderwys ge-*quote*. So, as hy nie

weet om te lees nie, is dit nie my probleem nie ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...I quoted from the percentage that was in front of our Committee from the Department of Education. So, if he does not know how to read, it is not my problem] [Interjection.].

An HON MEMBER: Exactly! *Ja*.

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...agb Adjunkspeaker. Agb Adjunkspeaker, agb Adjunkspeaker, dit kan nie wees in 2023 dat ons moet afpersing aan die taxi-sektor moet onderhandel sodat ons kinders kan skool toe gaan nie, dat ouers hulle kinders agter in hulle motors moet wegsteek sodat hulle skool toe kan ry nie. Ek moet die agb Minister en die Departement bedank vir die vinnige inspring in die situasie, asook Gemeenskapsveiligheid en Mobiliteit, agb Ministers en hulle departemente vir hulle samewerking. Elke kind moet in die skool wees.

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, it cannot be that in 2023 we have to negotiate blackmailing with the taxi sector so that our children can go to school, that parents have to hide their children in the back of their cars so that they can drive to school. I have to thank the hon Minister and the Department for the quick intervention in the situation, as well as Community Safety and Mobility, hon Ministers and their departments for their cooperation. Every child must be in school.]

An HON MEMBER: *Ja!*

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): En julle plaas die hoop in gevaar wanneer 'n mens 'n kind uit die skool uithou. En die ouers in Wes-Kaap en ons gemeenskappe in die Wes-Kaap, ons kan dit nie duld nie.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, wanneer daar vir ons gesê word dat 41 skole al klaar ooreenkomste aangegaan het met maatskappye om sonkragoplossings te installeer, die Departement skole gaan help met lig ...[onduidelik.] diode-gloeilampe te installeer en dat die Departement *photovoltaic* sonkragpanele ondersoek vir nuwe en vervangbare skole, is 'n getuienis van die liefde van die Wes-Kaap se Regering en dit gee vir my hoop.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, hoop is deur om 70% meer klaskamers as die Gauteng-provinsie te bou, om 'n ekstra 26 leerders te akkommodeer terwyl ons provinsie met 17 000 leerders per jaar groei gemiddeld, en kos 'n ekstra R830 miljoen. Ons kry maar 'n klein bedraggie vanaf die Nasionale Regering in die vorm van die onderwys ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): And you put the hope in danger when one keeps a child out of school. And the parents in the Western Cape and our communities in the Western Cape, we cannot tolerate that.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when we are told that 41 schools have already concluded agreements with companies to install solar power, the Department is going to assist schools with light [Inaudible.] to install diode bulbs and that the Department is investigating photovoltaic solar power panels for new

and replacement schools, it is testimony of the love of the Western Cape's Government and that gives me hope.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hope is to build 70% more classrooms than the Gauteng Province, to accommodate an extra 26 learners while our province is growing by 17 000 learners per year on average, and it costs an extra R830 million. We only receive a small amount from the National Government in the form of the education] ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...infrastruktuur-toelaag.

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...infrastructure grant.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Die res moet ons vanuit ons billike aandeel-formule uitneem.

In 2019, agb Adjunkspeker, het President Ramaphosa aangekondig dat korrupsie ons land omtrent R1 triljoen kos. As ons die hele Onderwysdepartement-begroting van die Wes-Kaap neem en ons maal dit met 100, sal dit nog altyd nie by R1 triljoen uitkom nie. [Tussenwerpsel.] As ons die hele Departementsbegroting van Gesondheid in die Wes-Kaap neem en ons maal dit met 100, gaan ons nog altyd nie by R1 triljoen uitkom nie, agb

Adjunkspeaker. As die Nasionale Regering vir ons net daardie ekstra R1,5 biljoen kan gee, dan kan ons dit op 'n Veiligheidsplan spandeer, 'n mandaat wat eintlik nie vir provinsies is nie. [Tussenwerpsel.] As die Nasionale Regering vir ons net die ekstra R1 biljoen gee, dan kan ons dit ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): The rest must come from our equitable share formula.

In 2019, hon Deputy Speaker, President Ramaphosa announced that corruption is costing our country about R1 trillion. If we take the whole of the Education budget of the Western Cape, and we multiply it by 100, it will still not come to R1 trillion. [Interjection.] If we take the whole of the Departmental budget of Health in the Western Cape and we multiply it by 100, we will still not get to R1 trillion, hon Deputy Speaker. If the National Government can just give us that extra R1,5 billion, then we can spend it on a Safety Plan, a mandate that is actually not for provinces. [Interjection.] If the National Government can only give us just the extra R1 billion, then we can] ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...op 'n energiekrisis spandeer, wat ook nie die mandaat is van die provinsies nie. Maar daar is bitter min hoop in ons land. So, iemand moet die uitdaging, die hoop bied. [Tussenwerpsel.] Nieteenstaande, agb Adjunkspeaker, die Wes-Kaap Provinsie is die enigste



provinsie met 100% ongekwalifiseerde oudits vir ons departemente. [Tussenwerpsel.] En ons is die enigste provinsie wat elke sent van sy COVID-19 uitgawes publiek gemaak het. En as 'n provinsie moet ons weer seker maak dat elke sent wat ons op die energiekrisis spandeer, gedokumenteer word en publiek gemaak word want dit is nie ons geld nie. Dit is die mense se geld. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...spend it on an energy crisis, which is also not the mandate of the provinces. But there is very little hope in our country. So, someone has to meet the challenge, offer the hope. [Interjection.] Nevertheless, hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Province is the only province with 100% unqualified audits for our departments. [Interjection.] And we are the only province that made public every cent of its COVID-19 expenditures. And as a province we must make sure again that every cent we spend on the energy crisis, is documented and made public because it's not our money. It is the people's money]. ...[Interjection.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Dit is die waarheid! Hulle steel in die land.

[An HON MEMBER: It is the truth! They steal in the country.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die ADJUNKHOOF SWEEP (DA): [Tussenwerpsels.] ...leeg te steel want hulle glo ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): [Interjections.] ...steal it empty because they believe] ...[Interjection.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Dit is deel van die Kaapstad Munisipaliteit se geld.

[An HON MEMBER: It is part of the Cape Municipality's money]

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...dit is nie hulle geld nie. Die ANC glo dat hulle geregtig is ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...it is not their money. The ANC believes that they are entitled] ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

† 'n AGBARE LID: Hulle is skelm!

[An HON MEMBER: They are dishonest!]

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...aan die mense se geld, maar dit is nie hulle geld nie. Dit is nie eers ons geld nie. Dit is die mense se geld. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dit is die mense se geld wat die beste op die mense gespandeer word. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...to the people's money, but it's not their money. It's not even our money. It is the people's money. [Interjections.] It is the people's money that is spent best on the people.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): [Tussenwerpsels.] en regeer, agb

Adjunkspeaker. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): [Interjections.] and govern, hon Deputy Speaker.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel. [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel! [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel [Interjections.] Hon Bans, I cannot hear. [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel, I am talking to you. That is about the fifth time. Can I please have your attention? Can we allow – I am very mindful of people who have to observe their faith at 1 o'clock. Please, hon members. I would really like to get through this debate. Over to you, hon Baartman. [Interjections.]

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, stop, please. [Interjections.]

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Die mense se geld moet die beste gespandeer – op die beste manier gespandeer word op die mense. In hierdie provinsie, as Laingsburg kiesafdelingshoof, R6-miljoen was vir die vervanging van die Matjiesfontein Kliniek in Laingsburg gespandeer. [Tussenwerpsels.] Hoop kos geld. R3,3-miljoen in my kiesafdeling vir die Laingsburg ambulansstasie-opgradering: hoop kos geld. [Tussenwerpsel.]

Die Departement van Ekonomiese Ontwikkeling het informele handel op in Laingsburg ge ...[onduidelik] vir oor R1 miljoen, want hoop kos geld. R31,8 miljoen was vir 2 067 kommersiële en 656 kleinskaalboere in landbou ramp risikobestuursprogram gebruik want hoop kos geld. R500 000 was vir Laingsburg Munisipaliteit vir dienstelewingvoertuie gegee. [Tussenwerpsel.] Die Departement van Plaaslike Regering, want hoop kos geld om te kan regeer, agb Adjunkspeaker. Dit kos sweet, bloed en tranes. Maar ons benodig 'n regering wat glo ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): The people's money should be spent the best – in the best manner, on the people. In this province, speaking as Laingsburg constituency head, R6 million was spent on the replacement of the Matjiesfontein Clinic in Laingsburg. [Interjections.] Hope costs money. R3,3-million in my constituency for the Laingsburg ambulance station upgrade: hope costs money. [Interjection.] The Department of Economic Development has [Inaudible.] informal trade in Laingsburg for more than R1 million, because hope costs money. R31,8 million was for 2 067 commercial and 656 small scale farmers in the agriculture disaster risk management programme because hope costs money. R500 000 was given to Laingsburg Municipality for service delivery vehicles. [Interjection.] The Department of Local Government, because hope costs money to be able to govern, hon Deputy Speaker. It costs sweat, blood and tears. But we need a government that believes] ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): ...is. Die nodige regering wat 'n geleentheid kan sien. [Tussenwerpsel.] 'n Regering wat hard werk, wat vasberade is en wat lief is vir die mense van die provinsie. Ons kort 'n regering wat die koste van hoop verstaan en elke sent twee, nee, drie keer sal omdraai voordat hulle dit spandeer. Agb Adjunkspeaker, geld groei ongelukkig nie op proteas nie. Hoop kos geld en ons vra die mense van die Wes-Kaap, ons is nie perfek nie, maar as 'n regering, moet ons kan belowe dat ons die beste sal doen ...[Tussenwerpsel.] om seker te maak dat die mense se geld op die mense gespandeer word ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...is. The necessary government that can see an opportunity. [Interjection.] A government that works hard, that is determined and loves the people of the province. We need a government that understands the cost of hope and will turn over every cent twice, no, three times before they spend it. Hon Deputy Speaker, money unfortunately does not grow on proteas. Hope costs money and we ask the people of the Western Cape, we are not perfect but as a government we must be able to promise that we will do the best ...[Interjection.] to ensure that the people's money is spent on the people] ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP (DA): Maar ons vra asseblief van die mense van die Wes-Kaap dat hulle opstaan vir hulle reg tot 'n billike provinsiale aandeel vanaf die Nasionale Regering in terme van Artikel 214 van die Nasionale Grondwet, ...[Tussenwerpsel.] want dit is nie die ANC se geld nie, dit is die

mense se geld. [Tussenwerpsel.] Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek dank u. [Applous.]

[The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): But we please ask the people of the Western Cape that they stand up for their right to an equitable provincial share from the National Government in terms of Section 214 of the National Constitution, ...[Interjection.] because it's not the ANC's money, it is the people's money ...[Interjection.] Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. [Applause.] I now recognise the hon Lekker, but maybe hon Lekker, you have to get your colleagues to keep quiet before you start. [Interjections.] Hon Marran, you have one of your colleagues waiting to speak. [Interjections.] Hon Bakubaku-Vos. Hon Bakubaku-Vos. [Interjections.] Hon Bakubaku-Vos! [Interjections.] Hon Bakubaku-Vos, that is the fourth time. Hon Lekker is waiting to speak. Alright. Alright, you may begin. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] The ANC and the people of the Western Cape will be fools if they took the State of the Province Address by hon Premier weak-Winde, seriously. Let us remind hon Marais that the ANC does not govern in this province. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: *Ja.*

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): It is not our job to inspire. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: *Ja.*;

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): If the hon Marais wants inspiration, we can sympathise with her (*sic*). The hon Christians, if he has not yet realised, the DA governs in the Western Cape and not the ANC. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): If he wants to hold the ANC accountable, he must ask his party to go to the National Assembly ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...but then again, his party leadership does not want him there or his party does not have enough seats. This hon Premier, as weak as he is, has presided over a four-year term of popcorn programmes. The hon Premier must stop hopping in the air, he must come down to ground and he must come home ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...because as soon as he pops up an idea and a programme, that is how soon the idea, the programme ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...collapses again. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): If only the hon Premier took the economy of this province seriously and not treat it as one of his failed ten businesses. Pick n Pay was the hon Premier's silver bullet to the township economy, as announced by him in his 2019 SOPA. Yesterday, in the gallery, we had Ms Pumla Rudah who owned Nozinga Market and who is one of the pioneers in this Provincial Government's failed Pick n Pay Market Store project. [Interjections.] She came to hear what the hon Premier was going to say to address the limping state of the township economy and they applied specifically. I hope hon Marais is listening. Today, Ms Rudah and her colleagues, who trusted their Provincial Government in this project, sit with failed businesses and debt running into hundreds of thousands, if not millions. [Interjections.] This is what ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): This is what the popcorn projects of the hon Premier produces. [Interjections.] The jobs for Growth Strategy was another ...[Interjection.]



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...popcorn idea. [Interjections.] For the last 13 quarters that this popcorn Premier has run our province, 68 000 people have lost their jobs. [Interjections.] The hon Marais has obviously not read the unemployment statistics of the Western Cape before 2009. The hon Premier quotes King on:

“I open the fierce urgency of now.”

Close quote. But plans for 4% to 6% growth and R1 trillion GDP 12 years from now. Twelve years? Where is the fierce urgency for now? Popcorn ideas.

If only the hon Wenger stuck to her portfolio instead of propping up a popcorn Premier. The hon Premier was given 10 minutes to speak this week in the National Parliament in the SONA debate. [Interjections.] His faction in the DA gave him 10 minutes for him to campaign for the DA, but they should have realised just how weak he is. For 10 whole minutes, not once – not once could he mention a single ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...achievement of the DA in the Western Cape. Not once for the whole 10 minutes. Why? Because he is a popcorn Premier.

[Interjections.]

The hon Fry worries about our people that are not safe. Well, he just needs to ask hon Marais near him about how unsafe employees in this Provincial Government feel because the hon Premier refuses to have a transversal GBV policy.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just take your seat, hon Lekker. Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): I think this is sexual harassment, mentioning my name all the time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, hon Marais. [Applause.] Hon Marais, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] Hon members, can we please have some order? Over to you, hon Lekker, you may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. By the way, two DA councillors from Mitchells Plain must tell Eddie Andrews we are waiting for him in this House to come and play his alleged involvement in the fruit saga. We will not let that go. [Interjections.]

In his first SOPA in 2019, the hon Premier welcomed the deployment of SANDF onto the Cape Flats. Three years later, the hon Premier still does not get it. Crime is not solved by more boots on the ground. When the army

intervention failed, he pushed for the popcorn idea of the Safety Plan. The reality is, LEAP is a complete failure. The hon Fry wants to claim SAPS achievements when they happen, such as the reduction of crime in hotspots, but they refuse to take the responsibility for crime in our communities. The hon Allen must make available the raw data of the effectiveness of the Safety Plan. The raw data shows what an utter failure the Safety Plan has been. [Interjections.]

Another popcorn idea was the Youth Safety Ambassadors ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...Programme.

Two years ago, the Provincial Administration announced it with great fanfare and today, it is dead in the water. In 2020, the hon Premier and his Cabinet members stood up and announced their own private, separate from National Government, procurement of vaccines. Another popcorn idea. In the 2019 SOPA ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...the hon Premier announced an economic war room, supported by no less than Harvard University, *nogal*, [Interjections.] not that he, himself ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...not that he, himself, has seen the inside of a university and that popcorn idea was stillborn. Yesterday, we heard another nothing on the war room or the Jobs Cabinet, but instead, yesterday, we had to hear of Energy Council popcorn. [Interjections.]

In 2019, he stood up and announced Government's commitment to the Ministerial Handbook. Well, since then, he has had to get rid of two MECs for misconduct. One MEC left with a cloud hanging over her head while another MEC has more Public Protector report findings against him and there are Red Dot taxis on the road today. [Interjections.] Red Dot, Blue Dot popcorn, an idea, up and running. Then, it has to close down. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): In 2021, we had to hear of the Single Transport Authority for the greater City of Cape Town. Two years later, we have no idea where this has been established. Another popcorn announcement. Four years ago, we heard of the solar [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...uptake, while in 2020 we heard that 23

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order, hon members!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, can I continue?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one minute. Order, hon members. Alright, over to you. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. I am trying to [Interjections.] Hon members, it is 10 to 1. Please! [Interjections.] I am asking your indulgence, all of you, because I am watching the time and I am watching hon Lekker. So, please, can I have your indulgence on both sides? You may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I will repeat. Four years ago, we heard of the solar PV uptake while in 2020, we heard that 23 of the municipalities in the Western Cape support the small-scale embedded energy. The hon Premier has yet to tell us how many megawatts this programme has produced. He spoke of applications, but nothing on the amount of megawatts produced by this project. Not well produced.

In 2021, he announced the Municipal Energy Resilience Project and two or more than 1 000 days later and after spending over R100-million, the hon MEC for Finance stands up and lists municipalities in project planning. Two years later, not a single megawatt has been produced by the map. He requests R1-billion for energy over R3-million. Listen carefully: three years, but that

is ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...the tip of his speech ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...disappears urgency of now. We think the hon Premier got Dr King wrong. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. [Applause.] Hon members [Applause.] thank you. Hon members, if I can just have your indulgence, please. [Interjections.] If I can just have your indulgence, please.

Hon Premier, would it be inconvenient if I ask that we adjourn now to observe, for those who need to observe their faith. We come back half an hour earlier for the last two speakers. The hon Premier can do his work during the break and then we finish off with the last two speakers and then hon Premier, would that be an inconvenience? I do not want to disrupt our arrangement with our Muslim community. [Interjections.] So, can I just be clear now. We will break until 13:30. No, until 2. Until 2, correct. We will break till 2. There is lunch, as far as I understand. We will come back slightly earlier to listen to the last two speakers. The House is now suspended. Suspended. Thank you very much.

House suspended at 12:30

The House resumed at 14:07

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. We are going to go straight with the resumption of the debate. I now see the hon Minister, Minister Simmers.

An HON MEMBER: Yes. Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, the Premier, my colleagues in the Cabinet, hon members, but also our guests who are in the gallery. Speaker, I would love to begin my address with a quote from Stephen R Covey, a very famous American businessman, who said:

“The key is not spending time, but investing in it.”

As the Western Cape Government, we do not make empty promises, but rather make lasting commitments and that is exactly what the Premier of this province demonstrated yesterday in his speech as part of his State of the Province Address, a province that delivers and what it will deliver in the current financial year. Unlike the ANC, our colleagues on the other side of the table, which is riddled in factionalism battles and they have the inability to change. In this province under this Premier, together with our colleagues, we are leading the change in innovation that is needed to actually revolutionise the economy of our province, which is something sadly that will never happen in this country while the ANC is still in government.

[Interjections.]

Last September, the National Minister of Transport Mr Raz Mataz, announced the launch of Operation Vala Zonke, a campaign, wait for it, a campaign to rehabilitate potholes across the country. [Interjection.]

Added to this the first glimmer of innovation from the ANC, I must say, an app where you could log where these potholes are, but I must be quite honest, hon Speaker, I was not quite sure if the hon National Minister was actually making a joke when he announced this because it became evident that while in our province, it is a basic service and requirement of transport and public works to maintain its infrastructure. The fact that an operation Vala Zonke had to be pronounced, tells us exactly what is busy happening in the other eight ANC-governed provinces. They show no appreciation for assets. In contrast, they lack showing that appreciation, hence the country is in the state which it is in, in those eight provinces, but in the Western Cape, this is a norm, a norm of our Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works, which is the only province which has received its ten clean, consecutive audits on all levels... [Applause.] ...a Department that leads by example, but hon Premier, because, and Speaker, we want to save South Africa as well. We want to save the last remaining few good assets we might still have left in those eight provinces. I have actually requested the incumbent HOD to send an invitation to the eight provinces officials to come and learn from this Provincial Department, from this Provincial Government and, if needs be, we will even provide them training, training to show what can happen if you



make decisions based on data, not by which faction you are in the ANC in one of those other eight provinces.

Hon Speaker, we will take them to one of our many roads projects that are either completed or on track to be completed on time, unlike in the other eight provinces. We plan possibly to show them the world acclaimed and multi-award winning... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order, there is a member on the floor.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Cogmanskloof Pass, and the Ashton Bridge Project or if there is enough time in their busy schedules, I must say, the R66 million Van Breede Bridge over the Dwars River in Ceres, which is set to be complete by the end of this year, or even perhaps the R67 million Gwaiing Bridge in George, which commenced in January and to date has already created 44 job opportunities. Clearly you can see what the Premier announced is a vision of urgency, that we are doing. We are implementing, but, Speaker, to adequately position the province for the future, we need to ensure that we invest in the infrastructure that ultimately will create the leaders and engineers of the future for this province, which is why among others, a very good example is the construction of the school which we completed in Morreesburg on time within budget, which opened for school on the first day of school this year, a Government in action under the leadership of Premier Alan Winde. [Interjections.]

Then we will continue to demonstrate this excellence in service delivery, by restoring the hope to our people, ensuring that among others, we will be launching the R17,9 million new clinic to replace the existing Gouda Clinic in the Cape Winelands district and I can bet you we will do it on time and within budget as well. [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, but we cannot build if we cannot keep the lights on, to be quite honest, so where we differ as a provincial government from any of the other provinces and even the National Government is that that when we are faced with a crisis as Cabinet or as the leading party that governs this province, we get our hands dirty and we fix the problem. †Ons maak nie net feëverhale die heelyd op nie. [We are not making up fairy tales the whole time.]

The President announced the appointment of the Minister for Electricity, and I must say when I asked some of the members on that side, hon Speaker, but even they could not tell me what that Minister was actually going to do. †So hulle is nog net so in die bos soos die res van die land. [Tussenwerpsels.] [So they are still just as much in the bush as the rest of the country] [Interjections.]

But here in the Western Cape, hon Speaker, we do not have a Minister of Electricity, nor do we need a Provincial Minister of Electricity, but we have, as announced, by the Premier, we have allocated R1 billion on short and medium-term solutions on the energy crisis. That is what an accountable and developmental government does. We do not have wish lists. We actually

execute and implement what we announce within that financial year, but, with all of this and this province seen as a safe haven for a lot of our people that migrate to our province, and we welcome them with open arms, which is why the latest emigration reports, state the following on the Western Cape and I would love to quote Andrew Golding, who is the Chief Executive of the Pam Golding Property Group and he said:

“Based on the Ratings Africa Rankings of Municipalities, there is an obvious reason to relocate to the Western Cape as our municipalities are more financially robust and therefore more likely to be able to continue to deliver services.”

An HON MEMBER: That is not in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, it is clear from this and all the data and the influx of new students to our schools and so forth, a lot of the citizens of beyond our borders are realizing this is the only province that can still give hope. This is the only province that is still functional, where we ensure that we actually deliver to our people and above all this, we do not squander the public purse. We can account for every cent that we spend. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members, order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: We can provide this House with data. We provide the citizens with data – †want ons weet wat ons doen. Ons

weet wat ons doen [because we know what we are doing. We know what we are doing.] And part of this testament, hon Speaker, we can see through the lens of the social infrastructure component, of what will be in the Department of Infrastructure because over the course of this financial year, which we are currently in, within record time, within 18 months after doing a sod-turning in some of our projects, relative to having completed these projects, we have started handing over housing opportunities to qualifying beneficiaries and I shall give you some examples, because surely some of the members of the Opposition just do not like to read these reports, so I am just giving them a refresher course on what we have done.

In the Garden Route District Municipality in Melkhoutfontein, we did a sod-turning in September 2021 and on 17 December 2022, the first 50 beneficiaries received their house keys and got to spend their first Christmas ever in their lives in a house of brick and mortar, made possible by this DA-led Provincial Government, and do not take my word for it, 85-year old Ms Daisy Simon, who is a former farm worker, I must say, she could not contain her emotions when she told me, “I have finally achieved a lifelong dream of being a home owner.”

That is something very few people in the ANC-governed provinces can say... [Interjections.] But, Dysselsdorp, in Oudtshoorn, once again, this is a project where for the first time in 27 years they finally got where we could actually give them a housing project. The first 150 beneficiaries received their homes within less than a year from me doing the sod-turning.

Hon members of the House, through you, Speaker, I think you must agree with me, we are restoring hope. We are delivering to our citizens brick-by-brick, and we are doing this at a rapid pace in the province, no other province can actually say that... [Interjections.]

But, once again, I was baffled when the President in his SONA chose to speak of, among others, the backlog of processing more than a million title deeds.

†Baie, baie ironies! [Very, very ironic!]

Because it is a member of his Cabinet that announced that they decided to discontinue the Title Deed Restorations Grant. †Praat van hypocrisy. [Speak of hypocrisy.]

Much obviously to our dismay as a province, but also to the many, many citizens across our province, we were waiting for the title deeds, but what we did, we did not sit to the back, we said: “How can we ensure that we deliver, to ensure that our people get title deeds in this province?” And yes, you can proudly call me Mr Title Deeds, I am happy to take that title.

†Baie dankie. Gee my sommer die naamplaat. [Thank you, just give me the name plate.]

Through our Asset Finance Reserve Fund, once again unique to the

Department of Human Settlements, we have ensured through innovative ways that we generate an income that can ensure there is funding that we can continue giving our people their title deeds, something the President must actually learn from, from a provincial government.

Now, hon Speaker, for the current financial year, the last time I was in this House, we projected a revenue income of R10,47 million, for 2022/23 and up until 8 February our own income as confirmed in Provincial Treasury that we have collected, is over R257 million, and I can tell you a fair portion of that funding is going to be committed to ensuring the people of the Western Cape who are waiting for their title deeds, will get title deeds. We are giving them hope, by showing them the urgency of a government that cares...  
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please conclude? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, in conclusion, much has been said here about this alleged allegation that this Provincial Government does not commit to land reform, and I can tell you the contrary. During the 2022 we have transferred land to George in Thembaletu...  
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister, please take your seat. Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...a clear sign that we are committed to land reform. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Please take your seat. [Applause.]  
Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now see hon Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and welcome to your first SONA reply. Thank you, Premier Alan Winde, for providing a vision, hope and urgency for the people of this province yesterday. I extend my warmest welcome to the people of the Western Cape, including my constituency for Mitchells Plain, who are joining us today, including my councillors, who are joining us today, and starting from one of our councillors, we must give credit to one of our councillors, councillor, the sub-council Chairperson, Elton Jantjies. While the bullies, the thugs and the gangsters of PRASA tried to dump people in Mitchells Plain, he had the bravery and the guts to stand up for the people of Mitchells Plain. The ANC consistently treats people with disdain and disgust. To bring people from Philippi, put them in Mitchells Plain, where there is no school, no police station, no water infrastructure, it has to be the lowest form of humanity one can get, because Hon Sayed, Khalid will rightfully come next year and ask: "Where are the schools?"  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, order!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hon Kama will rightfully come next year and say:

“Where are the police stations?” So hon Nkondlo should have thanked us for stopping PRASA in their tracks... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...to stop them from dumping communities without consulting other communities, so, well done to my councillors for standing up to those bullies at PRASA. [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, I want to take us back to a week ago... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...where the President delivered the State of the Nation Address, less than a kilometre from where we are standing today. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: For hours the President stood at the podium and said nothing of consequence. He announced non-solutions to problems that his own party has created. He pledged to do things that he promised for years with no result. [Interjections.] His words carried no substance and await a nebulous political fog of platitudes and in a rhetoric, yet the President himself bought a house in Cape Town, so, hon Windvogel, †hy moet huis toe



kom [he must come home.] He is in Cape Town. The ANC is Mr †Handjies-gevou [Hands folded]... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ... while our electrical grid, our security cluster in our economy is collapsing, the President and his party sat †handjies gevou [hands folded.] After the President's State of the Nation Address, his Ministers and his Chairpersons stood and downplayed the crisis and the problems in this country. To quote the respected journalist Andisiwe Makinana:

“If we were to believe those speeches, everything in this country is working and working accordingly, we are imagining all these problems South Africa encounter on a daily basis.”

That is what happened at the State of the Nation Address. They are delusional. They do not know the problems of the country and they do not know nothing. They are †bewusteloosheid [unconsciousness] epitomised, which brings me to a comment my hon Reagen Allen made... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: The hon Minister said it is a disgrace that in this country... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Hon member Mackenzie, my apologies,

please take your seat. Hon members, please allow hon Mackenzie to make his contribution. We have allowed you all, hon members, to make your contributions throughout the day. Hon member Mackenzie, I see you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you. I am going to respond to the honourable's point that she made. That is not about race. It has to do with the incompetent National Government that destroyed the trains in the country, that is not consulting with the receiving community. They do not build a school for the individuals; they do not build a police station; they do not build infrastructure, and then they expect the DA-led Government... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...as they always do, to take control of things, to provide school security and infrastructure. That is what it is about. Their failures must become our problem. We are tired of you. †Ons is tot hierso, [We are up to here,] they must sort out their own stuff. [Interjections.] Hon members, the contrast between the speech that the President delivered...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mackenzie, please take your seat.

Hon members on my left, you are in dialogue with the member on the floor. Can I please – interjections are allowed, but you are drowning out the speaker. We are at the end of the debate. [Interjection.]

Hon members! Hon members! The member is on the floor. [Interjection.]

Hon members on my left! The hon member is on the floor. Hon Kama, I am addressing the House. Can I please ask that you respect the decorum of the House. There are guests in the gallery, and allow the hon member to make his submission. We are at the end of the debate. Hon August, is that a point of order?

Mr S AUGUST: Yes. Thank you, Speaker. You and many others have mentioned, and again you have mentioned: "Members on my left." Now we are very well disciplined at the back here. Name them. Say "ANC", do not say all or do not include all of us to your left. Say "ANC", because GOOD is a disciplined member in this House. Thank you, Chairperson.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Applause.] Thank you. Thank you very much, hon August. My apologies and I will do so. I will do so. I will do so. Hon Mackenzie?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the contrast between what the Premier delivered yesterday and what the President delivered last week can be heard far from here, to Table Mountain and beyond. Yesterday, the residents of the Western Cape heard the Premier's report-back on real results and knew that this Government will hold firm against the National Government's tide of corruption and incompetence.

Hon Speaker, just yesterday, the Premier announced again and committed to

R2,5 billion on fixing problems caused by the ANC, while Pretoria †sit handjies gevou [sits hands folded,] and honestly, hon Speaker, I love it if they call us popcorn, because popcorn is the most beautiful thing you can ever eat. [Interjection.] You cook it. It explodes. It melts in your mouth, unlike the ANC Government who just stays bitter. Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, order!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...the Premier announced a R1 billion allocation towards electricity, failure caused by the ANC. Further to the R1,5 billion that my Minister Reagen spent on safety and security. These are not our mandates, but because unlike the ANC, we do not sit †handjies gevou [hands folded,] we actually get things done. That is the DA difference.

Hon Speaker, the hon Windvogel waxed lyrical about the NHI via you. We know why they want the NHI. We saw during the hard lockdown last year, the National ANC Government used the criminal state of disaster to steal, so much so their Minister of Health had his hands in the whole cookie jar, so we know why they want the National Health (NHI). They want to use the NHI to steal. That is what they want.

Hon Speaker, this Government wants to build accessible transport, pleasant walkable neighbourhoods, neighbourhoods connected to each other via affordable, efficient public transport. That is one of the many reasons why we want the devolution of rail, which brings us to what is happening in the taxi

industry. Let me respond to the hon Marran. What happened in the taxi industry in the last few weeks, hon Speaker, was disgusting, it was horrible, and all members of this House should cry out and call out to gangster elements... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...in the taxi industry ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...the thugs, the criminals who are invoking terrorism against children of this province. Instead of sending WhatsApps, the ANC members should write to the National Minister of Justice to prosecute them... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat, hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ...for the criminal element in the taxi industry belong in jail. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mackenzie, please take your seat. Hon Mvimbi. Hon Mvimbi, can I please ask that you respect the decorum of the House, you are drowning out the speaker. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You are drowning out. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, order! [Interjections.] Order, members, order! [Interjections.] Order, members, members! Can I please ask that you allow the hon member to conclude or to continue with his contribution. Interjections are allowed but you are drowning out the speaker. Hon Mackenzie, and can I please ask that you speak to me and not to the members in the House?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Speaker. I will speak directly to you. Hon Speaker, that is the difference between us. This Government take action, believes in the rule of law and so there are elements in the taxi industry that are acting with criminal intent, that are there to hurt the economy, that are there to hurt the public transport infrastructure, and the commuters and our fellows on the other side of the bench should write to the Minister of Justice and say: “Prosecute them, prosecute the elements in the taxi industry, they are causing mayhem in this province”, and that is the solution – not them being quiet.

Hon member, their Government in fact in the Presidency said this morning, they said the infrastructure in this country is collapsing. This is the President of this country, his Presidency lamenting the collapse of infrastructure. They are in charge. He should take action, so, hon member, the ANC members can stop talking and write to their colleagues and ask them. Yesterday the Premier spoke of urgency, and I could not agree more with their sentiments. Every job

lost and business closed due to loadshedding is an urgent problem. Every drop of water lost is an urgent problem. Every commuter that cannot go to work is an urgent problem. Every young person, though sitting in this House, is an urgent problem. Every family that cannot make ends meet in this province is an urgent problem. Every life lost is an urgent problem. That is why this Government has used our own money to allocate R2,5 billion to fix problems created by that side of the House. They are the problem in this country. Our country is swathed with problems because of the ANC.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: You failed the people of the Western Cape.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: So under the DA Government, we are solving these problems. We are going forward. They are going backwards. We are building. They are stealing. We are solving problems. They are creating problems. The contrast between us could not be more obvious. We are making real problems, †hulle sit handjies gevou [they sit with hands folded.] Neither the ANC or any party in this House has the capacity to fix the country's problems. Yesterday SOPA proved that the DA does. Speaker, after yesterday's events, I feel more confident in my Government that I can tell you, next year our people will not vote for ideologists, Gucci communists, Fabiani Marxists. [Interjections.] They will vote for a real government. They will vote for electricity. They will vote to end crime and corruption ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: They will vote for good governance, quality schools and true leadership. They will vote for a South African future, that we this side of the House believe in. They will vote DA. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mackenzie. Hon members, order! [Interjections.] Order, members! Members, are you done now, or you still want to engage? [Interjections.]

Alright, so are you finished engaging one another now? Hon Marais, I see you, was that a point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes, Speaker, I think the hon Mvimbi must be called to account for disrespecting the Chair and the whole House by his continuous interaction when he knows it is not in the Rules for him to do so. You must put him out. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! [Interjections.] Hon members, hon members, it has been a long day and a half, with hon Mackenzie concluding the debate, that concludes the debate on the Premier. I am now going to ask the Secretary to read the second Order of the Day.

†Die SEKRETARIS: Repliek van die Premier op die Debat oor die Premiersrede.

[The SECRETARY: Reply of the Premier on the Debate on the Premier's Address.]



The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: I will now afford the hon, the Premier, an opportunity to reply to the debate. Hon Premier, I see you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker. I know that I have not got a full day to prepare, but I want to start off by saying that I thank every single person who took part in this debate. I want to say I was hoping that I was going to hear a little bit more suggestion of other ideas or alternative ideas from the Opposition members, because obviously we are all elected representatives here. Every one of us represents the community, the citizens of this province and I will still say it and I said it on the very first day and I will say it again, if anybody that represents our citizens has a great idea or something that they think we should try or something else, please bring it to us.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I sent you [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore. [Interjections.] Hon Dugmore. [Interjections.] Hon Dugmore, you have just entered the House. Can I please ask that you allow the Premier. You had an opportunity this morning. It is now the Premier's opportunity to reply.

The PREMIER: Perhaps I should reply to that comment, hon Speaker, where he says, "I did bring it to you and you did not respond," and he knows that that is not true because I did respond.

Quite a few backwards and forwards, meeting with officials in the Education Department, meeting with the developers, etcetera. Unfortunately the school governing body and those developers could not come up with a model ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: They did!

The PREMIER: ... that is going to work. No, they did not. [Interjections.]  
No, they did not.

So he was actually ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Speak to me.

The PREMIER: ... misleading this House when he was talking there.

An HON MEMBER: Jôh!

The PREMIER: Something that his Opposition within his own party seems to speak about quite often.

I also want to say to all of those members that in everything that we do we base it on evidence, we base it on data ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, it is a – is the Premier willing to take a question. [Interjections.] I did not know about Opposition. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please do not pose your question.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Can he take a question?

The SPEAKER: Please do not pose your question. Take your seat.

Hon Premier, are you prepared to take a question?

The PREMIER: Yes, I will take a question. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Can the hon Premier please indicate to us

what is known by Opposition within a party? I understand that there is Opposition [Interjections.], there is the Opposition and then there is the governing party [Interjections.]. You do not get Opposition in a party. I mean, really? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon member Sayed.

Hon Premier, over to you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I know exactly why the hon Sayed asked me that question to explain what opposition within opposition are because this is the Opposition and within this Opposition you have got someone behind the Leader of the Opposition contesting for a position.

So he is the Opposition to the Leader of the Opposition. [Interjections.] [Applause.] And ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: And that is classic opposition within the Opposition. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It is called democracy.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: At least we do not get told by Helen Zille what to do.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, you had an opportunity to pose your question. The Premier has responded to your question. [Interjections.] Can I now please ask that you all settle down and, hon Premier, you can continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, what I want to say is that whatever we do we base it on evidence, on data, we base it on listening to citizens, we pick up what is happening on the ground and I heard in the debate and I think specifically here I want to reflect on the hon Marais who said he wanted to see these big broad visions.

Well, I was not going to come here and talk about bullet trains and travel to the moon, etcetera. What I really want to talk about is what is hurting our citizens right now, what are they feeling? I could hear it in the hon Mackenzie's speech at the at the end there of this debate. What do the citizens feel at the moment and if anybody criss-crosses this province you will know.

I have been to Atlantis, Mossel Bay, Kwanokuthula, Saldanha, Klaarstroom, Die Lap, Lingelethu, Prince Alfred Hamlet, De Doorns, Calitzdorp, Montagu, Matjiesfontein, [Interjections.], Swellendam, Cederberg, Clanwilliam, Graafwater, Lamberts Bay, Piketberg, Velddrif, should I carry on?

But across this province wherever you go and you listen to the citizens you will know the most important thing that you have to deal with right now, wherever you are is you have got to make sure that you fix energy.

People cannot live lives that they value in the loadshedding environment that we find ourselves right now. [Interjections.] Energy number one, through and through wherever you go, and I am talking about the province. Exactly the same thing is in the rest of our country.

Then it comes to crime and crime, and specifically the levers of dealing with crime, and of course that is why we have a Safety Plan. [Interjections.]

Both of those areas, when it comes to energy, it is not a provincial mandate. It is not our mandate in the Constitution. [Interjections.] When it comes to policing, or the criminal justice system, or our prisons, that is not in the mandate of a province.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You have got power [Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: It is a national mandate.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You just do not use it.

The PREMIER: So that is why those two issues are the top issues that we deal with in this province. We will overstep the mark, we will push the boundaries, we will work as hard as we can because those are the things that affect our citizens the most and if you ask the citizens what is number three, you will see it will be jobs, and what is number four, you will see it will be basic services.

That is why you would have already seen a budget allocation this year, before the Minister is going to table the budget, of another nearly R90 million to make sure that even during this time of loadshedding citizens can get water. If you cannot get the basic rights of water right, and I mean that is in this province.

You hear they are weeks without water and even months without water in ANC-run provinces, but let us not go there, let us remain within this province.

And so, hon Speaker, that is why you heard me speak about a R1 billion plan for energy. [Interjections.] That is why you heard me speak about water, WiFi, about basic services. [Interjections.] That is why the basic health system has to be protected. You heard in the debate from Minister Mbombo

what she was talking about. About the basic needs of our citizens. We have got to focus on those needs.

I will come back to crime just now.

Hon Speaker, I want to start off by saying many people spoke about youth and about some of our youth programmes within our Government and specifically the Leader of the Opposition and that was quite interesting.

He was saying, "This province spends not one cent on these programmes that help young people on the EPWP programmes, we do not spend any money on this ..." ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Of your own money.

The PREMIER: Of our own money. He just said it again, we do not spend one cent of our own money. Do you know that over the next three years and if the hon member who has actually been a member in this Legislature, [Interjections.] probably the second longest out of all members in this House, probably the second longest, because he and I were here at the same time, but of course he went off to the Planning Commission, and I will get back to that just now because people refer to Rasool and Ramatlakane. [Interjections.] He was here at the same time. That was when a whole lot of people in the ANC were fired, but I will come back to that just now. [Interjections.]



I will say again, he says, "You do not spend one cent of your own money." I would like to refer him to page 493 of the Blue Book, something that you should know about by now as a member of this [Interjections.] ...

And so if you go and have a look at the Blue Book you will see of our own money R316 372 000 for this coming year [Interjections.] and R310 828 000 [Interjections.] – this is our money. [Interjections.] This province ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: For what?

The PREMIER: For the EPWP programme.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It comes from National [Inaudible.]

Am HON MEMBER: No! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: No-no-no. So the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, this [Interjections.] – hon member Dugmore and hon Premier, can I please ask that you not have a dialogue and, hon Premier, can you please speak to me. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I apologise, hon Speaker, I will speak through you and through you.

So if I look at the year to come, R316 million of our own money going into this programme and the hon member is correct. I mean most of our budget comes through an allocation that comes from National which actually comes from taxes raised. [Interjections.]

We can have a long debate on whether this province gets its fair share of the taxes raised in South Africa. [Interjections.] It does not. We should get far more, but the total spend is another billion rand.

An HON MEMBER: Sjôh!

The PREMIER: Another billion rand. [Interjections.]

So R1.335 billion gets spent in this province on EPWP. That is not ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That has been earmarked [Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: That is not including the following half a billion that also gets put to youth programmes in this province. R553 182 000 for this coming financial year. [Interjections.]

So that takes it to nearly R2 billion in these programmes.

So the hon Leader of the Opposition, who has been here for a very long time, comes here in his speech and actually, in the words of his opposition within the Opposition, [Interjections.] comes and is very, very limited with the truth, in actual fact misleading the House on the kind of statements that he is making. Unacceptable. Even his own party should be pulling him up on that.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It is not true [Inaudible.] your own money.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, I have asked that you and the hon Premier not engage each other directly. [Interjections.] Interjections are allowed, but this running commentary is disturbing the decorum of this House. There are other members that want to hear the reply by the hon Premier.

Can I please ask that you allow the Premier to reply. Both sides of the House had an opportunity to engage during the debate and it is now the opportunity of the hon Premier.

Hon Premier, can I please again remind you to please speak to the Chair and not directly to the members.

The PREMIER: Thank you, thank you very much, hon Speaker, I shall do, I will try not to speak to the members of this House.

A couple of other issues raised in this debate. The War Room, the reference to the War Room and again I would very much like to ask the members to before they come and make these statements, at least attend the Standing Committees, at least listen to the programmes that are delivered by the departments and they will know and they would have – well, they obviously did not listen to what I have said previously in the House because they are raising this issue about the War Room.

They will know that the War Room four years ago, in partnership with Harvard University, will know that that programme is now developed into the only place in the world where the model or the mechanism of dealing with difficult conundrums within government, is now an embedded programme in our government. It is what we use as a programme coming out of that War Room, not just a War Room that disappeared, a War Room that produces programmes that get used not only in this province now in the Provincial Government, but is now also being used as it is rolled out into local governments as well.

So at our PCFs reports come back from departments on how they are using the PDI methodology that came out of the War Room [Interjections.] and also in Local Governments too, which is very, very nice to see.

Hon Speaker, then perhaps one other item that was mentioned a couple of times, but specifically I think out of the EFF, which talks about policy issues and of course this is where policy should be debated and discussed, but I do

want to say that the policy, as put forward by the EFF, that talks about nationalisation, we are living in a time where a national run electricity system with Eskom not able to deliver to the energy needs of our country, or any of these other state-owned entities.

If we actually believe that that is the solution and the way to go forward I want to say that we are on the wrong path and I would suggest to the members of the EFF that they actually go and do a study tour to Venezuela and go and see how those kinds of policies actually work. How they turn into actions and how they really fail the people.

If I think about just energy and of course everything is focused on energy at the moment in our system, and if I think on energy where the citizens of this country are now facing an 18% electricity increase because there is one big single centralised government-run entity, thanks to the ANC, supposed to deliver electricity, an 18% increase.

Electricity over the next few years is going to become tremendously expensive, unless you can privatize it, unless you can enable competition in the system. [Interjections.]

At the Green Hydrogen Summit it was amazing to listen to the big investors that are coming in, where they are delivering in the Northern Cape now solar power at 7 cents a kilowatt hour; 7 cents a kilowatt hour. That is unbelievable.

Now that is what opening your economy, that is what privatization actually does because it creates competition from investment, you will get much better pricing through that.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

Hon member Klaas, is that a point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Nationalization is not what we have discussed as it explained. [Interjections.] So that we did not discuss that what he is explaining ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, that is not a point of order.

Hon Premier, you can continue. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

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

Hon Premier, you can continue. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I have to react to the hon August from the GOOD party and what I want to say to him, I wrote down Tent City here because his Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs are clearly responsible for a place where foreigners have been put into a tent city. That is absolutely unacceptable, but I also want to point out to him that in a municipality where his party is part of the governing party, or part of the governing coalition of a municipality in this very province where he talks about land invasions, he talks about homeless people. Well, quite frankly I think Knoflokskraal and the GOOD initiated stealing of that land, is totally unacceptable and it is his Minister, who sits in the National Government, a coalition partner of the ANC, who actually orchestrated the whole process. [Interjections.]

I mean if you were there prior to the election you would have seen almost every household with a GOOD T-shirt on ...[Interjections.]

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

The PREMIER: ... it was a land expropriation ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

The PREMIER: ... of note.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Hon member August, is that a point of order?

Mr S N AUGUST: Yes, thank you, hon Speaker.

Perhaps the Premier is not aware that the Minister has taken this matter to court and this matter ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr S N AUGUST: ... is being dealt with in court and he is making ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr S N AUGUST: ... false claims ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member August ...[Interjections.]

Mr S N AUGUST: ... [Interjections.] ... to say that the Minister is ...[Interjections.]



The SPEAKER: ... what is your point of order?

Mr S N AUGUST: ... is orchestrating this. [Interjections.]

Secondly also he has misled the House by saying that ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order, hon member August?

Mr S N AUGUST: He has misled the House by saying Tent City in Kensington where the land, which is Public Works, was given to the City ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member August, that is not a point of order.

Mr S N AUGUST: ... and it is the City's tent ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr S N AUGUST: ... that is on there. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member August, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.] That is a statement. That is not a point of order.

An HON MEMBER: Why must [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, you may continue. [Interjections.] You may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Obviously that hurts the hon member.

I also need to raise an issue, it was not raised from the other side of the House, but it was something said by one of the members on this House that spoke about cutting red tape and, you know, it reminds me of visas or remote working visas as well as setting up Red Tape Reduction Units.

So the President a year ago spoke about remote working visas and now once again we have to speak about it and nothing happens between one State of the Nation Address and the next State of the Nation Address, [Interjections.] and of course Minister Wenger has spoken about that, but red tape reduction. Can I tell you the biggest joke of all is that on the day that the President is supposed to make the State of the Nation Address because he knows now he has got to talk about red tape, and he made a big thing of it, of setting up this Red Tape Reduction Unit at the National, in the Presidency. [Interjections.]

The most interesting thing for me was I get an email, I get an email from the Presidency saying, "Can we please set up an urgent meeting with you because we want to discuss red tape," and I thought, "Jeepers, this is trying to cover your back," but we have agreed to set up this meeting ...[Interjections.]

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

The PREMIER: We have agreed to set up this meeting [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon member Marais. [Interjections.]

Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Marais, is that a point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

No, I want to ask the Premier would he be kind enough ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais ... [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: ... to let me ask him a question?

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, is that – do you want to ask the hon  
Premier a question?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon Premier, are you prepared to take the question?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you.

Hon Premier, do you still see it as part of the DA's vision, there should be devolution of powers to provinces, that the province should have more powers in terms of the Constitution's provision for subsidiarity and what have you done to pursue this matter that powers must come down from the top to the provinces, and from the provinces to local authorities? Thank you.  
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon Premier. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much, through you, to the hon member Marais. [Interjections.]

Absolutely the answer is yes. In actual fact that is in line with our Constitution which says powers should be devolved closer to the people where there are competent governments at Local Government level, Provincial Government level. We should be devolving all or as many powers as possible, and of course I think the hon member is clear on our position on policing [Interjections.]. That should be devolved.

I think the hon member is clear that our position is devolving the rail system because that is a total failure under the National Government. [Interjections.] We are always stepping into the arena of failed National Government. He said it in his contribution to this debate was that it seems like a problem because we always seem to be fixing the broken ANC, but unfortunately those are the things that are hurting the citizens of this province and as a responsible government you have to step in when people are being absolutely failed by the ANC at a National Government level.

So the answer is absolutely and yes.

So again it is interesting. So a year later or just before the President is about to give his answer, or give his State of the Nation Address, the Red Tape Reduction Unit in the Presidency wakes up and now sends letters to the provinces to say, "We need to talk about red tape." [Interjections.]

He also knows that I had actually personally asked three times in the last year can we engage. In actual fact I really would suggest we have a retired member of our government, a retired member who actually set up our Red Tape Reduction Unit, Raybin Windvogel, who for many years led our programme.

We have had a Red Tape Reduction Unit in our government for seven years now. Seven years. [Interjections.] And yes, it saved billions and billions and you actually heard in the debate today how it helps thousands of jobs all the

time.

So, hon Chair, absolutely and we will engage [Interjections.] and I look forward to that engagement and seeing how we can help. I actually think that it would be a good idea to use Raybin even as a consultant in the setup.

Before I get to the three last things that I really want to talk about. One of the members raised Ebrahim Rasool. Now it is quite interesting when – not only Ebrahim Rasool, also Leonard Ramatlakane.

It is quite interesting [Interjections.] ... it is quite interesting [Interjections.], hon Speaker, in this House when you know, hon members, raise from the ANC [Interjections.], from the ANC raise ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ... their own members ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ... and of course referring to the then Premier Rasool, who was actually standing in this very seat that I stand in now, but it is his party that fired him. His party that chucked him out, but we got to remember why. Why did his party chuck him out? [Interjections.] Did he forget about the brown envelopes [Interjections.] and all the funny business that went on? It

was the right thing to do was to fire him and then let us think about Leonard Ramatlakane. [Interjections.]

Do you know Leonard Ramatlakane, that was also a really interesting time to be in this House. [Interjections.] When I was in this House and I was on that side of the table ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, on a point of order, hon Chair. Is that part of the Premier's notebook or is it showing a poster? [Interjections.] The Premier showing a poster. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: He is showing us a poster like the hon Doctor did, but he is still within his speaking time [Interjections.], although we do agree with the poster. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon member Sayed, that is not [Interjections.] – hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: [Inaudible.] to apply to the province.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, that is not a point of order. Hon member Dugmore? [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, you are the Speaker of this House and earlier on when the MEC, who is often absent, was holding up his little poster, it was very clear.

Now the Premier is being disingenuous here. I think he knows that the DA is going to get 40% or less and he is holding up a poster there ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order, hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... because the latest polls indicate that ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, what ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... the ANC will get more than 50%, but you are allowing that to happen. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, I ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You are allowing that to happen.



The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, firstly – hon members, let me address this.

I did not make a ruling about a poster earlier on. The ruling I made was that the time of the Minister at that particular point had expired. [Interjections.] So at that point whatever the Minister read or said was not considered.

Hon Premier, I see you.

The PREMIER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.] he is holding it up again. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore. [Interjections.] Hon member Dugmore, I do not see a poster being held up in this House. [Interjections.] Hon member Dugmore, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.] see it, there he is holding up a poster. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon [Interjections.] ... Alright, so ... okay. Please take your seat, hon member Dugmore. [Interjections.]

Can I please ask that the hon member standing please take your seat. I have already ruled on that matter. I said the reason why the Minister earlier on, I did not allow that because his time expired. I made no ruling on the fact that there are posters.

The posters, there is no Rule that says you cannot have a poster. The Rule does say [Interjections.], the Rule, however, does say once [Interjections.] ... I am still on the floor. [Interjections.]

What I need to say is that once a poster affects the decorum of this House that is a completely different discussion. [Interjections.]

Myself as the Presiding Officer.

Hon Premier, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and obviously, I mean this is my, these are my notes and the back page of my notes happens to be looking like that and I, and if it does offend people I will take it off [Interjections.] and there we go.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The PREMIER: And if it does offend people, I will take it off ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): For the province.

The PREMIER: And there we go.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: For the province? Who said for the province?

The PREMIER: And I believe those numbers are wrong anyway because now it has dropped from 40% to 37%. [Interjections.] But hon Speaker, so I was speaking about Rasool being removed by the ANC because of brown envelopes and if we remember in that time with Ramatlakane who was also raised in this House. He was an hon member of this House. He sat a little bit further down on this Government side. But if you remember the reason that he was removed is that he drove an ML Mercedes Benz. It was his own car and he used to claim mileage every single month and it was amazing. I think he paid his car off three times in one year from the amount of money that he claimed.

One thing that was good, I mean, he was fired, so that was great, but the one thing that came out of it was the change of policy in this Government. So, we do not allow people to buy fancy cars and claim it back from the Government. That is not allowed. It is removed from our Handbook. So, that was at least one good thing that came about or came from it. But the interesting thing, it was again, the ANC that fired him. Not necessarily

directly so, but it was the ANC that gave us all of the information on their colleagues who were abusing the taxpayers' money.

So, hon Speaker, I want to then move on to the hon Dugmore. The hon Dugmore was raising issues, first of all yesterday, about [Interjections.] Thank you very much. I have just heard an hon members say, 'please speak about the issues.' I am speaking about an issue that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, a specific issue of connectivity. He said again, 'no connection in Oudtshoorn. No WiFi hotspots in Oudtshoorn.' ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is true.

The PREMIER: So, let me tell him that there are 34 WiFi hotspots in Oudtshoorn ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am not talking about the municipality when I said ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: There are 54 (sic) WiFi hotspots in Oudtshoorn. I have got a list of every single one of those hotspots in Oudtshoorn. [Interjections.] I have also got a GIS map of all of the hotspots. You can go onto the website, hon Speaker, and you can go and have a look at where those hotspots are. [Interjections.] You can go and see which street they are in: 34. He says there is not one! ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I said the municipalities.

The PREMIER: I said 34.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is it municipality ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: This Government – this Government rolls out [Interjections.] WiFi hotspots across our province to every single municipality and we are there for the citizens of this province. We now have ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Order, hon members. Hon Dugmore, I have asked you previously to not get into a dialogue with the hon Premier. The hon Premier is replying to input delivered by hon members of this House. Whether you like the response or not, there will be another opportunity for you to rebut that. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, could I ask whether the hon Premier will accept a question?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, are you prepared to accept a question ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): On Speaker, on a point of order?

The SPEAKER: ...but before you do so, I see the hon Deputy Chief Whip. Is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you. In terms of Rule 66 (3)(a), I want to know whether it is parliamentary practice to allow a political party logo in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament House. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: That is ...[Laughter.] That is not allowed. [Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: Tear off! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, because on every page, so far I have seen, there are printed logos and while you have allowed process in the House, my understanding is that logos of political parties are not allowed in this House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is absolutely correct. Hon members, can I please ask that no display of party political is displayed within the House.

[Interjections.] Thank you very much. Hon Premier, hon Dugmore is going to pose a question to you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. In the light of my interjection yesterday which said that there is no WiFi at the Oudtshoorn Municipality and at the Cederberg Municipality. [Interjections.] I would like to ask the hon Premier: ...[Interjections.] is the Oudtshoorn Municipality ...[Interjections.] I would like to ask the hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can he give ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can he give this House the assurance that when a member of the public goes into the Oudtshoorn Municipality or the Cederberg Municipality, that there is public WiFi. Can he tell this House 'yes' or 'no'? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier? [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you, thank you very much. I was just quickly looking

here, but I mean, I saw the Oudtshoorn Traffic Department has got, the Oudtshoorn – I mean, I will give this to the hon member, but it has got all of these things. I am not going to sit down and go through each and every one. But also remember, this is Western Cape Government WiFi that we roll out to the 1 440 spots, but where the hon member is talking about in a local government space, I would need to go and have a look at that. I want to – but then he did say yesterday that there are no WiFi hotspots in Oudtshoorn, which is absolutely untrue. There are 34. [Interjections.]

Then, I would like to address this House on crime. I would like to address this House who have lots to say, especially from the Opposition, when we talk about the Safety Plan, when we talk about data, when we talk about evidence, but also and perhaps where I will start off with: criminal activity that takes place that we have to address in our country. People in our country are embedding criminal behaviour, extortion in everything that we do, and it is interesting to see how that gets supported from this side of the House. But perhaps, before I get there, it was quite interesting when you ruled about ‘no political logos’. I do not know how a political party feels when people sitting in the House start ripping up their political logos ...[Interjections.] but I saw them doing it on that side of the House. [Interjections.] I saw them doing it on that side ...[Interjection.]

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

The PREMIER: But I want to, I want [Interjections.] Hon Speaker, I want to



address, and it was not raised in the debate, but it was part of the interjections that heard, specifically when hon Minister Maynier was talking about the thuggery that is happening at the moment and the extortion, and the abuse of school children. The abuse of learners in a space where learners are hiding in footwells of vehicles, where parents are too scared that the taxi industries are going to rip people out of the car or the bus. That is unacceptable. That is thuggery. That is a mafia style doing of business. And I heard from this side of the House at that time, that said ...[Interjections.] that said, and I wrote it down, 'but these are business people.' Well, that is not how you do business, definitely not how you do business.

When you do business and you have a process of saying [Interjections.] we are opening a tender process on school transport ...[Interjections.], then business people can make application and can be awarded tenders to transport people. That is how you do business. You do not use our children as hostages ...[Interjections.] because you did not get a contract, because you did not get a tender. That is totally unacceptable! The hon Maynier is not here right now ...[Interjections.] because he is in court getting an interdict against these thugs from playing mafia-style business ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You call them mafia ...[Audio distortion.] terrible the mafia. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: He is getting an interdict against these thugs ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ...in the taxi industry ...[Interjections.] and the taxi industry themselves should actually step away and stand up and say whether they are part of this thuggery or not ...[Interjections.] because that is not the way to do business at all. And, of course, that is about extortion, corruption ...[Interjections.] that we see in our country, this rot that moves through across the country. This is the crime that citizens talk about when you crisscross this province, and you talk to them and you listen to them. They say, 'to help us with loadshedding' and then they say, 'help us with crime.' And that is why the hon member's question ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...about devolution is so very, very important. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Mvimbi, is that a point of order?

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Ja, I do not know. Is the hon Premier willing to take a question?

The PREMIER: Not this time. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi ...[Interjections.] hon Mvimbi, please. Hon members, the hon Premier is not prepared to take a question. Hon Premier, you can continue. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Speaker. I have a lot to say from interjections. I am just sorry that their Whippery did not give them a chance to speak in this debate. They obviously wanted to say something. [Interjections.]

But it is the second most raised issue in our region, in our province. It is called crime and we have to address it. That is why I believe in devolution of power. That is why we put a Safety Plan together and you know, it is interesting ...[Interjections.] it is interesting when you hear the most objection from the ANC is where things are really hurting them or where the ANC ...[Interjections.] where the ANC knows that this Government is perhaps stepping into their mandate because they are failing so badly, and that is the Safety Plan. That is the Safety Plan which is the only ...[Interjections.] the only provincial intervention in this country where we are seeing the start of a reduction in murder. [Interjections.] The only intervention!

But it is interesting. I do not know how many times I have heard in the last day and a half, people in this House going, 'what Safety Plan? Where is the

Safety Plan?’ And I do not know how many years they have been in this House. There is a poster there that says: where is your Safety Plan? Can I ask the Table to please deliver that to the hon member? There is the Safety Plan. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order! [Interjections.] Order. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon Premier, you can continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.] Hon Speaker, the Safety Plan was implemented in this province because we do not have sufficient powers to really make the difference, and we had to step above and beyond. We had to work out what should we be doing differently to turn the murder rate around. Yesterday, I spent a lot of time talking about how the murder rate continues to grow and in actual fact, it is really shocking when you talk about 26 000 people murdered in this country ...[Interjections.] 26 000 people, through you, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Kama? [Interjections.] Hon Kama and hon Bosman, can I please ask you to allow the hon Premier to reply and respect the decorum of the House. [Interjections.] Hon members, are you done? [Interjections.] Clearly not. [Interjections.] Hon members of the ANC, hon members on my left, are you done conversing? [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Premier, I see you.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Can you just listen to the last few minutes of the

comments coming from the ANC. They do not take seriously 26 000 murders a year in our country. They do not take it seriously at all. [Interjections.] More than double digit increases every single year in murder ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Please, do not work with that. Western Cape ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: No, hon Speaker, it is not a point of order. I want to check if the hon Premier is willing to take a question. [Interjections.] No. No, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, can you speak through the Chair not directly to the hon member.

Mr M KAMA: Yes. No, thank you very much, hon Speaker and it is actually shocking that we still have a working document. Now, I want to understand from the hon Premier because when he made this pronouncement about the Safety Plan, he spoke of an integrated approach which is what the ANC would have been calling for all the time, and he said that communities would need to be involved. Now, the understanding was that the Government is going to support communities to be involved.

Now, I want the hon Premier to explain how does it now work that immediately after the Safety Plan, we had Community Policing Forums that were no longer funded by the Department and even to this date, they are no longer funded. Only the DA-volunteers in the Neighbourhood Watch are receiving money. How does he then think that the community will be able to fully participate in fighting crime? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you, hon Kama. [Applause.] Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you for that question. But as a member of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, you know that that is not true that you have just said ...[Interjections.] because the Policing Forum do get money from this Government. Does that answer the question ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable Premier, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon members, you have an hon member on the floor. There is a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, can the hon Premier please – he was doing well at the beginning – can he continue and speak directly to the Chairperson, not speak to our hon member here.

The SPEAKER: Can I please ask hon members ...[Interjections.] can I please ask that you respect the decorum of the House. I cannot ...[Interjections.]

even count how many times I have appealed to you. Can you please – hon Sayed!

Hon members, we are nearing the end of this reply of a long one and a half days. There are other hon members in this House that also want to hear the reply. There are citizens that are waiting to hear the reply. You had an opportunity to engage the input of SOPA and it is only fair and right that the hon Premier be allowed to reply in whichever form or format that he chooses as an hon member of this House. I am not going to entertain any more frivolous points of orders that will break the reply of the hon Premier. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Speaker and the hon member knows if he just goes and has a look, that that is totally untrue, that there is budget that goes to Community Policing Forums ...[Interjections.] and he will also know that there is also budget that goes to Neighbourhood Watches. But in both cases, they have to be registered and they have to make sure that they hold their AGMs, and that they have got their books in order because we do not just like Bambanani, pay political activists and using State and public money.

But coming back to another side comment which really is an interesting one that comes from the ANC because they made a comment on the working document and now obviously, they did not listen from day one. Because if you have a fixed plan and you do not change it ...[Interjections.] and you do not change it as the environment changes. [Interjections.] So, in actual fact,

you would have seen changes in this document year on year as we revise and as we change how we spend money on safety of our citizens in this province, over and above the job that we are supposed to do, which is an oversight job. And that brings me to this document, hon Speaker, and that is the P&P document.

By far, the best oversight document that exists in South Africa. No other province puts a document together like this. No other province has oversight of police stations, like this province does, of police stations in this province. And so much so, it was interesting that the hon Minister in the Presidency does not even know that the Philippi Police Station is actually under management of Public Works and under management of SAPS. He does not even know that. [Interjections.]

But the other thing that came to light in those debates, but also in these debates, it will be interesting to know how many cameras because I hear the ...[Interjections.] the hon Minister of Police talking about cameras and cameras in Khayelitsha. Where are the cameras in Khayelitsha? Is that not what I hear so often? It will be interesting to know if the hon members in this House know how many cameras are in Khayelitsha? How many cameras are in Khayelitsha? There are 36 cameras in Khayelitsha. In the control room, and this is the report that came from the control room yesterday, and there are cameras that are off.

And the interesting thing is the cameras that are not operational are where



there is a fibre break, where there are stolen cables and generally, it is on the PRASA property where that problem exists. And that is because there is zero management of PRASA of their property, of their assets. [Interjections.] That is why the trains do not work, that is why there are 13 000 people living in a rail reserve and that is why the promise of – I mean, the previous or the current, he is still the current Minister of Transport, soon to be deployed to Luthuli House. But he made a promise that this would be fixed by October last year. Quite frankly, what has happened? Nothing. The best they could do is hand out some food parcels to people that are living on the rail reserve. Totally unacceptable.

But let us get back to policing and comments that were coming from this side of the House when I spoke about the 1 200 LEAP officers deployed in this province. [Interjections.] Over and above those 1 200 police officers, what I heard was, ‘but hang on a second, we are getting another 1 000 police officers coming into the system. SAPS are redeploying.’ The one mistake that is made every single time by the Police Minister, who takes no responsibility for the 26 000 people who were murdered last year or the 4 000 people who were murdered in this province, that very same Police Minister who where the actual responsibility lies of deployment of police officers to police stations. And the police stations that hon members raise on this side of the House year after year, still do not get the deployment.

In 2018, we used to have 1:345 police officers in this – 1 police officer to every 345 citizens. Right now, we have got 1 to every 378. So, since 2018 it

has gotten worse and not better. So, they come along with selective numbers, an extra 1 000 policemen, but they do not talk about the 2 000 policemen who were retired, left the service, are not involved in crime fighting anymore. We lose more people in policing than we put back in again. And what happens as well? The ANC keep cutting the budget for Policing.

They keep cutting the budget and that is why we have to make sure we get the devolution of power because if this Province had the power to decide where police officers get deployed to, we would deploy the police officers to Harare where the ratio is not 1:378, which is the norm in our province, it is now 1:879. That is where we will be deploying. We would deploy to Gugulethu where it is 1:773 or Samora Machel. Samora Machel was 1:778; Khayelitsha 1:628. That is totally unacceptable. I want to say to you, hon Chief Whip, exactly! That is shameful.

They do not care about how many people get murdered in this country ...[Interjections.] and what plans to do to turn that around. Every quarter, the numbers get worse. The increase keeps going up, except where this Plan is being enacted. [Interjections.] Now listen to them again. They have got no answer to 26 000 murders! Nothing, zero! They should hang their heads in shame. People in this country are getting murdered and they are doing nothing about it. [Interjections.]

I also heard a lot about rural areas from citizens here. You know, the most amazing thing is in Cloeteville in Stellenbosch. The police to population

ratio is 1:1118. How shocking is that? And whose responsibility is it to allocate police officers where crime happens? The ANC and they are failing the people of this province. [Interjections.] They are failing the people of this country. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.] hon Speaker, I want to say that the one thing is evident in this province ...[Interjections.] and that is we put our money where our mouths are. We make choices based on what citizens tell us and what we pick up from the citizens. We make choices based on what we can do to make the biggest difference for citizens, to build a better province. To make sure that it gets better and better and not worse and worse. And that is why newspaper headline after newspaper headline, report after report comes out that shows a better government in this province than anywhere else in South Africa. [Interjections.] That is also why so many citizens of South Africa vote with their feet and move to this province, to our municipalities that are blue, to a province that is blue [Interjections.].

The reason they do it is simple: they know that when they come to this province, they will get a better government ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The PREMIER: They will get a more caring government. They will get a responsive government. They will get a government that makes a difference. They will get a government that gives them hope! [Applause.] That is why

people come here en masse. That is why people leave the ANC.

So, next year, hon Speaker, when people have the choice again, in those provinces where the DA does not govern, they must vote the ANC out because do you see what happens when they voted the ANC out in this province, it made the biggest difference for the citizens ever. They need to do the same in every other province. [Applause.] Turn them into opposition. [Applause.] Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you [Applause.] Thank you, hon Premier. [Interjections.] Hon members ...[Interjections.] hon members, hon Nkondlo! Hon members, ...[Interjections.] hon Chief Whip, that concludes the reply by the hon Premier on the State of the Province Address.

But before we adjourn, after the commencement of the Sitting yesterday, I announced the new hon members that have been sworn in during the recess. In this regard, I erroneously announced that a vacancy occurred due to the resignation of Mr M Mnqasela. This is incorrect, as he ceased to be a member of the WCPP due to the loss of his party membership. The record will thus reflect this correction. That concludes the business of the day. The House is adjourned.

House adjourned at 14:51

