
THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

[Hybrid sitting held in Genadendal with parallel event in Cape Town with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams.]

The House met at 09:30.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, all microphones have been muted. For those hon members who are participating in the sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to please use the raise-your-hand functionality of the system when you desire to raise a point of order. For the purposes of this sitting via the hybrid model, language interpreting services are available both here in the Chamber and the Chamber in Wale Street, Cape Town, as per normal.

As ruled by the Presiding Officer in the sitting of the House on 23 April 2020 via Microsoft Teams, no interjections shall be permitted during this debate. In this regard I also wish to draw the attention of the hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. Please note, hon members, this is a no-smoking environment building. Smoking is therefore not allowed in this building.

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

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I have received a copy of the Premier's State of the Province Address, delivered in the House on Wednesday 17 February 2021. The address is printed in the Minutes of the Proceedings and I now place it before the House for debate.

I recognise the hon Dugmore. [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: A point of order, Deputy Speaker.

Debate on Premier's State of the Province Address

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Geagte Adjunkspeaker Premier, kollegas, dames en here en veral die mense van Genadendal, Theewaterskloof in die Overberg.

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon

Premier, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen and especially the people of Genadendal, Theewaterskloof in the Overberg.]

I want to start by actually paying tribute to those from this community of Genadendal, who stood up against the evil system of apartheid and colonialism and joined the struggle for liberation. Many were banned and detained. The so-called *Solderbeweging* or the Loft Movement, which consisted of a group of teachers from different political persuasions including the Unity Movement and the Congress Movement, which consisted of meetings at the loft at the Parsonage and spoke out against apartheid and oppression. They included Jonas Bosch, Ivan Wessels, Ernie Leonard, Andries Daniels and Reverend Dan Wessels, who was twice banned. In later years, Charlene Wessels, Chris Nissen and Nabs Wessels emerged as active participants in the struggles of the 70s and the 80s. Myrtle Witbooi of the South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union (SADSAWU) is also a product of Genadendal and there are many others. †Maar as ons vandag na die armoede, ongelykheid, werkloosheid en sosiale probleme kyk dan weet ons dat die stryd hier in Genadendal nog nie verby is nie. [But when we look today at the poverty, inequality, unemployment and social problems then we realise that the struggle here in Genadendal is not over yet.]

We must honour the memory of those Genadendal freedom fighters and never stop until we have a united, prosperous and peaceful community in Genadendal and Greyton.

†Die mense van die Overberg het gewag vir 'n toespraak wat daadwerklike planne en bronne ingesluit het om die kwessies aan te spreek, maar die Overberg was teleurgesteld. Die Wes-Kaap was teleurgesteld. [The people of the Overberg waited for a speech that included active plans and resources to address the issues, but the Overberg was disappointed.]

Nowhere in the speech that was tabled or the speech that was delivered could we find concrete plans and budgets for each municipality in this region. The speech was more about form or show than actual substance.

†Vandag wil ek graag aan die mense van Genadendal sê, hierdie Wetgewer spandeer oor die R200 000 op 'n spektakel hier in die Overberg en die Premier praat vir 'n uur en 'n half, maar hulle gee nie die mense van Genadendal of die Overberg 'n kans om hulle sê te kan sê nie. Vir die DA is dit mos “bokant blink, maar onder stink.”

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Today I want to say to the people of Genadendal, this Legislature spends more than R200 000 on a spectacle here in the Overberg and the Premier speaks for an hour and a half, but they do not give the people of Genadendal or the Overberg an opportunity to say their piece. For the DA it is indeed shiny outside, rotten inside.]

The same happened in Mitchells Plain last year. No leaders from the

community were allowed to speak at an event which cost over R1,5 million.

†Die DA en die Premier wil nie die waarheid hoor nie. Hulle wil nie hoor wat ons mense sê oor die korrupsie en die baantjies vir DA boeties hier in die Theewaterskloof nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The DA and the Premier do not want to hear the truth. They do not want to hear what our people say about the corruption and jobs for pals here in the Theewaterskloof.]

†Die Premier praat van veiligheid, hy praat van werkskepping en menswaardigheid. [The Premier speaks of safety, he speaks of job creation and human dignity.] I want to ask the Premier, did you notice any traffic officers trying to hike a lift from the N2 to Genadendal?

I do not know if you noticed it. I noticed it. Yes, traffic officers hiking. These are victims of a DA-run municipality who refuses to deal with allegations of racism and bullying by the manager of Traffic Services who left his job in the Free State under a cloud of racism and those that have declared a dispute against this traffic manager are now being victimised, not given PPE, and a number of serious allegations, but the DA allows this to go on, †want, soos hulle sê, “blink bo, stink onder.” Ek wil basies die stelling maak dat die DA staan eintlik vir baasskap; nie menswaardigheid nie. [Because as they say shiny outside, rotten inside. Basically I want to make

the statement that the DA actually stand for *baasskap* (mastery); not human dignity.]

Just yesterday the DA-run City of Cape Town was found to practice *baasskap* in the form of its deployee, Craig Kesson, who failed to consult workers about changing reporting lines. Premier, it is clear that you are not even aware that the last time houses were built in Genadendal was in 2007 when the ANC actually governed here. For over 14 years not a single house has been built here. The Premier did not take the trouble to actually visit communities who are suffering from poor and sometimes no service delivery by the DA TWK.

Riemvasmaak in Caledon, 1 000 people with only five toilets, and Madiba Park here in Genadendal, 600 people with only three toilets. The toilets are in fact not working. [Inaudible.] Hospital in Botrivier, 60 people with no toilets, and perhaps MEC Madikizela, who speaks after me, must tell us what happened to his promise two years ago to the people of Madiba Park here, that they would be provided with alternative land. Westridge and Protea Heights in Villiersdorp, 1 000 structures, and no toilets.

†Waar is die menswaardigheid, Premier? [Where is the human dignity, Premier?] Where is the dignity? I think we must be honest about the problem we have and why leading from the front is simply spin without substance. Those that do not have access to agricultural land, who do not have title to land for housing, who are not owners of the Overberg and provincial

economy are in the main people who were classified as Coloured and African by the apartheid government. These two communities were actually the victims of apartheid and colonialism and their life chances are affected by that legacy.

The problem we have, Deputy Speaker, is that the party to which the Premier belongs, the DA, believes that race does not matter. The party that the Premier belongs to, the DA, does not believe that race is a determinant of disadvantage. Nowhere in this speech does the Premier talk about inequality. Nowhere does he acknowledge the need for redress for those who suffered under the discrimination of apartheid; not a word about racism – not a single word!

The problem, Deputy Speaker, is the DA's Policy and priorities. We are not surprised that the DA continues to lose by-elections in George and Oudtshoorn. The people can see that the real problem is that the DA is concerned mainly about the wealthy, the elite, those that have property, wealth, access to quality education and have benefited in fact from apartheid and colonialism. This is the DA's constituency, not the poor, not the majority of the [Inaudible.]

This is a matter of fact. †Dit is 'n feit soos 'n koei. [A fact you can't argue with.]

As the ANC we believe that farmworkers and farm owners need to build a

partnership which leads to shared prosperity. We believe that it is simply not sustainable or morally justifiable that less than 1% of agricultural land in the province is in the hands of Black farmers, Coloured, African or Indian.

We also celebrate the record exports by fruit farmers in our province, but Deputy Speaker, the DA, the Premier's party, is on record in their manifesto as being against the minimum wage which farmworkers earn, just over R3 500 in a month. In fact, the DA policy says that the minimum wage should be R1 800. It is in black and white in the DA's policy and this in a situation where the workers should be enjoying, they even want to quibble and question the minimum wage and that is why farmworkers †sal nooit vir die DA later die jaar stem nie [will never vote for the DA later this year.] They know that the DA believes actually in starvation wages. What other is R1 800? The DA wants actually slave labour.

†Weereens, a case of bo blink, maar onder stink, [Again, a case of shiny outside, but rotten inside], and here in Greyton, Speaker, it is the DA TWK Council that wants to sell a prime piece of municipal land to a private school for R100,00. There is over 200 hectares of land in the broad Greyton area, which could be used for integrated human settlements. There is an organisation, Greyton Transition. Why not bring, and you ask for suggestions, the communities together? Find equitable morally just solutions so that these two communities can work together and share the resources that are there and there are 200 hectares of municipal land available. It is a perfect site for integrated human settlements, for social services, for

community facilities, and it would be a concrete way of reversing apartheid spatial planning, but just like in Tafelberg where the DA prefers to sell land to private interests as opposed to using it for affordable housing for domestic and general workers in Sea Point, †mense is goed genoeg om in Greyton te werk, maar dit lyk asof die DA nie wil toelaat dat meer mense naby Greyton moet bly nie [people are good enough to work in Greyton, but it seems that the DA does not want to allow more people to live near Greyton.]

Where is the dignity now, Mr Premier? We must continuously be subjected to the moaning from the DA about budget cuts. We heard R1,6 billion yesterday, but suddenly this Provincial Government can go on its own and procure vaccines.

Yesterday Premier Winde claimed that South Africa was R40 million vaccines short but the record shows from Minister Mkhize that our country has secured nine million vaccines from Johnson & Johnson, 20 million from Pfizer, 12 million from Covax. That is 41 million, thus there are over 40 million vaccines simply awaiting finalisation agreements for delivery with manufacturers. The exact number will be published after agreements. Yet, the Premier comes here and says: “We are short of 40 million vaccines.” We look forward to his explanation.

†Die Premier sê: “Korrupsie sal nie toegelaat word in hierdie provinsie nie”, dat hy self klagtes sal lê teen diegene wat van die mense steel.

[The Premier says: “Corruption will not be allowed in this province”, that he

would himself lay charges against those stealing from the people.]

†Wel, Speaker, ek hoop die agb Premier weet waar die polisiestacie in Swellendam is. [Well, Speaker, I hope the hon Premier knows where the police station is in Swellendam.] I challenge you to lay a charge against the Swellendam Mayor. There is silence from Premier Winde and MEC Bredell about the serious allegations of conflict of interest against this Mayor from Swellendam. He failed to declare his interest in a farm when the issue of the Utilisation for Renewable Energy Project was discussed, as it crossed over these particular farms. It is not acceptable that the SIU has not yet concluded its investigation into Swellendam. We never hear MEC Bredell talking about Swellendam and the outstanding SIU investigation. Swellendam is a nest of corruption, cronyism and captures.

†Weereens, bo blink terwyl onder stink! Ons moet vra of daar klagtes gelê is, [Again, shiny outside but rotten inside! We should ask if charges were laid,] because that is what the Premier promised, †teen die direkteur hier in Theewaterskloof Munisipaliteit, wat in 'n PPE-tender betrokke was. Hy was skuldig bevind deur die Raad, maar geen klagtes is teen hom gelê nie. Die boetie-boetie verneukery wat in die Buffeljagsdamprojek aangaan, weereens is daar geen geleenthede vir klein swart- en bruin kontrakteurs nie. Die boetie-boetie manier hoe die Skougronde in Swellendam afgegee word, is 'n verdere voorbeeld. [against the director here in Theewaterskloof Municipality, who were involved in a PPE tender. He was found guilty by the Council, but no charges were laid against him. The hand-in-glove

swindling going on in the Buffeljags Dam project, again there are no opportunities for small black and coloured contractors. The hand-in-glove way in which the Showgrounds in Swellendam are disposed of, is another example.]

Speaker, the DA does not believe in employment equity of Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment because they simply want to perpetuate past privilege.

As the ANC we are fully behind President Ramaphosa's efforts to root out corruption, wherever it exists. Despite problems, steady progress has been made at the Zondo Commission as well as with the strengthening of the NPA, and, more recently, the SIU. There is no turning back on the fight against corruption. While the wheels of justice turn slowly, they are indeed turning. This is happening without fear or favour, but what we have in the province is a bias towards DA-run municipalities that are protected. It is ANC councils you are targeting; in some cases DA councillors who belong to the wrong faction. †Hulle is in die verkeerde faksie; hulle word geteiken. [They are in the wrong faction; they are targeted.] But Premier Winde is leading from the front while ignoring corruption, nepotism, cronyism within DA ranks.

It is an election year, so all we get are promises, promises and more promises, but the ANC also remains committed to working with National and Provincial Government and you asked for suggestions and I want to conclude

with a suggestion, hon Premier, and that is invite the National Minister, the Provincial Minister. There is a huge opportunity to unlock the Transformation of Certain Rural Areas Act (TRANCA)... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes. Is that time?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I just called order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: How much time do I have left?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have about 15 seconds. You are almost done.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay, I want to conclude with a proposal. There are 5 000 under the Rural Development Department here under TRANCA, a huge opportunity for Agriculture, Tourism. I challenge you, Premier, to come here with the National Minister. We will assist, the Minister of Tourism as well, and actually speak and listen to the community of Genadendal and Greyton... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and build that prosperity and peace and progress, which we know is possible. Thank you. [Applause.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Dugmore. While we are just sanitising the podium, if I can ask that hon Minister Madikizela gets ready. Oh, actually he is not here, so he can actually begin straight away while the podium is being sanitised. Over to you, Minister Madikizela.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, I hope you can hear me this time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, one minute, Minister Madikizela.

Mr P J MARAIS: I called for a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: I asked for a point of order right in the beginning.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Madikizela, if you could just wait a second. Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: When we started this session you made reference to the

Premier's Speech yesterday, which he never delivered. He had a written speech and he put the speech on the table, and he said he is not going to use it. I would like to know the status of this speech then. Hansard does not record written papers. Hansard records voice exchanges between members. That is Hansard. Are you saying that this printed speech of Premier Winde, which he never delivered, will form part of the records of Hansard? I would like clarity on that, because then I can stay at home, send my speech in and have it recorded in Hansard and debated. I would like you to rule on it, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I heard what you have said, absolutely, the Premier tabled the Speech prior to speaking. If you look at Rule 57, funnily enough, it actually says that we should not be reading our speeches, so it is absolutely legitimate. The speech has been tabled. You have all received a copy and we have received it as Presiding Officers. I trust that is concluded. Thank you.

We move over to Minister Madikizela.

Mr P J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, can I again engage you on this?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr P J MARAIS: You are not clear. You say the speech has been tabled. It has not been delivered. The Premier himself said he is not going to stick to

his speech. He is delivering it now *ad lib*. What he said is nowhere to be found in his written speech, which is then an official copy of his speech.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, the prepared speech has been tabled and any deviations will be captured in the Hansard. You can cross-reference both. Thank you very much. Over to you, Minister Madikizela.

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, one minute. I see hon member Xego has his hand up. Hon member Xego, what is your point of order?

Mr M XEGO: I strongly believe, Deputy Speaker, that what has been raised by hon Marais is practically correct. Are we debating the speech that the Premier presented or are we debating the speech that he spoke on the podium about, so that we would know if there is a difference between what he said on the podium and what he presented to you? If we can get clarity, if you are going to say to us that what the Premier was saying yesterday is what was presented to you. Then we are fine, we do not have a problem, but we are very much sceptical of debating a speech that might not be on the Hansard.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Wenger, I recognise you.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. This is fluff. What the Premier presented yesterday and what he tabled are one and the same. They are in substance exactly the same, the same points were raised, the same major announcements. It is one and the same, so this is just a distraction and I ask kindly that we can continue with the Order of the Day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, now before I continue with anybody else, I would just like to make it very clear. In terms of Rule 66.3(c), you cannot raise a point of order on a point of order I have already addressed so the matter is now closed, the Speech, if you look at it into the wording of the actual tabled speech, is absolutely to the points that the Premier has spoken to. I leave it as such. The matter closed. We now move on. Hon Madikizela, I recognise you.

Mr M XEGO: Can I raise a point of order, Deputy Speaker?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition ... [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker...

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ...members of the Legislature. [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker, Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Madikizela, one minute. Who is actually rising – please, hon members, put your hand up if you are going to raise a point of order on the virtual screen. Can I please ask who is shouting or raising their voices and not actually following proper procedure?

Mr M XEGO: Pardon me, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Xego, hon Xego, I am not recognising you. The matter is now closed. We are moving on. Thank you very much. Over to you, hon Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Deputy Speaker, allow me to thank the Premier for delivering an excellent State of the Province Address yesterday. He is to be congratulated on his firm, clear stand on many important issues. Taking a stand is exactly what we in this Government have to do, if the institution of government is to survive the many attacks on it, which we witness on an almost daily basis. I do not have to remind hon members that without a functioning, structured government, what we have is the chaos that we are already experiencing in other parts of the country and in Central Government.

Deputy Speaker, the more I listened to member Dugmore, the more I appreciate Carl Niehaus. No member of the public is allowed to participate

in the State of the Nation Address or the State of the Province Address, so hon member Dugmore must not come here and try to grandstand.

As we continue to grapple with COVID 19, I would like to take this opportunity to send my condolences to all those who have succumbed to this deadly virus. I would like to thank our frontline service staff, who have been central in fighting this pandemic. The unimaginable trauma and depression that they have suffered during this period do not go unnoticed, and I am confident that with their dedication and commitment we will overcome this pandemic. [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker...

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: But, Deputy Speaker, the greatest pandemic we will not survive... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Madikizela, just take your seat.

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I take umbrage that you are shouting over the microphone. If you want to raise a point of order, you raise your hand first. You do not raise your voice.

Mr M XEGO: Oh, alright.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, is there a new point of order?

Mr M XEGO: It is not a point of order, Deputy Speaker

Mr P MARRAN: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then I am not recognising you. Please lower your hand and hon Minister Madikizela will proceed. Thank you.

Mr M XEGO: But it is a point of procedure, Deputy Speaker. [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of procedure, hon Marran?

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker, the echo that is coming from the House, we cannot hear anything that hon Madikizela is saying, so that procedurally we will not be able to respond to what hon Madikizela is saying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you very much.

Mr M XEGO: So I am not disturbing the House, but we just want to rise...
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, and we cannot hear, we cannot hear the speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you. I appreciate you raising that.

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker, that was basically ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute.

Mr P MARRAN: That was basically my point of order also because I was not sure whether it is only me. I cannot hear a thing. There is like an echo, ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

An HON MEMBER: Ja, it is very bad, so do not mute and try to suppress people.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay if I can ask that hon Minister Madikizela... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: We cannot hear.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you very much. I hear you. We are just going to suspend for a few minutes, just to – if you can just hold on, hon Minister Madikizela while we just check the sound, and we will then ask you to start from the beginning again; if you can just give us a few minutes.

Can I get some advice from the IT staff please?

[Discussion aside with IT staff to resolve connection issues.]

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we will proceed. Can I request that firstly you keep your phones away from the microphones; secondly, that you make sure your microphones are off, so that you only hear one sound at a time. I am getting feedback and echo and thirdly, that perhaps try it in the Chamber with the ear-phone, that maybe that will not drown it, as much as possible. I am going to try one more time. Over to you, hon Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: What we will survive, as South Africans, is the ANC Government and that became evident during President Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address last week which was a clear indication that this man is completely out of touch with reality. Under his leadership, even though hon Dugmore is commending him, corruption, unemployment and poverty have worsened. Nice speeches, summits, commissions and good intentions will not dig us out of this hole, but courageous leadership that is prepared to do what is unpopular, but right, is what is going to save our country, and President Ramaphosa unfortunately does not have it in him to do so.

All our efforts under this DA Provincial Government will come to naught as long as we have the corrupt and incompetent Government under the ANC nationally. So, I want to caution all those who are still supporting

Ramaphosa because they are scared of the alternative, should he lose power, which is DD Mabuza. This twisted logic and misplaced loyalty is dangerous and costing us dearly as a country. They must understand that DD is Ramaphosa, and Ramaphosa is DD and they will both always put the ANC above South Africa.

The DA Government fought tooth and nail, and continues to do so, all the attempts by the ANC Government to centralise power with an intention to get their hands in tills of provinces and municipalities they do not control. We are already seeing this in Matzikama, Cederberg, Beaufort West and the Central Karoo, just a few months after taking control of those municipalities. Their coffers are now dry. Joint District Approach is one of those attempts where the ANC Government wants to deploy National Ministers to municipalities, when they cannot even run their own departments.

Together with the City of Cape we will be challenging the Administrative Adjudication of Roads Traffic Offences (AARTO) and many other legislations that are intended to erode powers of provinces and municipalities by National Government.

Deputy Speaker, after destroying almost all their state-owned enterprises how on earth can we trust this Government with land reform through this mad idea of expropriation without compensation? How can we trust them to improve our health system through National Health Insurance, and how can we trust them after they shamelessly looted the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

and Health Infrastructure funding to fight this deadly virus? How can we trust this Government that cannot even get the rollout of the vaccine right?

Last week a terrible accident claimed the lives of four innocent children. This accident happened because of irresponsible people who dug a hole under the bridge, stealing sand, risking the collapse of the bridge and the road. I visited all four families to send my deepest condolences. It is really tragic to lose a child and may God give those families strength to deal with this terrible loss. I asked my Department to conduct a full technical investigation into that accident and outcomes will be shared and I want to thank the Department of Social Development, under Minister Sharna Fernandez, and the City of Cape Town, under Mayor Plato, for their intervention.

After numerous attempts to curb taxi violence, which have been partly successful, I was very saddened by the passing of three taxi operators in two incidents of shooting that took place in Delft and Bellville on Tuesday. Three other operators were injured. I condemn this act of thuggery, which is a huge threat in our efforts to restore dignity in this industry. An investigation is underway, and I am hopeful that perpetrators will be apprehended.

I was also inundated by calls and messages of concern and panic from people after a notice issued by the Cape Organisation for the Democratic Taxi Association (CODETA) which appeared to be a veiled threat against users of other modes of transport. I immediately convened an urgent meeting with the leadership of that organisation yesterday and they agreed to retract the

notice. A joint statement will be issued today outlining our position and the importance of operating within the ambit of the law. No one must take the law into their own hands, no matter how aggrieved they might feel.

Deputy Speaker, I want to return briefly to my earlier remarks about how important it is to people and communities to have access to a functioning government by referring to two formal opening ceremonies which I attended recently. Neither of these facilities, which I opened, falls into the category of mega projects and neither facility is going to have a profound impact on the wider economy. But, Deputy Speaker, both facilities are going to improve the day-to-day lives of ordinary communities and make it possible for citizens to access information, Government services, schooling and shopping – all essential to the living of decent lives.

One of these facilities, a former education hostel in Mossel Bay, which had fallen into disrepair, has been renovated and converted into an easily accessible Shared Services Centre, Housing Departments of this Government. The gratitude with which the community received this facility was overwhelming. This is a simple, affordable project which will make a huge difference to people's lives – surely one of the key responsibilities of this Government – and these are the kinds of projects, Deputy Speaker, that we have been undertaking to make sure that we lessen the burden on the people of this province.

I also had the pleasure of opening the second of these facilities on Tuesday

this week – the new pedestrian bridge across the N2 at the Gordon High School, which provide safe, easy passage for all wanting to cross this busy highway, but particularly for the many children who live on the western side of the highway. Although the bridge is a straight-forward concept, the context is such that putting into place required a Government department which could plan, co-operate with another sphere of government and a public school in the execution of this project.

Deputy Speaker, knowing the difference which these facilities make to lives, and here I include our roads, my Department moved swiftly to ensure that all projects which had been closed down because of the lockdown were assisted in reopening as quickly as possible, so that jobs could be made available, employees could have access to income to feed their families, and that any delays in project times were kept to a minimum.

I have moved across the province interacting with people and companies to make sure that I monitor this progress. I am most impressed by what I have seen, Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker, over the last 11 months of the pandemic there has been much talk of change and a new normal and linked to these two terms is inevitably the concept of innovation. Much excellent work has emerged.

The Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW), tackling increasing challenges in areas well before the pandemic arrived, also developed

innovative solutions. My Department has been investing in technology for a number of years. Through focused efforts and the use of technology we were able to transform the way Provincial Traffic works. In the past it would take a traffic officer up to 40 minutes to complete a vehicle inspection and issue a fine. Now it takes a traffic officer around about 6 minutes.

Our technology has improved the way traffic officers work and has led to an improvement in both efficiency and effectiveness. The impact of these innovations was seen in the positive improvement in the Festive Season Traffic Report, which I released a few weeks ago, where we had a massive decrease in our fatalities

We were, however, pushed further by the very trying circumstances of the pandemic. We have repurposed our technology to enable the Red Dot Lite Service to transport health workers from hospitals to their neighbourhoods in the evenings, and the Red Dot Service transporting people from, and to isolation and quarantine facilities.

Our system now allows us to identify potential criminals on our roads and enables law enforcement stakeholders to intercept those criminals before crimes are committed, and I have been working very closely with Minister Fritz and we have apprehended a number of people who were transporting drugs and abalone on our roads.

It is this technology that will enable us to launch the Blue Dot Taxi Service

Pilot as confirmed by the Premier in his address. Some of the features of this improved transport offering to Western Cape commuters include:

- The establishing of new companies, representing all eight Regional Taxi Councils in the province, to participate along with approximately 1 300 operators in a real empowerment environment, and when we do this we put our commuters first.
- A shifting of the industry's existing economic drivers, which traditionally incentivised fare chasing, competition, recruitment of illegal operators and route contestation.

The Blue Dot Taxi System involves several innovative features. Some of these features include:

- Participation of vehicles that will be fitted with a tracker, monitored by us and would be rewarded for good performance, including good customer service and improved driver behaviour, because we want to make sure that our commuters are transported safely from and to work.
- Monitoring will also allow more efficient transport, efficient response to instances of speeding, illegal operations, deviation from licensed routes and conflict.
- Passengers will be empowered with the ability to provide feedback on the service by cell phone, which will influence taxi ratings and rewards.
- The data from trackers will provide invaluable information which can

be used to further improve services and public transport more broadly.

Deputy Speaker, this groundbreaking shift in the public transport space, which is a first in South Africa, has the support of the Cabinet as a policy priority and will be funded by the Department of Transport and Public Works. It also has the full support of the industry, as expressed in the recent formal letter that I received from Umanyano, and Deputy Speaker, I have this letter here with me, which was written by Umanyano, appreciating the partnership that we have. Just to quote a paragraph on this letter:

“I am writing on behalf of Umanyano Travel Services (UTC) to express my gratitude for your continued support of the Province’s Minibus Taxi Industry and the implementation of the Blue Dot Taxi Pilot Project. Since you became the MEC of Transport and Public Works, we have noted the energy you bring to the role and your tireless determination to engage, listen, and work with the industry, including your efforts to address conflict, the provincial industry visits you conducted last year, your leading role in the Provincial Taxi Lekgotla, and the implementation of the Red Dot Taxi. As a result, we have no doubt of your commitment to the industry and its development, as exemplified by the Blue Dot Taxi Project.”

I will be providing further details in my Budget speech, but can confirm, Deputy Speaker, that, as the Premier has indicated, that the Blue Dot Pilot would be launched before the end of the first quarter of this year.

And lastly, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform the hon members of this House that the efforts for us to restore rail is continuing. We are working very closely with the PRASA Board, and also the management of PRASA. We had a number of engagements where I have taken [Inaudible.] because we want to do now is put politics aside and ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ...and make sure that we put our commuters first by engaging so that we find solutions, and solutions are now imminent for us to be able to restore the service, as we have started with the Cape Town to Langa...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ...we will now want to extend this all the way to Macassar. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Minister Fritz.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier and Cabinet colleagues, hon Leader of the Opposition, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the amazing community of Genadendal, special guests, NGOs and community leaders,

citizens of the Western Cape – and when I speak about Genadendal, hon Deputy Speaker, I have fond memories of Genadendal where we went every Easter on a pilgrimage to just get our souls right into that part of the world, and it was absolutely amazing.

I also heard the hon Leader of the Opposition mention names of Jonas Bosch and of Victor Wessels, and I must say to him I think he does not know them at all, because they hated the ANC. They saw the ANC as big, big sell-outs during the liberation struggle. So, I think perhaps he must go and check his history properly again.

I am always amazed with the hon Leader of the Opposition that just throws names and talk about corruption. I always wonder how anyone from the ANC can even dare come and stand here and talk about corruption and still belong to the ANC. They are an absolute joke, that is what they are. It has been shown time and again that the ANC is a joke.

So do not come and preach to us about corruption, go and brag and preach to your President and those people about corruption.

So, this morning, hon Deputy Speaker, I really want to dedicate this speech to all the people in the province, but I want to especially dedicate this speech to a dear friend of mine who passed away two years ago, from Genadendal, a person called Roland Jethro, and he later grew up with me in Hanover Park, and when I think of Genadendal, I think of Roland Jethro, even up to the last

hours of his life.

Let me also regard this speech today, or this report, as a report back, hon Deputy Speaker, to Auntie Sarie from Atlantis, to Aunt Delia from Gugulethu, for Mr Fred Arendse. I report to Mr Fred Arendse from Mitchells Plain, Rocklands. To Bertha from Belrail, who phone us every day about the taxi problems in Belrail, and to Anne Thebe from Thornton. This is a report back to them.

And so, hon Deputy Speaker, today I want to highlight how this DA-led Government is leading from the front. Not talking, not webinars. Talking and leading from the front. As Premier Winde highlighted in his State of the Province Address yesterday, we are working hard to make the province a safer place for all who live in it, and leading an example to all other governments and to specifically assist everyone, and cooperate with everyone, to work together to reduce violence in this province.

I want each of you to know that as the Western Cape Government we care deeply, and we are concerned about your safety and are taking the lead in making the province safer.

So, allow me to report back on what exactly we do. Around the alcohol-related harms, as a caring and action-driven Government, we are moving forward and fast with the smart interventions and amending the Western Cape Liquor Act, and the areas that we specifically look at is:

1. Trading hours;
2. Minimum unit pricing model;
3. We are looking specifically at under-aged drinking and how can we legislate that onwards;
4. We look at the differentiated liquor licences to alleviate pressure on small establishments. We want to support small business, and they cannot pay the same for a licence as the big operators.

While the stringent lockdown regulations assisted in limiting alcohol-related harms, they cannot be a permanent solution as they have devastating consequences on our economy, and promote the illicit sale of alcohol. I look forward to the completion of these amendments this year, but it is subject to public participation, hon Deputy Speaker.

Allow me to speak on the issue around law enforcement and our Law Enforcement Advancement Plan that we have with the City.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as of October 2020 our law enforcement Advancement Plan officers have consistently been deployed to five crime hotspots, namely Delft, Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Bishop Lavis and Philippi, and they focus on Hanover Park.

Between 1 February and 7 February 2021 alone our LEAP officers conducted 3 560 person searches, 87 house searches, 21 vehicle checkpoints, 11 shebeen closures and 70 follow-up visits, 393 fines and notices issued, and 88

autonomous-integrated and joint operations with SAPS. At least 71 arrests were made for possession and dealing of drugs, possession of dangerous weapons, imitation firearms and illegal ammunition, and domestic violence.

This is how our LEAP officers operate. I am proud of the cooperation and the cooperative way the Department of Community Safety, SAPS in the Western Cape, and the City of Cape Town, are working together to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable communities, hon Deputy Speaker.

I am seeing results and I want to thank the outgoing Commissioner Matakata, whose surname has now changed to Mokgabudi, you know, she just got married. I am pleased also to say that since the deployment of our LEAP officers many residents have started to feel safer. Neighbourhood Watch Chairperson, Shireen Hendricks, has reported that the deployment in Hanover Park has made morning and afternoon commuters feel safer. Our officers are apprehending those responsible for robberies and returning stolen goods. She says it is a pleasure to work with LEAP. Going forward we will be deploying an additional 500 LEAP officers, and in this regard I want to specifically single out the Philippi Station Commander, Colonel Fredericks, who has absolutely changed the life of Hanover Park and the people, and the way they can enjoy their freedom in Hanover Park.

The second point that I really want to speak about is the area-based teams that we are starting to deploy. Hon Deputy Speaker, the area-based teams approach is integrating law enforcement and violence prevention

interventions in 16 communities across the province. This is a revolutionary province. The ANC can just talk about revolution, they cannot do anything about it. We do and carry out revolutionary [Inaudible.] – this is really, really game-changing.

An [Inaudible.] approach brings together key government departments, Community Police Forums, Neighbourhood Watches, faith-based organisations, and many other NGOs, schools, the Education Department, everyone comes together in this approach to focus its efforts on where crime hotspots are.

We are taking a business unusual approach to implementing the ABTs, and are undergoing a comprehensive realignment to ensure that we utilise our limited resources well. We have not hesitated to cease programmes with little impact. We must stop wasting money to tick boxes and have programmes that do not mean anything to anyone. We have not hesitated, as I have said, and where it has no impact, we moved forward or towards more productive and result-driven initiatives, and it so great when we look at some of our programmes to see when you speak to young people around safety ambassadors, and you see them live it out in our communities.

We are creating programmes which will go beyond the attendance register and budget requisite forms. You know, that everyone just fills in – that is how our Government used to work, but I must say now with this new Premier Alan Winde, we have moved to actually showing what we are doing. Our new

relationship with community organisations will be built around mutual relationships, delivery and impact.

Our Safety Ambassador Programme: We are in the process of recruiting and selecting 1 000 young people between the ages of 18 and 35 years, as violence prevention facilitators. They will be placed at local authority, school and host communities across the province. Once all the ABT teams are assembled, safety ambassadors will form part of a holistic intervention which focuses on reducing youth violence and murder in their communities. They will also benefit from a comprehensive training programme which will enable them to learn valuable skills and improve their job prospects. They will contribute towards greater levels of communications and resilience by issuing and by being positive role models to other young people. This is what we need in our communities. We are on track to launch the Youth Safety Ambassador Programme on 1 April 2021, and as I speak, my Department is hard at work, busy putting together and recruiting, to get all elements of the programme together.

I just want to say we saw the video of youth violence in the Waterfront the other day. That is a typical example of our ABTs, our youth ambassadors, are doing, following up what and where those youngsters are, and instead of just arresting them, going to them to really go and carry out and get them to intervene into a programme that can assist in changing their lives, hon
Deputy Speaker.

The Peace Officer Programme: We will be rolling out the deployment of peace officers to rural communities, and Minister Meyer would be happy to hear this, ensuring that our initiatives are not simply limited to Metros, everything is in the Metro. There are also rural communities in this province. These peace officers will be incorporated into the Safety Ambassador Programme and form part of the broader safety approach to communities.

Yesterday, Premier Winde announced a further boost to our crime fighting capacity across the Western Cape, 120 peace officers have been recruited and trained from six rural municipalities, and that's only six; the others have been trained before. So, all 34 municipalities will benefit from this.

In total, 13 rural municipalities have already been supported with our SAQA accredited peace officer training, with 288 peace officers completing the training over the last three years. Further training will commence in three municipalities from 22 February, for 60 trainees.

By the end of March 2021, 348 rural peace officers will have received training, and by 1 April 2021, 466 young people will be available to be appointed as peace officers or safety ambassadors, from the 24 rural local communities and local municipalities.

Rural safety, Minister Meyer's favourite part, as a Provincial Government we aim to ensure the safety of all our residents, including farmers and farmworkers, and I want to emphasise, farmworkers as well. As such, we

have created capacity in the Department to assist in the implementation of the Rural Safety Plan. Going forward, my Department will be meeting – and in fact, it is next week – with the Department of Agriculture and Minister Meyer, and this, we will ensure the rollout of farm watches in rural municipalities.

Again it all fits into our Safety Plan in the Western Cape. So, I will ask the hon member Kama, I see you are not on the programme, but please ask where is the Safety Plan. It is already working, my friend, reducing violence in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I demonstrated, we are...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, finish off, please.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Anyway, we are implementing a range of programmes around the [Inaudible.] reducing violence, while we are specifically looking at how to half the homicide rate in this province, and we have seen a decline starting to happen, and I really think we want to say thank you to every law enforcement officer, thank you to the City, thank you to the national police, the South African Police Services, and thanks to the Premier for taking [Inaudible.] Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Fritz. I now call on hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego, I cannot hear you. I see you are still on mute.

Mr M XEGO: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There you go.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, let me say, allow this debate and welcome the debate by the Premier and the State of the Province Address, but I am shocked that the hon Minister Fritz talks about the revolution.

The revolution has got everything to do with the needs of the people, and of which our people need water, they need electricity, they need sanitation in the informal settlements, of which the Government of the Democratic Alliance has failed them until this far.

But to be positive, the EFF would like to begin by welcoming the arrival and the rolling out of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which began yesterday in the province. We hope the initial programme will provide us with the positive results that we seek for the sake of our people in the province and their own well-being. We also hope that more doses of the vaccine will arrive in the country and as quickly as possible they will benefit our people.

Although this is the beginning of hope and we support the Premier and this Government to ensure that our people are saved, we save lives. The Democratic Alliance Government in this Province must appreciate the manner in which we are embracing and cooperatively governing with them as the EFF in ensuring that we provide the constitutional democracy in our province, instead of wanting to credit everything that has got to do with them.

The Democratic Alliance Government must act as a partner within the great scheme of things. It must stop competing with the National Government, because what we have seen in a number of instances, is that the Democratic Alliance Government in the Western Cape, it always want to outshine the National Government.

Today we know that the Provincial Government's efforts to fight COVID-19 pandemic have failed. Why? Because everybody could have foreseen that there would be a second wave, and the second wave will have a number of effects that result in our people being infected, and this has been done through the opening of the economy, recklessly so, because there was no monitoring of the entire situation.

So, we appeal today to the Government of the Democratic Alliance in our province, that whenever we talk about the economy we must calculate that in conjunction with the lives of our people.

Unfortunately the third wave looks to be approaching, and the backward

mitigating strategies by the Provincial Government against the pandemic will not help, because we put profiteering above everything else. This is a very same Government that fails to mitigate the spread of the virus in the congested informal settlements within our province. Our people still do not have water, our people still do not have access to sanitation, which results in the actual spread of the COVID-19. In the area such as the Danoon, the greater Kosovo, Mfuleni and Kraaifontein where our people are staying, that is where this whole thing is being spread, and you as the Democratic Alliance Government do not seem to worry and have any kind of patience with our people. You do not sympathise with the situation where our people find themselves.

In the previous year alone, more than 270 000 people have lost their jobs. The Premier of this province stood here yesterday and told everyone that the Government will bounce back by creating 37 000 jobs. It is not even a quarter of the 270 000 jobs that were being lost. Having asked for us to open the economy and everything else, it resulted in our people losing jobs, but what will be gained? It will be very much less than what we are expecting.

The DA Government has no clue when it comes to the issues of job creation. They have, for a very long time, left the duty in the hands of the private sector. We want you, as a government, not to depend on the private sector to create jobs. We expect through the Department of the hon Minister Madikizela, who was speaking here today, to try by all means and create sustainable jobs; the Department of Public Works. We depend on you, as

Government, not you depending on the private sector in order for things to happen.

They tend to say, to speak around the economic Recovery Plan. In the so-called plan they promise jobs that will be able to start, they call it the 'ambassadors'. We want to know who are the ambassadors? You know, when you are an ambassador, you are a representative of a certain sector of the society, and we are asking that the Democratic Alliance Government must be able to start to understand where we are going with this whole interaction.

On the issue of the agriculture. Agriculture is a very important sector of the economy that has contributed meaningfully so, in South Africa and the Western Cape. The Western Cape is contributing and ensuring that there are exports that are being done, but still we have got a very serious situation where farmworkers are being infected. Farmworkers who are not getting any salary, farmworkers whom, especially those that are seasonal workers, they came to the Western Cape, they got infected with Corona. They got transported, you exported Corona – I do not know how you sleep at night. The Democratic Alliance Government exported Corona from the Western Cape to the Eastern Cape, deliberately so. You arranged transport at night so that those that are affected and infected with Corona, can be taken to Eastern Cape so that they would go and infect more black people in the Eastern Cape. You are supposed to be shameful of yourselves.

When you talk about the Rural Safety Plan, you talk only about the safety of

farm owners, you do not care about farmworkers who are being intimidated when they are taken on in terms of [Inaudible.] and everything else.

We see the war in the taxi turf, where our people are killing each other on a daily basis, and we have got a very strong belief that the hon Madikizela, he is one of us, he is coming from Macassar, he can be able to do something. He can be able to do something, be able to eliminate this killing that is affecting our people. You must be able to up your game. Leadership: we expect you to lead us from the front.

When we talk about housing, we expected that the Premier ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Xego, your time is up. If you can finish your last sentence.

Mr M XEGO: Yes. When it comes to housing and racism, let us say as the Democratic Alliance you have failed dismally to ensure to it that our people have got access to land, and when it comes to racism, you have failed dismally to condemn all acts of racism, including Brackenfell. The report that you have [Inaudible.] by all means ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr M XEGO: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Xego. I now recognise hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Good morning, hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, Leader of the Official Opposition, hon members and guests.

†Adjunkspeaker, deur u wil ek praat met *hon member* Fritz. Ek wil hê hy moet my hoor en nie luister wat ek sê nie, hy moet hoor, want daar is 'n verskil tussen hoor en luister.

Die President *deal* met die korrupsie op 'n *national* vlak, sowel as in provinsies. Al wat ons vra is dat hierdie *Government, Western Cape*, met hulle skelms moet *deal*, en ons sal aanhou praat oor korrupsie so lank daar korrupsie plaasvind.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, through you I want to speak to the hon member Fritz. I want him to hear me and not listen to what I'm saying, he must hear, because there is a difference between hearing and listening.]

The President deals with the corruption on a national level, as well as in provinces. All that we ask is that this Government, Western Cape, must deal with their crooks, and we will keep on talking about corruption for as long as corruption is taking place.]

†Dan wil ek sê aan die *MEC*, wat 'n Minister is volgens die Grondwet van die *Western Cape*, Madikizela. [Then I want to say to the MEC, who is is a Minister in terms of the Constitution of the Western Cape, Madikizela.] He must be ashamed of himself for blaming people who collected sand, for the death of those four kids. Having just seen pics of what deep hole very deep down. How did people get to dig such a deep hole without being noticed, while law enforcement is in that area on a daily basis?

†Adjunkspeaker, die maand van Februarie staan sterk in Suid-Afrika op as 'n maand van groot simboliese betekenis wat ons geskiedenis van stryd aan betref. Nelson Mandela se vrylating op 11 Februarie 1990, na 27 jaar van apartheidsaanhouding, was 'n dramatiese wending in die Suid-Afrikaanse politieke realiteit en lewe. Vandag het ons 'n Suid-Afrika waarin 'n nie-rassige, nie-seksistiese, vry en demokratiese samelewing nagejaag word. En tot die voordeel van al ons mense. Dankie, *ANC*, dankie, Madiba.

Tog is daar diegene wat steeds sukkel om die nuwe Suid-Afrika te aanvaar. Hulle hunker terug na die vleispotte van die apartheid Suid-Afrika. Hulle is die anti-transformasie kragte, die John Steenhuisen en die DA van vandag. Dankie, Madiba; nee dankie, DA.

Adjunkspeaker, vandag bevind ons onself op 'n plek waar slawe, die Khoi en die San kom skuil het wanneer daar op hulle jag gemaak was. Hiervandaan is die stryd teen die apartheidsrassisme en -onderdrukking gestry. Die

Premiersrede het gruwelik gefaal om te bewys dat daar gebreek word met hierdie pynlike verlede. Indien dit enige iets sê, is dit liever dat daar steeds jag gemaak word op die armste van die armes, op mense van kleur. Waarom sê ek so?

Die Premier het oor drie voorkeursake gepraat: werkskepping, veiligheid, waardigheid vir almal in die Wes-Kaap. Die belangrikheid van hierdie drie kwessies is buite dispuut, maar die DA se drogskyn moet aan die kaak gestel geword. Daar is grootskaalse bewyse daar buite dat die DA nie ingrypend vir hierdie prioriteit uitstaan soos wat die Premier hier wil te kenne gee nie. John Steenhuisen sal in elk geval die Premier nie toelaat om vir diepgaande transformasie en vir al die mense te staan nie. Die DA bly 'n party wat historiese bevoorregting bevorder en beskerm.

Brackenfell onlangs bewys dit, en hier in die Overberg is daar genoegsame voorbeelde van DA se oëverblindery, bedrog en misleiding wat rondloop.

Adjunkspeaker, ons mense word hoofsaaklik aan hulle eie genade oorgelaat. Die DA stel nie in die armste van die armes belang nie. In Genadendal word plaaslike ontwikkelingsprojekte hoofsaaklik deur plaaslike ontwikkelingsorganisasies, kleinskaalse landbouverbouing, en oorlewingstuinbou bedryf, en het niks met die DA te doen nie. Die DA se bewese liefde is vir kommersiële boere meer as enige iets anders. Die Premier weet dit.

Die Premier praat van nuwe rekord-oeste in die Wes-Kaap verlede jaar. Die Premier swyg egter oor hoe hierdie groei ons werkers in die landbou gebaat het. Almal weet die DA veroordeel glad nie plaasboere wie weier of versuim om hul arbeiders die minimum loon te betaal nie. Skande, Premier.

Die Premier swyg oor die onveilige vervoer van plaaswerkers; hy swyg oor die grootskaalse verbreking van COVID-19 regulasies deur kommersiële boere en hoe hulle hul werkers vervoer. Hoeveel noodlottige ongelukke moet nog plaasvind, mnr die Premier? Hoeveel bruin en swart lewens moet nog deur COVID-19 en padongelukke geëis word?

Adjunkspeaker, u sien die DA, en Steenhuisen veral, sal u nooit toelaat om vir die armes van die armes en die mense van kleur te staan nie; hoeveel swart en bruin lede van die DA was nie al uit die DA gesmyt omdat hulle dit gewaag het om te praat oor bruin en swart behoeftes nie. Die wat nog daar is wens hulle kon anders gelyk het, veral die mense nogals, die DA, nooit, feit is die DA bevorder historiese bevoorregting. 'n Premiersrede verander nie hierdie waarheid nie, mnr die Premier.

Op swart bemagtiging verbreek die DA liever die wet. Waarom swyg oor hierdie onderwerp? Maar nou ja, om die skande van apartheid om te draai is nie 'n prioriteit vir die DA nie. Hulle hunker na die vleispotte van apartheid.

Die DA se standpunt oor verandering en sy agterlike ekonomiese beleid bevestig dat daar geen werklike belangstelling in Genadendal, die ganse

Overberg en veral in die armste van die armes is nie. Dit help nie om openbare geld op hierdie feestelike goëlerij te kom vermors as daar geen begeerte is om betekenisvolle deelname van ons inwoners te kry nie.

Die mense van Genadendal wil praat oor hulle ekonomiese probleme, maar die Premier het ongelukkig nie sy weg oopgesien vir dit nie.

As die ANC het ons wel tyd met die mense spandeer. Ons het met munisipale amptenare, raadslede, gepraat. Die Premier en sy regering het egter verkies om vakansie te kom hou en het liever soos buitelandse toeriste die museum en gedenkwaardighede besoek. Waarom het u die mense nie ingepas nie, Premier? U weet waarom, u weet waarom. Arm mense is net nie deel van u plan nie. Hulle is die buiteland vir u, of soos u leier, Helen Zille, gesê het, *refugees*. In u party is 'n klomp van hulle, *refugees*, soos Helen Zille gesê het.

Hierdie Premiersrede is geskryf vir die DA se pelle, dit is geskryf teen bruin en swart. Dit sê niks vir die sout van die aarde, mense wat sukkel en swaarkry nie. Skande, mnr die Premier.

So wat sê ons mense? Hulle sê hulle is moeg vir die DA se korrupsie, hulle is moeg vir DA se baantjies vir boeties, hulle is moeg vir die DA se *cadre* ontplooiing en die DA se staatskaping, hulle is moeg vir DA se swak of geen dienslewering nie. Hulle sê wis apartheidsagterstande uit, mnr die Premier.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Deputy Speaker, the month of February stands out in South Africa as a month of great symbolic significance with regard to our history of struggle. Nelson Mandela's release on 11 February 1990, after 27 years of apartheid captivity, was a dramatic turn in the South African political reality and life. Today we have a South Africa in which a non-racial, non-sexist, free and democratic society is pursued. And to the advantage of all our people. Thank you, ANC, thank you, Madiba.

Yet still there are those who are struggling to accept the new South Africa. They hanker after the flesh-pots of apartheid South Africa. They are the anti-transformation forces, the John Steenhuisen and the DA of today. Thank you, Madiba; no thanks, DA.

Deputy Speaker, today we find ourselves in a place where slaves, the Khoi and San came to hide when they were hunted. From here the struggle against the apartheid racism and suppression were fought. The Premier's address failed miserably to prove that they are breaking away from this painful past. If anything, it is rather that the poorest of the poor, the people of colour, are still targeted. Why do I say that?

The Premier spoke about three priority issues: job creation, security, dignity for all in the Western Cape. The importance of these three issues is beyond dispute, but the DA's falsehood should be exposed. There is large scale proof out there that the DA does not drastically stand for this priority as it wants us to believe. John Steenhuisen will in any case not allow the Premier

to stand for drastic transformation and for all the people. The DA remains a party that promotes and protects historical privilege.

Brackenfell recently proved that, and here in the Overberg there are ample examples of the DA's pretence, fraud and deceit going around.

Deputy Speaker, our people are mainly at the Government's mercy. The DA are not interested in the poorest of the poor. In Genadendal local development projects are mainly operated by local development organisations, through small scale agriculture, and subsistence gardening, and has nothing to do with the DA. The DA's proven preference is for commercial farmers more than anything. The Premier knows it.

The Premier speaks about new record harvests in the Western Cape last year. The Premier, however, keeps quiet about how this growth has benefited our workers in agriculture. We all know the DA never condemns the farmers who refuse or neglect to pay their labourers the minimum wage. Shame, Premier.

The Premier is quiet about the unsafe transport of farmworkers; he is quiet about the large scale breach of COVID-19 regulations by commercial farmers and how they transport their workers. How many fatal accidents still have to happen, Mr Premier? How many brown and black lives still have to be sacrificed through COVID-19 and road accidents?

Deputy Speaker, you see the DA, and Steenhuisen especially, will never

allow you to stand up for the poorest of the poor and the people of colour; how many black and brown members of the DA have not been thrown out of the DA because they dared to speak about brown and blacks needs? Those who are still there wish they could have looked differently, the people especially, the DA, never, fact is the DA promotes historical privilege. A Premier's address does not change this truth, Mr Premier.

On black empowerment the DA rather breaks the law. Why be quiet about this subject? Well yes, to turn around the shame of apartheid is not a priority for the DA. They hanker after the flesh-pots of apartheid.

The DA's standpoint on change and its backward economic policy confirm that there is no real interest in Genadendal, the entire Overberg and especially the poorest of the poor. It does not help to come and waste public money on this festive trickery if there is no desire to gain significant participation from the inhabitants.

The people of Genadendal want to talk about their economic problems, but the Premier unfortunately did not see his way clear for that.

As the ANC we did indeed spent time with the people. We spoke to municipal officials, councillors. The Premier and his Government, however, rather chose to come on holiday and rather like foreign tourists visit the museum and other monuments. Why did you not fit in the people, Premier? You know why, you know why. Poor people are simply not part of your plan. They are

the outside world to you, or as your leader, Helen Zille, said, *refugees*. In your party there are a lot of them, *refugees*, as Helen Zille said.

This Premier's address was written for the DA's pals, it was written opposing brown and black. It says nothing for the salt of the earth, people who struggle and suffer. Shame, Mr die Premier.

So what do our people say? They are tired of the DA's corruption, they are tired of the DA's jobs for pals, they are tired of the DA's cadre deployment and the DA's state capture, they are tired of the DA's poor or no service delivery. They are saying remove the apartheid handicaps, Mr Premier.]

Hon Premier [Inaudible.] the disadvantaged marginalised poor and destitute masses in our province demand that you become the Premier of all people in the Western Cape. †Los vir Steenhuisen, gee hom sy baadjie en kortbroekie terug en trek u sokkies op. Dankie, Adjunkspeaker. [Let Steenhuisen go, give him back his jacket and shorts and pull up your socks. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I now recognise hon Minister Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Can you hear me, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Okay, thank you. The host, †die gemeenskap van Genadendal, [the community of Genadendal,] the guests in the gallery and media, people of the Western Cape.

I want to thank the Premier for providing us a compass to navigate his speech yesterday. Premier outlined the Province's plan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a third wave, our vaccination programme, as well as our recovery response and plans in the key area of job safety and dignity and well-being.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what I want to focus on for this debate, I want to expand on the COVID response, the challenges, and also on what is next.

2020 has been a challenging year for us since that historical day of 11 March 2020, when the Western Cape recorded its first COVID positive case. Nothing could have prepared us for a bumpy road that we are about to embark on. We became the first province to become extremely affected in the first wave. We have to think, learn and act fast. We became a health system laboratory and the classroom for COVID-19, from which the rest of the country and the world could learn.

The conditions in other countries being so different meant we could not be able to transplant and transpose their experiences directly to our context. We were called names from being a 'South African Wuhan', etcetera, etcetera. I

do want to salute the healthcare workers who had to bear the brunt of making life and death decisions daily at a [Inaudible.] space for the better part of this last year.

While death is an inevitable part of the core business in health, the [Inaudible.] was overwhelming. The majority of the people of the healthcare workers demonstrated the symptoms of the moral injury, especially in regard to when they are being affected themselves as being COVID positive, yet they soldiered on daily.

Hon Deputy Speaker, 9 593 healthcare workers got infected with COVID, and 131 have passed on to this date. This is a tragedy on a scale we have not witnessed before in any health system in the context of South Africa.

Condolences to all those who passed on from this pandemic, including the healthcare workers themselves.

I still remember vividly one of our first cases of the COVID death, nurse Petronella 'Aunty Nellie' Benjamin, the first healthcare worker casualty of COVID, followed by Nolefefe Mdumata and also Ntombizakithi Ngidi, to mention just few.

I pray for the ones in hospital fighting for their lives currently, I pray for their complete healing, especially among the health colleagues who literally put their lives on the line for the people of this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the agility with which we have responded to this pandemic, despite the conventional bureaucracy, red tapes and rigid [Inaudible.] in Government in general, has surprised even ourselves. This agility has ranged from the supply chain management process to getting infrastructure such as field hospitals and tents running, the CTICC was just one case, where it was customised as a Hospital of Hope within 30 days.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as part of building trust with the people, communication and messaging has been, and continues to be, a key lever we are continuously [Inaudible.] our messages to merging information and publication concerns. We built public trust by having the core markers on a public facing dashboard that gets updated daily. This has also included the processing of these data and was evidence-led.

However, it does not mean the journey with COVID and health system has been smooth. The health system faces challenges where we had to make decisions of robbing Paul to pay Paul, Pauline, in regard to the collateral damage.

Non-COVID safe services, such as primary healthcare services as well as elective surgery, acute hospitalisation, had to be de-escalated to address the increasing need for COVID-19 admissions.

While the Department intended to address this backlogs after the first wave when I launched the Vol Impilo campaign, that is the recovery health and

opening up, the arrival of the second wave with greater intensity and larger magnitude meant that service had to be de-escalated again. These backlogs would have to be addressed going forward. However, the pace and scale will be mitigated by a potential third wave, rising trauma admissions and the need to prioritise the vaccination programme and budget challenges.

Note that the Province did not receive funding from National, except for additional funds towards the HIV grant, even though the President promised us. Taking note, this is the Province that received a clean audit bill from the AG in quarterly reports of the PPEs, where we never stole any PPE money, whilst the other provinces did so.

The de-escalation has also impacted corporate and infrastructure projects that had to be scaled back to any reprioritisation of responses to the COVID-19.

Prior to COVID we conducted as many soil-turning events to prioritise infrastructure projects that include the Pacaltsdorp Clinic, the De Doorns Clinic, an EMS Station, Evan Park Clinic, [Inaudible.] CDC, among those.

The impact on staff, including exhaustion, burnout, grief from all that they have been through, must be factored into what is realistic. While we mourn the huge loss of life, including of our staff, and the impact of our staff, we can stand proud that we were not overwhelmed as a health system, to the degree that we have seen in some much better resourced and developed countries.

This is testimony to the strengths of the health system, the backbone of the health system is the health workforce. So, I do still want to thank them again.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the road to vaccination starts with a solid rollout as the Premier has indicated yesterday, and it needs quite a solid vaccination process that get bought by all stakeholders. It is about sharpening an axe first, prior to wasting time chopping the wood with a blunt instrument.

Our vaccination plan, which is where we want to vaccinate about 5.1 million people in the Western Cape, starting with the phase 1 of 133 000 healthcare workers, all categories, for both public and private, including health science students, complimentary nursing and allied healthcare workers, and traditional health practitioners.

Our plan shows we have 378 vaccination sites in the public and 41 in the private sector, also distributed according to the district. We have trained thousands of vaccinators, including myself. We already bought consumables and also have registered our healthcare workers on the systems.

The lesson learnt from other countries with successful vaccination programmes demonstrates that the key drivers of vaccination success, as we gear for Phase 2 and 3, include high level leadership and commitment, the patient database, so that the appointment system is also factored, citizen engagement to build trust and buy-in, and also monitoring a daily report.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are already talking about Phase 2, but it is not a surprise for us that the reason we were even ready for yesterday when we did the Phase 1 launch, is because of the three PPs: Prior Planning and Preparation is a cause.

It is not a surprise that our first South African vaccinee was in the Western Cape. The first citizen in the country, the President, was in the Western Cape, and also the National Health Minister. It just shows the relationships that we have built across not only Local Government, but with the National Government.

Yesterday we received 13 000 of 80 000 Johnson & Johnson vaccines, 7 400 for Tygerberg, 5 760 for Groote Schuur. The Hospital Research Sites are among the 17 hospital sites that have been identified by the NDOH, which are these two.

Whilst a call was made for qualifying politicians to be included in this first batch, the Western Cape plan for this rollout is to apply the equitable access principle to prioritise most healthcare workers according to the vulnerability. That is why the issue of the age, the comorbidities, patient facing versus non-patient facing, criticality in regard to whether you are working in the COVID wards and EC, plus – which is crucial – that we have to have all different categories of the health workers.

That is why yesterday the people, the first five people who got vaccinated it

were a mixture; starting with Zoliswa Gidi-Dyosi, a nurse, Dr Saad Lawrie, a medical specialist, Vuyo Mpambani from housekeeping, Mama Xebisa from the admin clerk, Tata Usogigi from the porter support services, so that we do not leave anyone behind.

As of today we have vaccinated 75 healthcare workers from yesterday, that is the Groote Schuur Hospital 40, Tygerberg 12 and Khayelithsa Hospital 23.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to take this moment and thank our Head of Health, Dr Cloete, and the management team. He took over the baton from Dr Engelbrecht when South Africa was just hit hard by the pandemic.

During my Budget speech I want to convey properly my appreciation to all senior staff what have already retired.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the reason that I was rushing is because I wanted also to make some comments on what my colleagues have already indicated, for example, hon member Dugmore spoke about the number of the doses. Just to confirm with hon member Dugmore, because he was reading from the National Wish List. As for South Africa, there is no vaccine that has been approved. The only one that we are using now, J&J, got emergency approval under the clinical trial phase 3B, in order to vaccinate 500 000 healthcare workers. I mean for the doses.

So, currently the first batch of the 80 000 that have been distributed

throughout the country, it still is a shortfall, because, for example, for us in the Western Cape, for our Phase 1 healthcare workers, we need 133 000, the number of those workers.

So, it is part of the clinical trial, so that is why you cannot vaccinate anyone other than a healthcare worker, unless there is a deviation of the approval.

So, this 9 million, 12 million, they are still not approved yet, because it still have to undergo a different process, because it should be used for commercialisation.

For hon member Xego [Inaudible.] related who is infecting who. We need to be very careful of coming up with those kind of these political statements. In the UK, in the US, Europe and Belgium, Italy, Spain and all of those, these are the countries that have got a better economy system and a better health system, but they have been hit hardest by the virus themselves.

So, you cannot make those – like in Britain, where the UK has kept on having these lockdowns, but my point is you must not create things that are not scientific in regard to explaining where, what is happening with the pandemic.

For example, for the second wave, can we argue and say that just because it started in Nelson Mandela, and then went to the BCM, which is the Buffalo City, and then to Sara Baartman, and then to Garden Route, are you going to

say at the time that it was only Nelson Mandela that was closed, and then now it ended up to the Garden Route and then coming to the City? Are you going to make an argument and say that no, the second variant which actually is the major killer - in regard to the severe illnesses and all of those - are you going to say that Eastern Cape infected us? No, we cannot say those things.

So, that is why we need all, everyone to cooperate. The same applies to the issue of, even among the House, where people end up having these political meetings and all of those, yet it is not, even not part of the Regulations, but becoming potential super spreaders.

So, we need every one of you, because the high level of community infections means that it will have an impact on our healthcare workers. It means that it will already impact on the already delicate health system.

So, that is why we need each other to help one another. So, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Indeed we fought when others could not anymore. That is why for us we do not want to leave no Auntie Sara behind when it comes to fighting the COVID.

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, yesterday's SOPA was probably the most anticipated and important Provincial Government statement we can expect in our lifetimes. None of us have lived through quite what we lived through over the last 12 months. None of us could have imagined this, nor prepared for it. The magnitude of the human social, psychological and financial devastation is unprecedented.

The Premier prepared a SOPA that told us – it was two hours long, and we can read it on WhatsApp. At a time when the circumstances and the universal anxiety required assuring and serious provincial leadership, our Premier told us that none of us would probably be interested in listening to his long speech. The frivolity was unfortunate and ill-timed.

It is consistent with the kind of remarks that the Premier has made throughout the pandemic, which have undermined the COVID-19 Regulations. Those who defy the Regulations have consistently set us back into lockdowns and hardship. They should not have the cover, implied or explicit, from the Premier of this province.

Our number one priority right now is to manage this pandemic so that we can recover our lives. The world has moved from managing this contagion through isolation, to preventing contagion through the vaccine.

The Premier recently announced that the Western Cape would go it alone and procure its own vaccine. He takes issue with those who question this, but he

fails to grasp the nature of the questions. The question is not whether the Western Cape is constitutionally entitled to purchase the vaccine; the questions are how will this happen when there is a global shortage, and what will the impact be on the national programme?

He says that the centralised vaccine programme has not secured enough vaccines for the country. Is the Premier saying that this is due to a lack of trying? Or does he acknowledge the global scramble for this vaccine, and thus the shortage?

If he is saying that there is insufficient supply because the central procurement system started too late, then what does he say about his own Government only now making calls to manufacturers, several months later than the central procurement system?

The trouble is that the Premier made a bold, politically opportunistic announcement, but is unable to back it up with plan or with facts. The idea of officials calling around looking for vaccines is embarrassing. It is like a scene straight out of the old radio show 'Men from the Ministry' or *Nommer Asseblief*.

Yesterday was the time to put some details to this promise. I mean the DA is going to the High Court to compel the National Government to release a detailed plan, but you tell us your plan is phoning around looking for vaccines.

The Premier needed to spend a lot more time detailing to our residents how the Province will secure additional vaccines and how these will be rolled out.

In October 2020 we welcomed the Premier's promise of investment in infrastructure. There is good precedent for the role that infrastructure development can play in resuscitating an economy and creating large numbers of jobs. The creation of an infrastructure agency was bold and ambitious, and we would get right behind it, but the Premier failed to address the progress of this agency in any real detail, and its passing mention raises questions as to whether this is not another of this Government's grand sounding announcements without the substance.

The prospect of a major public investment in infrastructure supported by the private sector, is a massive intervention, and it deserved a lot more attention than a passing mention. What we needed to hear was how the agency will work, what infrastructure will be built and prioritised, and a real plan that the people of this province and business in the construction sector, can rely on.

We welcome the Premier's call for the establishment of a single transport authority for the greater Cape Town area. It is a little laughable given that we established a transport authority in 2012, and attempted to secure it from changes in government, which we thought would be from one party to the other maybe, with a transport authority bylaw. How ironic that in December 2018 Mayor Dan Plato rescinded that bylaw and destroyed the transport

authority, together with all the work that have been done, to ensure that we created a reliable, efficient, multimodal transport network under one authority.

Nevertheless we welcome the about turn. This is really a Local Government mandate, but we hope the Premier will persuade the Mayor to revisit the bylaw. The work has been done, you do not need to do the feasibility study or the business case that you set out in the SOPA document.

The delivery of free and affordable housing is in crisis. For as long as this Government rolls out the National Housing Programme as a 'take what you can get' recipient of national grant funding, you will never solve the crisis. You are limited by conditional grant funding only because you choose not to prioritise housing. If you want to be a government of innovation, be innovative where it counts. Where it will make an impact on the lives of the homeless.

In housing you will have to leverage public land and buildings and forge partnerships with private companies and civil society. You will not make progress if you plan to go to war with those you disagree with. The Premier wants to lead from the front, but fails to detail how the Province can lead from the front when it comes to housing, and find a way to increase delivery despite national funding cuts.

The delivery of inner-city affordable housing remains zero, and yesterday we

heard no real commitment or plan to remedy that. The announcement of 13 000 housing opportunities in CBDs is reminiscent of the promise of 10 000 inner-city affordable housing opportunities promised for Cape Town two years ago.

While the Premier spoke of 13 000 housing opportunities in CBDs, his actual SOPA document said the 13 000 opportunities were linked to 130 hectares of land that had been acquired. Again the lack of a detailed plan shared with the people of this province ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, finish off.

Mr B N HERRON: ...creates ambiguous promises. This time next year we will be wondering what happened to the 13 000 housing opportunities, and the 10 000 housing opportunities from 2019. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Herron. I now recognise hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members of the Provincial Cabinet, the hon Leader of the Official Opposition, hon members of the Provincial Legislature, special guests and members of the public. †Ek groet die inwoners van Genadendal in die Overberg. [I greet the residents of Genadendal in the Overberg.]

Yesterday the Premier was leading from the front during the State of the Province Address. Hon Deputy Speaker, there is an echo... Can we restart the clock?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Minister Meyer. If we can just sort that out, one second. You may begin, we will begin from zero. Over to you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Premier, hon Speaker and hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Provincial Cabinet, hon members, Leaders of the Official Opposition, hon members of the Provincial Legislature, special guests, the media and members of the public. †Ek groet die inwoners van Genadendal, en al die inwoners in die Overbergstreek. [I greet the residents of Genadendal, and all the residents in the Overberg region.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, yesterday the Premier was leading from the front during his State of the Province Address. Genadendal was the perfect place to deliver the State of the Province Address, because it reminded us of the values of the former president, Nelson Mandela. Going to Genadendal was a journey back to values, values that are appreciated by our people.

The Western Cape, hon Deputy Speaker, has six core values which are rooted in the system of governance in the Western Cape. The first value is caring. A global pandemic of this nature requires a caring government, a caring culture

and a caring mindset. Nothing is more important than showing it in deed and in word that you are caring. It is this caring culture that we saw multiplied in communities, in this rural area, and here in the Cape Metro, but led also by civil society, the religious organisations, community-based organisations, businesses and farmers and farmworkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was this caring culture of our healthcare workers that turned values into action in this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, do people outside the Western Cape experience a caring government? Clearly not. Not judging from the recent actions of the National Minister of Social Development, as she addressed SASSA grant applicants in Bellville from the comfort of a police Casspir and then helplessly looked on as police unleashed water cannons on the most vulnerable in society, those applying for disability grants. A Minister of Social Development must have, like the Western Cape Minister of Social Development, Sharna Fernandez, a soul for the poor, unlike Lindiwe Zulu, an uncaring woman.

The second value is competency. Nowhere in South Africa was this value more explicitly seen in action than here in the Western Cape. It is fair to say that we have seen how competence embodied by Dr Keith Cloete, his health team, our clinical team, our doctors, our nurses, are bearing fruit in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. They have displayed absolute competence.

It is also fair to say that our Government is the only one in South Africa that appoints people that are fit for purpose. The Premier, as the Executive

Authority of this Western Cape Government, is leading from the front by appointing heads of departments that are fit for purpose here in this Government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, do people outside the Western Cape experience a competent government? Clearly not if one considers the testimonies of witnesses appearing in front of the Zondo Commission. President Cyril Ramaphosa was the Chairperson of the ANC Cadre Deployment Committee. He is responsible for those crazy appointments at all the State-owned entities. He is responsible for the appointment of Dudu Myeni and Brian Molefe, and many other ANC cronies.

Accountability is not reduced to mere numbers and cases, but an analysis of the post-text, the narratives and human reflections involved.

Hon Deputy Speaker, do we, outside the Western Cape, experience an accountable government? Clearly not if one considers the testimony of the DA Chief Whip in the National Assembly, Natasha Mazzone, at the Zondo Commission. She gave a detailed account of how the ANC MPs shielded Ministers from accountability and protect them in the National Assembly. The State Capture Commission has heard from several witnesses that parliamentary oversight was severely compromised by the organised criminal syndicate, the African National Congress. The Zondo Commission heard of an unwillingness by the ANC MPs to hold its Members of Parliament and Ministers to account, and today we are sitting with a chief looter of the State

Capture Party, defying even the Constitutional Court's ruling that he must account for his actions and appear before the Zondo Commission, and all our dear President can say, and I quote:

“Please give Mr Zuma space to think about the Constitution.”

He was the President of South Africa for nine years, and the President says, “Give him space to think.”

The fourth value of this Government is integrity, integrity also known as moral uprightness and strong adherence to honesty in public, as well as in private lives do matter.

Hon Deputy Speaker, do people outside the Western Cape experience a government that has integrity? Clearly not. The State Capture Party has thus far displayed no true desire to implement its own resolutions to steps aside when you are corrupt. Zuma has the ace up his sleeve.

We know that people generally have low levels of trust in governments. Our Strategic Communication Unit in the Department of the Premier does regular polling to test the trust levels of our citizens in how the Western Cape Government performs in managing this pandemic, although, having high levels of fear and mixed feelings during different stages and periods of this pandemic, the citizens of the Western Cape now have higher levels of trust in how the Western Cape Government and our Health Department are

performing.

This is because our Premier Winde is leading from the front. Even the National Government has trust in the Western Cape, so much so that the President took his vaccine injection yesterday right here in the best run province in South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, do people outside the Western Cape experience a government that they can trust? Clearly not. There is no trust in the state capture government of Ramaphosa. We therefore call on President Ramaphosa and his National Government to resign. If you have no trust, you have no legitimacy. Resign with dignity, Mr President. This is a call from us to my fellow South Africans. Do the honourable thing and resign.

The fifth value is innovation; leading in turbulent times requires innovation and speed. We have seen much innovation in the Western Cape as outlined by the Premier during his State of the Province Address yesterday, and as explained by the Minister of Transport and Public Works as well as amplified by the Minister of Health. We have seen these innovations making a difference.

The Health Department has, together with the Department of the Premier, developed an online real-time COVID-19 dashboard. This is a groundbreaking innovation that has received international recognition. High flow nasal oxygen as a substitute for ventilators is also an innovation that is

saving lives in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, do people outside the Western Cape experience innovation in their provincial governments? The ANC Provincial Government in the Eastern Cape produced and procured ambulance scooters to transport patients in rural areas. What a waste of taxpayers' money. Even Health Minister, Dr Mkhize described the ambulance scooters as being an inappropriate tool in the fight against COVID-19. The ANC is always finding innovative ways to line their own pockets and to steal taxpayers' money. That is where the innovation of the ANC goes, in stealing taxpayers' money.

The last value of this Government is responsiveness, nowhere during my adult working life have I seen this level of responsiveness from a Premier, a Health Minister, head of department, doctors, nurses and health staff. Leave was cancelled, long working hours, weekends across functional and geographical boundaries, are all testimony to the levels and depth of responsiveness. Hon Speaker, do we the people, outside the Western Cape, experience responsiveness in government? Clearly not. No, we rather see provincial governments looting COVID-19 money and when confronted, the President simply says, "I am shocked." While the President is shocked, Premier Winde is leading from the front by being the only Premier whose Government has published two disclosure reports on the spending of COVID-19 here in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, do people outside the Western Cape experience value-based

leadership in their provincial governments? The answer is no. Hon Speaker, values help us to navigate in turbulent times. The Democratic Alliance Government of the Western Cape and wherever it governs offers the voter value-based leadership; data-led; evidence-based decision-making; integration of faith, reason and emotion and people leading with empathy and compassion, servant leadership and a caring Government.

The voters of the Western Cape have a clear choice in the upcoming local government election and that is to vote for a value-based caring government with integrity. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is time for South Africa to exit the party of toxic leadership, it is time for South Africa to exit the party of unethical leadership. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is time to facilitate the exit of the state capture party from South Africa. The people of the Western Cape have already issued the ANC a one-way ticket to oblivion for them to never return to govern here in the Western Cape.

I now call on voters in South Africa to do exactly the same. Use the Local Government Election 2021 to send the ANC criminal syndicate out of your streets, your towns, your municipalities, your districts and regions all over South Africa. Let them never return to your town to steal; never to return to your district to steal; never return to your region to steal. South Africa, now is the time to clean this country and experience real hope, real change, now in 2021. To free the country, we must vote the ANC out all over South Africa and get the new government in the Union Buildings. The ANC brought down South African Airways at a great cost to the taxpayer. South African Airways

remains lies ... [Interjection.] scattered across the runway ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off please, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... of corruption across the country.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish, finish off Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Let me conclude. The black box is safely with the Zondo Commission and each day another bit of the puzzle of state capture is revealed. The time for change is now. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much. Hon Kama. Hon Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Deputy Speaker, firstly I have to register that I have been raising my hand and you are not recognising me, and I did not want to disrupt the MEC. Now that he has finished, I want to raise a point of order on Rule 44 that speaks on irrelevant repetitions because we are called here today to debate the State of the Province Address and the MEC finds himself canvassing for local government elections. So, I thought, Deputy Speaker, in accordance with that rule, you would intervene and redirect the conduct of the member. But I must say, Deputy Speaker, that you must please look at our hands as you have advised us that we must raise hands when we want to raise

points of order. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kama. My apologies, I also rely on the Table staff. It seems none of us saw that. But what I do want to say is that I would like to remind you that today is a political debate and politics is part of the speech. So, the hon Minister Meyer has not violated Rule 44 in any way. It is actually in line with what the debate is about. Thank you very much. I now move over to hon Smith.

†Mnr D SMITH: Geagte Speaker, geagte lede, dames en here, die mense van Genadendal, Theewaterskloof en die Overberg. Ek kon gister nie glo dat 'n derde vlug vanaf Kaapstad na New York vir die Wes-Kaapse regering belangriker is as die behoefte van die mense nie. Die Wes-Kaap brand van armoede. Daar is baie krisisse wat ons kan uitwys en ek glo ons sal nog 'n geleentheid kry om dit te doen, maar vandag wil ek die eerste gedeelte van my toespraak toewy aan die mense van Kaap Agulhas want die Parlement is nou hier. In hierdie plaaslike verkiesing, ja, stem ons saam met die agb Dugmore om te sê dat die toespraak van die Premier meer oor die verkiesing is as oor die staat van die provinsie veral na COVID-19. 'n Mens sou gedink het dat hierdie provinsiale regering die mense en die ekonomie van die Wes-Kaap sou eerste stel maar ons moes weereens luister na beloftes. Soos die agb Dugmore sê, in hierdie provinsie waar ons mense bly, weet ons hierdie toespraak was van bo blink en onder stink. Die boetie-boetie verhoudinge wat die DA het, veral met hul finansiële ondersteuners, is skokkend, veral in Kaap Agulhas. In alles is daar 'n man wie se naam ons het, wat sy munisipale

diensterekening vanaf R1,4 miljoen tot R380 000 afgesny het deur die munisipaliteit. Die DA ken die man baie goed. Dieselfde persoon is deur die hof opdrag gegee dat hy die grond Erf 599 in Arniston terug moet gee aan die munisipaliteit nadat die plaaslike belastingbetalersvereniging die saak in die hof gewen het. Die munisipaliteit wil nou skik op R10 miljoen vir die grond terwyl die waarde daarvan baie meer is en wat die gemeenskap selfs kan gebruik vir behuising. Maar omdat hierdie boetie-boetie gedrag is tussen die DA en die ondersteuners en die munisipaliteit, is dit weereens die hof wat dalk genader moet word. Die agb Premier moet 'n bietjie Kaap Agulhas toe gaan en navrae doen oor 'n hoteleienaar, wat boetie-boetie is met die munisipaliteit. Kyk wat gebeur nou – die DA stel 'n munisipale bestuurder in [Daar word verslag gegee dat hy betrokke was by 'n werksgeleenthede verkoopsage. Premier, u praat oor sogenaamde grondbesetting, maar wat van hierdie landkaping wat in Arniston aangaan deur hierdie einste hoteleienaar?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr D SMITH: Hon Speaker, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, the people of Genadendal, Theewaterskloof and the Overberg. I could not believe it yesterday that a third flight from Cape Town to New York was more important to the Western Cape Government than the needs of the people. The Western Cape is burning in poverty. There are many crises we can point out and I believe we will still get an opportunity to do it, but today I want to dedicate the first part of my speech to the people of Cape Agulhas because Parliament is now here. In this local election, yes, we agree with the hon

Dugmore to say that the speech of the Premier dealt more with the elections than with the state of the province, especially after COVID-19. One would have thought that this Provincial Government would place the people and the economy of the Western Cape first, but we again had to listen to promises. As the hon Dugmore says, in this province where our people live, we know this speech was shiny outside but rotten inside. The hand-in-glove relationships the DA has, especially with their financial supporters, is shocking, especially in Cape Agulhas. In everything there is a man's name that we have, who had his municipal rates account cut from R1,4 million to R380 000 through the Municipality. The DA knows the man very well. The same person was ordered by the court to return the land of Erf 599 in Arniston to the Municipality after the local taxpayers' association had won the case in court. The Municipality now wants to settle for 10 million for the land while its value is much more and the community can even use it for housing. But because of the hand-in-glove behaviour between the DA and the supporters and the Municipality, it is again the court that will probably have to be approached. The hon Premier should go to Cape Agulhas and make enquiries about a hotel owner, who is hand-in-glove with the Municipality. Look what happens now – the DA appoints a municipal manager in Langeberg, Mr Albert de Klerk, who had left under a crime scandal. It is being reported that he had been involved in a selling-of-job-opportunities saga. Premier, you speak about so-called land invasion, but what about this land hi-jacking going on in Arniston by this same hotel owner?]

It is also not surprising that most of, if not all, of the quarantine sites in

Agulhas were run by the hotel owner, a close friend of the DA. †Die Vishuisprojek was gekwoteer en die gemeenskap van Kassiesbaai sukkel om dit te open en operasioneel te maak, maar net die munisipaliteit sal weet hoekom die projek nie van die grond af kan kom nie. Bo blink, onder stink. In Area F in Bredasdorp staan huise leeg en word gevandaliseer, maar in plaas van mense in die huise sit, word daar R2,1 miljoen spandeer op die [Onhoorbaar.] en vir sekuriteitsdienste. Die huise is gebou voor die beginselbeleid toegeken en gefinaliseer was. En ons kan verwys na baie ander gevalle waar presies dieselfde gebeur het. Bo blink en onder stink.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The Vishuis project was quoted and the community of Kassiesbaai is struggling to open it and make it operational, but only the Municipality will know why the project cannot get off the ground. Shiny outside, but rotten inside. In Area F in Bredasdorp, houses are standing empty and are vandalised, but instead of placing people in the houses, R2,1 million is spent on the [Inaudible.] and for security services. The houses were built before the allocation and finalising of the principle of policy. And we can refer to many other instances where exactly the same happened. Shiny outside but rotten inside.]

Deputy Speaker, the hon Premier said, and I quote:

“When something is giving you a competitive advantage to this extent, it

only makes sense to invest in it further and that is why leveraging our agricultural economy for growth and recovery is a key priority in the Western Cape in the year ahead.”

African and Coloured farmers, especially in the Agulhas area and in the Overberg in general, are complaining that they are not being afforded the same opportunities. In other words, the investment is only going to those who benefited in the past. Too little transformation has occurred in agriculture while the majority of the people of Overberg continue to be excluded from the success in the agricultural sector. This success is only celebrated by a few, the few who have also benefited from the past. The majority do not own the success and so continue to feel excluded. For example, a quarter of the working population in Agullus are unemployed. Your MEC of Agriculture does not believe that more must be done to include African and Coloured people in the agricultural or aquaculture sectors. So how then will the majority of people have ownership in this success? †Bo blink, onder stink. [Shiny outside but rotten inside.]

Here in Theewaterskloof Municipality there is hardly any senior management, with the majority of votes being in acting positions. Amongst others, he suggested that this so because the former municipal manager can continue to be employed as a consultant given his 18-month contract. And 135 kilometres away in the quiet town of Swellendam lies a DA mess. After over five years the SAUS has still not completed its investigation while other investigations into PPEs are now piling up. If the hon Premier is serious about dealing with

corruption in our municipalities, he will deal with them himself and not allow his MEC to pick and choose what municipalities must be targeted and investigated.

†As die agb LUR ernstig is oor korrupsie en wanadministrasie, dan sal hy die munisipale bestuurder opdrag gee om die ouditeur-generaal se verslag aan die raadslede van Swellendam te gee. Volgens die munisipale bestuurder van Swellendam is die ouditeur-generaal se verslag vertroulik en mag nie met raadslede gedeel word nie. Wat steek julle weg? Ons wil die waarheid weet. Onder die DA se beheer is 8 munisipale werkers in Swellendam betaal terwyl hulle by die huis sit en 'n ander 8 word ekstra betaal omdat die 8 wat by die huis sit, om hulle werk dan te doen. Dit is nou 'n DA-regering. As die DA die geveg teen korrupsie ernstig vat, sal hy nie die huidige burgemeester van Swellendam in daardie pos hê nie. Toe die Raad 'n besluit neem oor windterminale, toe bly twee DA-raadslede tjoepstil oor die feit dat hulle belange het in die plase waarop hierdie terminale sou gebou word. Dit is een ding om te spog van *lifestyle audits* vir sy Kabinetslede, maar as dit kom by van die belange van die DA-burgemeester, dan draai die agb Premier sy gesig. Was dit *jobs for pals* dan is dit *stop here in Theewaterskloof*.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[If the MEC is serious about corruption and maladministration, then he will instruct the municipal manager to give the Auditor General's report to the councillors of Swellendam. According to the municipal manager of

Swellendam, the Auditor General's report is confidential and may not be shared with councillors. What are you hiding? We want to know the truth. Under the DA's control, 8 municipal officials were paid in Swellendam while they are sitting at home and another 8 are paid extra so that they can do the work of those sitting at home. That is now a DA government. If the DA is taking the fight against corruption seriously, it will not have the current Mayor of Swellendam in that post. When the Council took a decision on wind terminals, two DA councillors remained dead quiet about the fact that they had interests in the farms on which these terminals were going to be built. It is one thing to boast about lifestyle audits for his Cabinet members, but when it comes to the interests of the DA Mayor, then the hon Premier turns his face away. Were it jobs for pals, then it is stop here in Theewaterskloof.]

It also goes to the heart of the City of Cape Town administration. The sudden departure of Richard Bosman, under the cloud of early retirement, should once again raise alarm bells for the residents of Cape Town. Crispian Olber, in his book *A House Divided*, details how a factional war was happening in the DA. The City purged officials with talent and men and women with institutional memory, in order to appoint pals and *ja baas* people. Today in the wake of the latest DA factional wars and upcoming local government elections, officials in the City are again being targeted. The *boetie* culture persists in the DA as companies headed by former leader Tony Leon, like Resolve, get work from the City of Cape Town, while the DA stacks stake entities such as Wesgro with its party hacks. The hon MEC for Local Government in the Province gets away with interfering in the appointment of

municipal staff. The ANC's head of cadre deployment is simply not the Minister of COGTA. The ANC it seems can teach the DA a thing or two of not creating conflict of interest. [Interjection.]

†Die realiteit is dat die lewens van die meerderheid in die Overberg nie vandag beter is nie. Dit is veral nie beter na 'n dag waar die Premier gister was nie. Dit is nie beter na 'n dekade van DA-regering nie. Die plaaswerkers, die mense van Paradise Park, Zwelishwe, Mount Pleasant, Grabouw, Bredasdorp is nie in ag geneem in die Premier se toespraak nie. Dit was 'n toespraak vir plaaseienaars; die mense wie op Arabella bly en diegene wat in Gauteng werk wat huise in Hermanus besit. Dit is DA bo blink, maar onder stink.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The reality is that the lives of the majority of in the Overberg are no better today. It is especially not better after a day where the Premier had been yesterday. It is not better after a decade of DA governance. The farmworkers, the people of Paradise Park, Zwelishwe, Mount Pleasant, Grabouw, Bredasdorp were not taken into consideration in the Premier's speech. It was a speech for the farm owners; the people living on Arabella and those working in Gauteng and own houses in Hermanus. It is DA shiny outside, but rotten inside.]

Deputy Speaker, allow me to quote from the President's State of the Nation

when he said, and I quote:

“We are proceeding with our efforts to strengthen the local government infrastructure and accelerate service delivery through the District Development Model. The model brings all three spheres of government to focus on key priorities and implementation in critical high impact projects. Working with both with public and private partners, Government is implementing a range of measures to support municipalities.”

President Ramaphosa, it would seem, gives the people of Overberg more hope than their own Premier does. Instead of coming here to campaign for local government elections, the President states that emphasis is being placed on local government infrastructure in the District Development Model. †Die mense van Kaap Agulhas in die Wes-Kaap moet net ‘n bietjie vasbyt. Hou nog net so ‘n tydjie uit. [The people of Cape Agulhas in the Western Cape must just stand firm for a bit. Just hold out for a little while.] Get rid of this DA. Let us join forces later this year and let us send the DA on a direct blue flight back to New York. †Baie dankie. [Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Smith. I now recognise hon Philander. Hon Philander, are you there?

Ms W F PHILANDER: Yes, thank you. †Adjunkspeaker, Premier, lede, gaste, mense van die Vallei van Genade en mense van die Wes-Kaap. [Deputy

Speaker, Premier, members, guests, people of the Valley of Grace and people of the Western Cape.] Our road to long-lasting recovery began yesterday with the rollout of the first Johnson & Johnson vaccinations. To the healthcare workers who have been on the frontlines and continue to work tirelessly, this is the beginning of hope we so desperately need. And I wish to assure our frontline workers, especially as a member of the Legislature, I will continue to work fervently in monitoring the rollout of these vaccinations and that every pledge made, whether by the Premier or the President, is upheld. However, Deputy Speaker, yesterday's vaccine event occurred off the back of one of the ANC National Government's failures, hell-bent in their centralised power approach, a weak vaccination procurement.

†Praat van bo blink, onder stink. As dit nie so hartseer was nie, was dit amper snaaks. Agb Adjunkspeaker, [Speak of shiny outside but rotten inside. If it were not so sad, it could almost be funny. Hon Deputy Speaker,] yesterday was historic and it shows our capable committed Government whilst the Western Cape was ready to administer the very first jabs in South Africa. †Wat ons gister gesien het in Khayelitsha, was die ANC-president, die ANC-minister wat onder flitsende ligte die hospitaal binnekom, en jy kan nie help om by jouself te wonder nie, het hierdie mense nie 'n gewete nie? Het hulle nie skaamte nie? [What we saw yesterday in Khayelitsha, was the ANC President, the ANC Minister entering the hospital under flashing lights, and one cannot help but wonder, do these people not have a conscience? Do they have no shame?] Because of them thousands of healthcare workers, thousands of frontline workers and the broader nation are deprived of a

vaccine. †Maar daar is ‘n gesegde, Adjunkspeaker, wat sê “die hond het die skaamte opgevreet”. [But there is a saying, Deputy Speaker, that goes *die hond het die skaamte opgevreet* (the dog ate the shame).] This is the real state of affairs in which residents deserve so much better. One would think that with something as critical as procuring a life-saving vaccine, a party who has been in government for more than 20 years would be able to concentrate every effort in throwing this sustainable lifeline.

The ANC has written a playbook for failed governance with many blank pages stained with fraud and corruption. At the same time, it is the DA-led Western Cape Government that leads from the front to ensure that jobs, safety and dignity are delivered to residents. During a time when COVID-19, draconian regulations made it almost impossible for infrastructure projects to come to completion, it is in Genadendal that the DA-led Western Cape pushed through adversities and a R7 million refurbishing project to where Genadendal Clinic is in its completion phase.

Deputy Speaker, why is it so difficult for the ANC National-led Government to act in the best interests of South Africans? Why is it that corruption tops all efforts, and the President is perpetually in a state of shock? Why is it that it has missed two payment dates for the much-anticipated vaccine and still manages to secure a compromised vaccine for South Africans? But the DA-led Western Cape writes its own playbook for effective caring government. Ethically and constitutionally, we lead from the front. The Government innovated through every phase of this pandemic. It started with the most

effective stay home communication campaign while taking residents into their confidence and cautiously preparing the system that withstood the test of time.

The data-led and nationwide implemented Hot Spot strategy to mitigate the effect of blanket bans and the poverty pandemic, extended relief funds objectively through DECAS and DEDAD, to transport essential workers to and from service sites safely. We saw today and we have experienced it, how the Provincial Department of Social Development stepped in when the ANC's SASSA stepped out. Our Government looked out for the most vulnerable.

For diabetic patients with the Vector telemedicine initiative maintained sufficient levels of oxygen supply during the second wave and swiftly transformed and capacitated facilities with staff and equipment to offering hope when beds became few.

Deputy Speaker, then the Premier announced the escalation of the Provincial Procurement Process locating alternative shots and finalisation of the anticipated Budget allocation to make this a reality in supplication of national efforts. By doing so the Western Cape upholds its ethical commitment to the well-being of its residents and maintains its constitutional mandate towards healthcare.

As vaccines arrive bi-weekly as promised, hopefully Speaker, the province remains steadfast to work with National Government through the Western

Cape's readiness to roll out swiftly and seamlessly. Centres are equipped with fridges and syringes and resourced with 2000 trained staff as mandated. Whilst we are maintaining the preparation for a third wave, as we wait for more vaccines, as the Premier made mention, we can look forward to bringing two more clinics, two emergency centres and a forensic pathology centre online in the current financial year.

To conclude, I want to use this opportunity, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to ask members with colleagues in the National Government, to find out how we are going to recover the AZ vaccine funding? We need to move forward and with more vaccines. We want to get to work with proven capabilities. My pledge, Deputy Speaker, as the Chairperson of Health in the province, I am committed to overseeing the ways in which the Provincial Government has and must continue to boldly step up using every resource at its disposal to fight the pandemic and ensure the well-being of our residents remains priority number one. †Agb Speaker, die DA-beheerde Wes-Kaap regering word keer op keer gekritiseer omdat hulle 'n omgee-regering is wat werk vir die mense van die Wes-Kaap. Wat het die ANC om te wys? Ons wil nie hê ons in hierdie Wes-Kaap moet werk nie, ons wil hê Suid-Afrika moet werk tot voordeel van al haar mense. Skeur gerus 'n bladsy uit ons boek. Ek dank u, agb Adjunkspeaker. [Applous.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, the DA controlled Western Cape Government is time and again

criticised because they are a caring government that works for the people of the Western Cape. What does the ANC have to show? We do not want us in this Western Cape to work, we want South Africa to work to the benefit of all its people. Do take a page from our book. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.
[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Philander, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, yes she is done.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Philander ...

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): She is done, Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Philander, I apologise we have a glitch. I do not know if you can hear us. We have suspended the House for a few minutes, but we will require that you repeat and re-read your speech for the records as we did not hear it. So, if you could just prepare until I am absolutely sure that we actually are back online, I am assuming that you can hear me.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We have heard everything.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies members who are in the Chamber in Wale Street and those that are online in MS teams, we had a disconnection of

our internet here and we were unable to follow through. Can I ask that hon Philander – my apologies to do this to you – if you could please redo your speech for the record? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please reset the time.

Mr D SMITH: Deputy Speaker, it is hon Smith.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you.

Mr D SMITH: I just want to make sure that my speech was audible and live because I was the speaker before hon Philander. I just wanted to make sure, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Smith, loud and clear it was. Thank you very much. Hon Philander, over to you.

An HON MEMBER: She was also loud and clear.

†Me W F PHILANDER: Adjunkspeaker, Premier, lede, gaste, mense van die Vallei van Genade en mense van die Wes-Kaap. [Deputy Speaker, Premier, members, guests, people of the Valley of Grace and people of the Western Cape.] Our road to long-lasting recovery began yesterday with the rollout of the first Johnson & Johnson vaccinations. To the healthcare workers who have been on the frontlines and continue to work tirelessly, this is the

beginning of hope we so desperately need. And I wish to assure our frontline workers, especially as a member of the Legislature, I will continue to work fervently in monitoring the rollout of these vaccines and that every pledge made, whether by the Premier or the President, is upheld. However, Deputy Speaker, yesterday's vaccine event occurred off the back of one of the ANC National Government's failures, hell-bent in their centralised power approach, a weak vaccination procurement programme is at play.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, die lede praat van bo blink en onder stink. As dit nie so hartseer was nie, was dit snaaks. U weet, agb Adjunkspeaker, [Hon Deputy Speaker, the members speak of shiny outside but rotten inside. If it were not so sad, it could be funny. Hon Deputy Speaker,] yesterday was a historic moment in Khayelitsha; it shows of a committed and capable Government whilst the very first jab was administered in the Western Cape. All we saw yesterday, †was die ANC-president [Onhoorbaar – stilte.] [was the ANC President [Inaudible – silence.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, can you hear me? Here we go. Continue please.

†Me W F PHILANDER: Het hulle 'n gewete? Het hulle skaamte?

[Ms W F PHILANDER: Do they have a conscience? Do they have shame?] Because did they even think of the thousands of healthcare workers, the thousands of frontline workers ...[Silence.] But no Deputy Speaker, †dit is bo blink, onder stink, en daar is 'n spreekwoord wat sê “die hond het die

skaamte opgevreet”. [it is shiny outside, rotten inside, and there is a saying that goes the dog ate the shame.] I would think that with something as critical as procuring a life-saving vaccine, a party who has been in government for more than 20 years would be able to concentrate every effort in throwing this sustainable lifeline.

The ANC has written a playbook for failed governance with many blank pages with fraud and corruption. At the same time, it is the DA-led Western Cape Government that leads from the front to ensure that jobs, safety and dignity are delivered to residents. During a time when COVID-19, draconian regulations made it almost impossible for infrastructure projects to come to completion, it is in Genadendal that the DA-led Western Cape pushed through adversities and a R7 million refurbishment project to where Genadendal Clinic is in completion phase.

Deputy Speaker, why is it so difficult for the ANC National-led Government to act in the best interests of South Africans? Why is it that corruption tops all efforts, and the President is perpetually in a state of shock? Why is it that there are two missed payment dates for the much-anticipated vaccine and they still manage to secure a compromised vaccine for South Africans? But the DA-led Western Cape writes its own playbook for effective caring governance. Ethically and constitutionally, we lead from the front. The Government innovated through every phase of this pandemic. It started with the most effective stay home communication campaign while taking residents into their confidence and cautiously preparing the system that withstood the

test of time.

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mandated. Whilst we are maintaining the preparation for a third wave, as we wait for more vaccines, the Premier made mention, we can look forward to bringing two more clinics, two emergency centres and a forensic pathology centre online in the current financial year.

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[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, the DA controlled Western Cape Government is time and again criticised because they are a caring government that works for their people. What does the ANC have to show? Disappointment after disappointment. We

do not want us in this Western Cape to work, we want South Africa to work to the benefit of all its people. So do take a page from our book. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you, hon Philander for repeating your speech. I now call on hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Premier, members and guests: first of all, I want to say thank you to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for bringing Parliament to the people, to Genadendal, the Valley of Grace. Yesterday we were in Genadendal in the museum and other areas and with respect to the rich history that we heard yesterday; I really want to honour Dr Balie for his contribution to Genadendal. The interesting fact is that with little resources they displayed what Genadendal can do and will do in the future.

So, I am glad I am here, and an interesting fact is when we were at the museum there was a little Bible that was given to Magdalena from a Mr Smith, a Moravian evangelist from Germany dated 1744. When Dr Balie concluded his message to us, his story telling to us, he quoted two scriptures and he looked us in the eye and he quoted to us, 2 Chronicles 7 v 14 where it says:

“If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear

from heaven, I will forgive their sins and heal their land.”

And then he quoted Mathew 6 v 33:

“But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.”

I think he was thinking of the difficult time we are going through, and he really wanted to encourage us and motivate us, and I really pray that we, as leaders, will ask God’s wisdom to give us a breakthrough in this time. Not only with COVID-19 but if we look at the economy, if we look at our safety, that we will go back and seek His face and I believe we will be a prosperous nation.

To get to the Premier’s speech: I heard the rollout of the Western Cape vaccination programme and of course, anything and everything must be done. The question I have for the Premier here is, when you have healthcare workers that have concerns or according to their beliefs, do not want to choose to vaccinate, will they be marginalised or victimised? That is a question I got from health workers.

Another question Premier, the ACDP has taken the National Minister to court to allow Ivermectin to be prescribed by licenced healthcare professionals. If Ivermectin works, will you join the ACDP in taking the National Government to court? Another question, Premier, is little is said about immune boosters.

Will you look at giving to the most vulnerable, the vitamin Cs, the vitamin Ds and the zincs in order to boost their immune system?

Deputy Speaker, the ACDP welcomes the deployment of the 500 extra law enforcement officers later this year and the Premier mentioned in the Safety Plan that there will also be appointed investigators, I think it is 150 of them. Is that still part of your plan because now with the extra policing there will be a burden on investigating these cases. The ACDP of course believes the power of policing must be devolved and we will have an effective, easier to manage police, just not oversight. We need real powers and that is operational powers so that we can keep the people of the Western Cape safe. Federalism will strengthen South Africa and strengthen our provinces and make it more prosperous. The ACDP also believes there is low hanging fruit and I have always backed Neighbourhood Watches and Police Forums to be fully equipped and fully resourced. Premier, you have also mentioned the Safety Ambassadors and we agree with that but when you walk in any township at 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning, you will see youths sitting on the street corners and a proposal is why do we not get the bricklayers, the plumbers, the carpenters, the retired ones and get those youngsters from the streets and equip them? A lot of them are unskilled and they need to be skilled in order to be employed because at the moment they are a menace to society. So Premier, I would want you to think about that.

Coming to the amendments of the Western Cape Liquor Act, I cannot understand, and I struggle to comprehend, and the ACDP is calling for liquor

outlets to be closed on Sundays. Sundays were a peace-loving day. Now on Mondays employees do not pitch up because of alcohol. I went to a community in Vredendal not so long ago and they called Sundays † “die sport drinkdag” of so iets wat hulle dit noem [“the sport drinking day” or something that they call it,] and it is really heartsore to see what alcohol is doing. So, I want to see is there going to be a reduction in days, a reduction in hours and also the quantity of alcohol for individuals ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please finish off, hon member.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Are you going to address that? Deputy Speaker, I will finish just with this. If there is no land in the City will you take job opportunities to people where there is land available in other parts of the province? I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I now recognise hon Mitchell.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, †inwoners van die pragtige historise dorp Genadendal, [citizens of this beautiful historical town,] members of the House. Deputy Speaker, I am reminded of a quote by the late President Nelson Mandela:

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice. It is the protection of fundamental human rights, the right to dignity and a

decent life.”

But, hon Deputy Speaker, imagine having to wake up at 3 a.m. every morning, having to get your family ready for the day ahead, before heading off to work as a single parent. Arriving at a train station, waiting for a train that may arrive on time, or may be hours late, or even worse, one that may never arrive. In the case of the latter, then set out to a taxi rank in fear of the violence and genuine concerns for your life, as your only option.

Deputy Speaker, this is the reality of thousands of daily commuters in the Western Cape. So, when we speak about overcoming poverty and providing dignity Deputy Speaker, we certainly must speak to getting to work through a safe, reliable transport system. We cannot speak about jobs, safety or dignity in this integral part of our everyday lives. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, someone is speaking on the phone on MS Teams. Hon Mitchell, you may proceed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, in order for the rail service to run at optimum capacity, 88 train sets are required of which only 33 are currently operating. Since 2017 more than 140 carriages which make up 40 train sets have been torched in the Western Cape. Only seven of 34 of Metrorail train lines are operational and this is at reduced capacity. Deputy Speaker, the question is †waar is die Nasionale Minister? [where is the National Minister?] Missing in action †want die

mense van die Wes-Kaap tel net in verkiesingstye [because the people of the Western Cape only matter during election time.] In spite of the arson attacks, vandalism and theft, over 400 people have been arrested, amounting to a total of over 370 years' worth of convictions and although multiple arrests have been made, too few convictions have come from it.

Again, Deputy Speaker, †waar is die Nasionale Regering? *Missing in action* want die Wes-Kaap se mense tel net gedurende die verkiesing [because the people of the Western Cape only matter during election time.] The duty of ensuring an effectively run rail service in the Western Cape has become an uphill battle for the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa. Since 2019, until this week, the Cape Town Central Line has not been in service and I may add, halted on the same day it reopened and other routes have been indefinitely suspended. Deputy Speaker, †waar is die President en die Nasionale Minister? *Missing in action* want die Wes-Kaap se mense tel net gedurende verkiesingstyd. [Where is the President and the National Minister? Missing inaction because the people of the Western Cape only matter during election time.]

While there is no clear way forward from the National Government, the Western Cape Government has stepped in with credible solutions. Deputy Speaker, a glimpse of hope has come in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement, signed by the Provincial Government in conjunction with PRASA, to revive the Central Line. This is how we lead from the front in the Western Cape. Deputy Speaker, I therefore welcome the Premier's

commitment to ensure that we fix the rail system in the Western Cape once and for all because our residents deserve this. It can never be, Deputy Speaker, that a person wanting to put bread on the table, is being held hostage by the incompetence of the ANC Government and its entities, but in the Western Cape, we do not just highlight the failures of the National Government, we find solutions and step in, because our residents deserve this.

What we need now is for bold vision and planning to come to reality in the single transport authority spoken of by the Premier. This is going to entirely reshape how we view and manage public transport bringing planning and oversight closer to the people who rely on it. This will ultimately provide the tremendous contribution towards rebuilding the economy. As testimony of this, the DA-led Western Cape Government, like it did with the failing rail system, stepped in and created the very innovative Red Dot Service, in collaboration with the taxi industry. Innovative and solutions driven.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I conclude, I am reminded of a quote by Brian Tracy:

“The true test of leadership is how well you function in a crisis.”

The DA-led Government has passed this test with flying colours, not because of allegiance to the party but because it understands what is meant with overcoming poverty through justice, protecting basic rights in service delivery and empowerment through partnerships and putting dignified

livelihoods first. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Mitchell. I now recognise hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon members, †die Premier se besluit om nie sy geskrewe toespraak te lewer nie, maar om *ad lib* te praat, het my laat wonder, wie het daardie toespraak geskryf, dat hy nie wou lees nie? Is dit die linkervleuel, is dit die regtervleuel, is dit die progressiewes, is hier liberaliste in die DA, wie het die toespraak geskryf? Wie se stem het ons gister gehoor? Was dit die stem van die Bybelse Jakob, of was dit die hande van die harige Esau? Is die kieser die blinde Isak, wat verneuk gaan word? Premier, dié sê ek vir ons, u mag beroof word as gevolg van u stilswye oor grondonteiening byvoorbeeld? Genadendal s'n, Elim s'n? Jy was in Genadendal, hoekom het jy nie hulle 'n versekering gegee hulle grond sal beveilig word nie?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[the Premier's decision not to deliver his written speech, but to speak *ad lib* te praat, made me wonder, who wrote that speech, that he did not want to read it? Is it the left wing, is it the right wing, is it the progressives, are there liberals here in the DA, who wrote the speech? Whose voice did we hear yesterday? Was it the voice of the biblical Jacob, or was it the hands of the hairy Esau? Is Caesar the blind Isaac, who is going to be cheated? Premier, this I say, you may be robbed because of your silence on land

expropriation for example? That of Genadendal, that of Elim? You were in Genadendal, why did you not give them the assurance that their land will be protected?]

Premier, as a visionary you have dropped the ball. You refer to federalism only as a side issue instead of expanding on this vision. It is worthwhile noting that the hon Minister of Agriculture, Minister Meyer, has been brave enough to admit that your party's policy is one of subsidiarity. I was hoping that in your speech, you would have unpacked this further.

We must uncouple the Western Cape from this runaway train with the sleeping driver at the steering wheel at national level. You said nothing about land expropriation without compensation which is causing greater stress to commercial and emerging Coloured and white farmers; having trusted the ANC Government with managing Eskom, Denel, SAA and the SABC, which they drove into bankruptcy. How can we trust them with land expropriation and running this country, the Western Cape by remote control?

State controlled land like Mamre, Haarlem, Slangrivier, Zoar, Ebenezer, Kranshoek, Saron, Friemersheim and Genadendal received no mention in your speech. Premier, will they receive the necessary funding and training to become successful, commercial farmers? You have failed to even mention anything yesterday except holding off briberies. They will need our protection against land invaders. Yes, you were silent. Are you also walking in a minefield like President Ramaphosa, a nowhere man in a nowhere land?

Those are the words of your national leader which he said in the SONA debate. Job opportunities are nothing else but temporary work that pays less than the national minimum wage.

Free the Cape. Unshackle us from the corrupt system. Give us a reasonable chance to survive. In 1976 we all sang 'Freedom is not free'. You have paid the price you must sacrifice for your liberty. We never knew then that we would still be paying the price in 2021 and we would still be sacrificing in 2021 and we will sacrifice for the rest of our lives unless we get rid of the ANC. Free the Cape.

The people of the Western Cape deserve federalism, federal autonomy. We deserve adequate housing, not housing opportunities which is just a fancy name for shack dwelling. The Premier asked members for ideas and proposals. Many of the ideas proposed by me have initially been rejected but later implemented and I want to thank members of his Cabinet.

I will give you examples. I proposed the rollout of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It is locally manufactured, it is cheaper, and it has efficacy, but the Health Department in the Western Cape rejected it, telling me, 'no it is not effective.' They changed their minds now.

I proposed the enlarging of the municipal police and I thank Minister Fritz; he is doing a great job. I proposed the employment of highway patrol officers, that is now a fact. I asked the Health Department to concentrate on

the fight against diabetes because that is what caused so many COVID-19 patients to die. They have now done it. Delivering people's chronic medication to their homes was also my proposal and it has worked to help the poor.

And now I call for federal autonomy. I call on you even if I must do what Steenhuisen did and sing you that song of the Beatles, but it is a different song. [Laughter.] Federal autonomy, I want to say to you, we need to say, 'you may say I'm a dreamer, but I am not the only one'. And I hope someday, DA and ANC you will join us, and the Western Cape will stand as one. I dream the impossible dream; I will fight the seemingly unbeatable foe. This is my quest. My quest is to follow that star, that star for a free Western Cape, self-determined, run by professional politicians, people who have the guts, the experience, the knowledge to bring the Western Cape into the picture as the whole fold ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: ... of South Africa.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon Marais. I now recognise

hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Premier, Leader of the Opposition, hon members, residents of Genadendal, I salute you. Deputy Speaker, I stand before you today in one of South Africa's most historical towns of the Western Cape. A town of many firsts. The town that printed the very first Afrikaans novel, Theewaterskloof presents us with charming towns, rich with history and culture.

When we think of Genadendal, we think of the reason why it was called Genadendal, why it was named the Valley of Faith, the Valley of Grace. The Premier was right when it said that Genadendal could be a gem of a tourist destination in South Africa but Genadendal has not been immune to COVID-19 regulations which shut down much of the tourism industry in the Western Cape.

Many of the small and informal businesses in Genadendal are based either in the tourism industry or its value chain. The last year has seen jobs lost and livelihoods threatened because of the pandemic. Deputy Speaker, I need to tell the Premier that while we have achieved tremendously bold interventions for the benefit of the people of the province, we still have much to do in Genadendal.

When it comes to the funding community, Genadendal has suffered at the hands of budget cuts from Pretoria and a lack of drought support from the

National Agricultural Ministry. This is despite the fact that Theewaterskloof Municipality contributes the highest percentage, not only in the agricultural sector to this district but it exports the most in terms of fruit. This consequently contributes to exports from the Western Cape and has been a shining light of hope over the past years.

Premier, allow me to tell a story about a local farmer of Klein Ezeljacht, a son of Theewaterskloof soil, who built himself up from scratch. He received funding from various avenues including much funding and assistance from the Provincial Government, in particular the Department of Agriculture, some of it during your own tenure as Minister of Agriculture. Premier, Mr André Cloete has done everything he can possibly do to ensure that his farm is a success and what a success it has been. He has received certificates of ethical funding and for the support extended to his employees.

But, Deputy Speaker and Premier, there is an obstacle that is lying in André's path and it is not a new obstacle, and it is not a unique obstacle to André and his farm. And it is definitely not a unique obstacle to young, black farmers who have pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps. And the obstacle that is lying in his path is the fact that he does not own the farm that he is invested in, invested capital in. André wants National Government to sell the land to him. He is not looking for a handout, he is not asking anyone to show him favour he is asking for what is rightfully his. He worked that land with his own bare hands. He has invested in that land and he has given back to this community of Theewaterskloof over and over again, thanks to that land

and the support of this Government.

It is not right that those that are skilled, those that are passionate, Premier, those that have shown that they are able to do the job, must also own the land which they have invested in. André does not know what will happen when his rental agreement ends. That is not fair to him. It is also not fair towards all of his employees and those who benefit from their labour. Deputy Speaker, there are other André's in this area, indeed, the whole country, who we need to help. We cannot end funding to André until we are sure that National Government will sell him this land because otherwise, our efforts and André's efforts would have all been in vain. National Government's cooperation is desperately needed if farmers like André Cloete and those on the housing database, are going to have the security and dignity of owning their own title deeds because a title deed means 'access', a title deed means 'opportunity'.

In conclusion, Premier, I call on you to engage the National Department with the Minister of Agriculture to not only assist André Cloete, but every André Cloete in the area and in the Western Cape to receive what is rightfully theirs and what they have worked so hard to achieve. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Maseko and I recognise hon Brinkhuis. We just want to clean the podium first.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, hon

members of the House, the greater community of Genadendal. †As-salamu alaykum [peace be unto you] and good afternoon to everybody. Al Jama-ah welcomes the Western Cape's effort to recover the economy after the first and second wave of COVID-19, which had a great, negative impact on our economy and the personal lives of thousands of people. Thank you for your sober rollout plan for the vaccinations. We applaud the Western Cape efforts to save jobs and to create more jobs.

Hon Premier, you have rightfully praised the agricultural sector on how well-organised farm workers managed to work without spreading the COVID-19 disease, as in the case of social gatherings. Farmworkers across the Western Cape are still facing evictions from farms and in the Drakenstein Municipality, where luxurious housing estates are being developed, up to 20 000 people who grew up on farms, are facing evictions.

We continue to question the closure of schools, especially schools in rural areas such Voor-Groenberg Primary School in Wellington. We call on the Premier to stop the closures and to provide us with a transparent report on such plans. Under the DA leadership, our best teachers have been fired, like the principal of South Peninsula High School, Mr Brian Isaacs. The community has lost some of its best educators, like Mr Isaacs, and the DA leadership is targeting more of our best educators. I hope and I sincerely hope that this is not a hidden agenda. This hidden agenda is continuing and drawing the moral of our best teachers on the Cape Flats.

Hon Premier, Al Jama-ah will support your plans. Al Jama-ah will support your plans to grow our tourism industry. We will set up a tourist promotional desk at our Western Cape constituency office and target tourists from Indonesia, and Malaysia, and the UAE et cetera. The Al Jama-ah's president, hon Ganief Hendricks has very, very good relations with Muslim political parties in these countries and their tourism missions.

We welcome the Province's efforts to boost its crime fighting capacity by 1,000 local officers. We are indeed glad to hear that the Province has plans to implement strategies to act against the root causes of violence, such as implementing effective action against shebeens in the residential areas. Shebeens are found at almost every street corner, breeding dens for drugs, violent crimes and gender-based violence. We support your plans. We support your plans to prevent the road transportation of drugs and urge you to deal with corrupt station commanders and police officers.

Al Jama-ah welcomes the Province's plan to change the alcohol legislation. Hon Premier, I beg you to also stop schools from selling alcohol at their functions. With such harsh realities on the ground, our township and Cape Flats areas need urgent and effective interventions to wipe out gangsterism and other social ills. I thank you, Deputy Speaker. Thank you, Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis, I now recognise hon Bosman.

†Mnr G BOSMAN: Goeie middag, agbare Speaker, Premier, kollegas en die mense van die Wes-Kaap.

[Mr G BOSMAN: Good afternoon, hon Speaker, Premier, colleagues and the people of the Western Cape.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, when I visited the SASSA Bellville office, I gained insight into the hopelessness in an agency meant to offer assistance to our most vulnerable residents. Hundreds stood in line, many without any certainty of where they were going to be able to find money to put food on the table for their families that evening. And tragically, Mrs Madubela from Grabouw passed away while waiting in the line to renew her social [audio distorted.] from the agency [Inaudible.] who is supporting the most vulnerable. This is, but one example of the many devastating incidents people suffer at SASSA offices.

But Deputy Speaker, through you to the [audio distorted.], the elderly and the frail, I would say their leadership [audio distorted.] that empathises with the plights of the [audio distorted.] and that has and will do everything it can for [audio distorted.]. As a member of this Legislature and as a Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Development, it is my responsibility to see that it is Government that muster their entire capability [audio distorted.] pandemic of unemployment and poverty.

Deputy Speaker, as I continue with oversight, I see on one hand the National Minister of Social Development on site whilst police use water cannons

against disabled brown South Africans, but at the same time I review a Western Cape Government which pays its subsidies to ECD centres and [Inaudible.] on time, every time. And this has become encouraging because it allows me to say that those who need a helping hand, that the helping hand is here, by partnering with brilliant NGOs, soup kitchens, [audio distorted] service providers, the Western Cape Government provides a safe [audio distorted].

This kind of partnership teeters out a fundamental lesson that Government departments must not operate [audio distorted]. One cannot go it alone. It takes every department to support [audio distorted]. For example, our Western Cape Department of Agriculture drove up support for over 2,500 community food [audio distorted], growing food security from the ground. But when I look at National for support, I find the Government eager to withstand [audio distorted], undignified, uncaring land reform [audio distorted] with no attention to their immediate needs [Inaudible.].

I see a Western Cape Department of Social Development set aside R146 million for programmes to aid persons with disabilities, this whilst our National Minister refuses to extend [Inaudible.] disability grants. We witnessed the Province which supports the elderly to protect against COVID-19 and ensures that the funds follow the number of [audio distorted] residents who benefit from the subsidies we offer [Inaudible.] the agencies. But astonishingly, at the very same time, the vulnerable are subject to a National Government that does not timeously renew disability grants or provide clarity

on emergency relief.

Deputy Speaker, from an oversight perspective, the facts that the [audio distorted] of a caring government which strives to offer dignity, has failed most profoundly through the effort of this Western Cape Government and DA-led municipalities. It is not at all [audio distorted] belief to say the National Government is in no way capable of supporting our most vulnerable residents. The solutions we have are proactive and they focus on dealing with the crisis at hand. This is the type of caring government we need primarily in charge of social upliftment, one which recognises the value that the safety net holds within a society for the step up needed for those who are finding themselves in profoundly devastating times such as there.

Deputy Speaker, from a constitutional perspective and even more so from a perspective of a South African who wants the best for his fellow residents, it is crystal clear that a capable government able to provide meaning to dignity, is found in the Western Cape. This is where I echo the sentiments of the Premier that we ought to boldly pursue federal avenues for providing even more effective, profound delivery of care. And so, I invite colleagues, Speaker, including the Opposition to partner with us in reimagining social welfare support in this country. Let us work together so that those closest to the needs of the poor are greater enabled to offer the lifelines we all know are so incredibly needed. This will avoid national Ministers flying into the Western Cape to exploit the suffering of the most vulnerable, whilst offering no concrete support and assistance.

Deputy Speaker, in the last week we saw how a tragic incident was turned and a tragic accident was turned into a political spectacle as families tried to mourn. The National Ministers of Social Development and Human Settlements wasted no time in assigning blame, but took no responsibility for the lack of Housing Bill or the lack of support to those families. This, as the hon Windvogel attempted to blame our capable Minister of Community and Safety, when she ignores the deliberate water bombing of disabled people outside of the SASSA office in Bellville, by her Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

In the name of supporting the vulnerable, let us work together so that National Government devolves social support competencies and budgets to financial stable, capable sub-national governments, such as this Western Cape. This will contribute to the future where the vulnerable are not simply uplifted but offered a path to dignity and a future of meaningful freedom for themselves, their families and their communities. I thank you. [Applause]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bosman. I now recognise hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Legislature, as we close this debate today, the African National Congress of Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo wishes to thank the members of the public who have attended the SOPA and its debate in the last two days, especially those in Genadendal. But sadly, while the Democratic Alliance comes to Genadendal to brag and to gloat, to gloat even on national delivery,

we know that for this Province, as they say: † bo blink, onder stink [shiny outside, rotten inside.] The DA *boetie-boetie* relationship with hotel owners and farm owners will continue, especially those farm owners that are racists and that hon MEC Meyer refuses to take action against. The majority of the people here in the Overberg will continue to struggle while our farmworkers will continue to live in the most horrid of conditions.

We heard a speech from the Premier that gives no details, with no budgets, slogans such as ‘leading from the front’. The Western Province will be the first province to defeat loadshedding. The Western Cape will go it alone on the vaccine rollout. We know it is an election year and so, the DA has simply started their election campaign when they are starting to lose votes in the Western Cape, as the by-elections have shown. But we know like most [Inaudible.] we said it must be done in a responsible manner. We presented innovative ways in which it must be done.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Provincial Government insistence that it goes alone on the vaccine rollouts, proves that it has enough money to carry out basic services to our people, but sadly, their federal narrative, their insistence on an exclusive federalism tells you another story, Deputy Speaker. In the last year when we raised the issue of safety at schools, we were told there is no money. When we raised the issue of more houses needing to be built, we were told there is no money. When we raised the issue of Tygerberg Hospital needing to be revamped, Jooste Hospital needing to be replaced, more hospitals to be built in rural areas, we were told that there is no money. I

hope that the hon Philander has noted that. When we raised the issue of helping the CPOA, which I am very sad that the hon Bosman did not raise, saving our three old age homes, we were told that there is no money.

The Provincial Government's ability to now suddenly find money proves how they simply do not have the political will to deliver basic services to our people, to change the lives of our people like the separate, but duplicated rollout of vaccines planned by this Provincial Government. The School Evaluation Authority was costly and was unnecessary, and a duplication of functions of the districts and the circuit managers. But we understand that this is part of the crude nationalism that the Democratic Alliance that has now risen in the past year or two, that wishes to push for federalism through the Western Cape Government. A federalism that undermines national unity; a federalism that sees to the needs of the rich, to the business owners and undermines the poor and working class, while claiming at the same time hypocritically, national delivery.

The clinic in Genadendal was funded by National Government. The farmer, André Cloete, who benefitted from the Plus Project and has got a 30-year lease, hon Maseko, was not because of DA intervention, it was because of ANC National Government Rural Development intervention and assistance. [Interjection.] So, do not claim national victories and then still want to be a federal state. [Interjections.]

Learners, especially those from poor working-class families, Deputy Speaker,

yet the usefulness of the School Evaluation Authority was exposed now, during the period when many no-fee schools were charging illegal costs to poor learners, especially those from poor farmworker communities, money for text books, stationary and school fees. At this very school where the SOPA is being hosted, Emil Weder Secondary School which I visited, we find that learners, despite being engaged, despite the school having been engaged and the Department being engaged, learners are yet to receive notebooks as promised and poor parents are now told which shops they must go to, to buy notebooks while they have got no money.

When this injustice and illegal activity was happening, the School Evaluation Authority was nowhere to be found. When the Western Cape schools harbour racists, the WCED protects them and creates an environment conducive for racism to thrive. Now, if the Education Department protects these schools, of what use will the School Evaluation Authority be?

The ANC has long proposed that former Model C schools must be engaged to increase their small class sizes that [Inaudible.] admission policy must be amended because this will address the issue that we are facing of over 10,000 unplaced learners. But no, we have got an Evaluating Authority that does not address issues. Another example of the entrenched racism is in Riviersonderend High School, where the Education Department has put systems in place to block the appointment of a qualified and highly experienced black teacher, who was successful in the recruitment process and nominated by the governing body for the post. The learners of the school are

largely Coloured and African, but the teaching staff is white dominated.

Deputy Speaker, I am pleased that the MEC for Education, I see on the Speaker's list, will be speaking immediately after me because maybe she can tell us whether she will still listen to the community of Klapmuts. They have been engaging her Department on how to address their challenges, but the Department refuses to build a much-needed school in the area, saying again that there is no money. But there is money for vaccines for their own parallel vaccine programme. The community proposes platooning as an interim measure, notwithstanding the related challenges with that, but the WCED and the MEC refuse to listen. They brush them away. They continue bussing the children to faraway communities.

The community of Graafwater High School oppose the arbitrary closure of this well attended and good performing school without a proper public participation process. Building a much-needed school in one community, such as Lamberts Bay, does not necessarily mean that you must force the closure of another school. The divide and rule tactics: it is central to the DA's notion of federalism. We need more schools, not less. We also call on the Premier, hon Deputy Speaker, to look urgently at the matter of the construction of the Umyezo Primary School where the contractor – and I think they should engage with MEC Madikizela and we will engage with him as well around Public Works – where the contractor has been liquidated recently and nothing has happened currently. We need that school to be built as a matter of urgency. The Department of Education will need to bring

onboard a new contractor engaging with Public Works. There are many infrastructure challenges in our community schools, yet we must hear again that there is no money, but money for a vaccine rollout.

While some of our complaints regarding learner transport challenges in Theewaterskloof have been addressed and we thank the Department for that, we want to call on the Department of Education to respond to the request from Riviersonderend Primary, for scholar transport that was made last year in October, to Route 269. While the District responded and has worked quite well on the issue, the District has not received a response to date from the head office in Golden Acre. Children are now forced to walk to school in the morning along the N2 and back.

It is not surprising, Deputy Speaker, that our hon senior MEC for Local Government, Anton Bredell, did not get an opportunity to speak in this debate. Instead, the Cabinet sends their lackies here in the Legislature, to defend him. On Swellendam, the MEC is silent. On the shenanigans of Theewaterskloof, hon MEC Bredell is silent. On the *boetie-boetie* relationship in Cape Agulhas, the hon MEC is silent. Maybe that MEC of Local Government's silence today, hon Deputy Speaker, has got to do with him being reprimanded later today. And we see the motion of the hon Mackenzie by the hon Premier, for being responsible for a crass example of DA cadre deployment when he goes on the DA letterhead and instructs people in municipalities, instructs caucus who must be appointed as officials while not looking at fit for purpose. [Interjection]

Deputy Speaker, another person who was quiet in this debate is the MEC for Human Settlements, hon Simmers, but this silence is not due to anything that he has done or has not done. We must commend the hon MEC who has been making great efforts in terms of not having a federal approach, working well with National Government on delivery of houses. Whilst there are shortcomings here and there, he has made those efforts. He also wants to see delivery even in the City of Cape Town and we commend him for that. But instead, he is not asked to be part of this discussion to shed further light on some of the ways in which we can work together. [Interjection.] Instead, his colleague, the MEC for Transport and Public Works, comes in to try and address some of the issues in a way that we know MEC Simmers would possibly have a more constructive approach to deal with those issues. [Laughter.] If only – yes, because MEC Simmers understands [Laughter.] and he has been speaking about social housing, and there has been some delivery in our communities at least.

If only the hon Madikizela would stick to his portfolio, would stick to ensuring that the DA is united, that it does not compromise delivery in the state; would stick to ensuring that governance is actually happening, that there is no disruption between the legislative arm and executive arm as a Leader of Government Business, and deals with attentions with the Speaker. That would be much better, Deputy Speaker. And that he can then also focus on availing land. I mean not land, on availing buildings to the MEC for Human Settlements for much needed social housing, to work together with the MEC and not try to speak as if he is still the MEC for Human

Settlements.

Since 2017, the DA Government has imposed numerous threats of eviction over poor and working-class people at Woodstock Hospital and so-called illegal occupiers. It is quite clear that the DA have no plan for building social housing for the working class, hence an MEC who speaks about such a plan is not allowed to speak in this particular debate. We wonder if it has got to do with the results of the recent DA Congress in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] If so, it is very, very sad.

In 2019 again, Western Cape High Court ruled on the Tafelberg land in Sea Point, public land available to develop social housing. Again, the City and the Western Cape DA Government are delaying to develop this land, yet we find that Cape Town is one of the most unequal cities in South Africa and in the world.

Deputy Speaker, as we conclude, I think I did not want to respond much to MEC Meyer. But really, if the population in the Western Cape wants to see the Democratic Alliance in the Union Buildings, you would not be losing by-elections every time there is a by-election call. Especially in areas where you say that you are strong. [Interjection.] You will never, ever enter the Union Buildings, especially with that stinking attitude of racism and federalism, and going to go and march in front of Parliament with racist farmers, brandishing their old South African flag, because that is the order that you speak to when you speak about your notion of federalism. This is

not a sincere notion. [Interjection.] We are not talking about delivery to the masses of the Western Cape. It is a racist notion wanting to be exclusive. This is why, again [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He fails to address the feelings; he fails to address the conditions in which poor farmworkers work on the farms. The DA will never occupy the Union Buildings.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We call upon the people of the Western Cape to think, when it comes to the Local Government elections [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): And remove the DA from these municipalities as they have been doing in the by-elections, as they will continue to be doing in Cederberg, as they will do in the Southern Cape. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): As they will do in the Overberg, I thank you. [Applause]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear! Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you very much. Hon members, I now call on hon Minister Schäfer. One minute, hon Minister, one minute? We cannot hear you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Is that better?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I trust my time is starting again, thank you. Deputy Speaker, Cabinet colleagues, members of this House and our guest. Yesterday, the Premier gave an inspirational address, highlighting the differences between a government that works and a government that talks. He spoke a lot about leading from the front and lead from the front, we have.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of meeting some of our youngest learners as they arrived for Grade R and Grade 1 at schools in Mitchells Plain. It was difficult in some ways – no hugging allowed – and parents had to wait outside the gates, whilst some of their children anxiously ventured

into their new schools. But I was extremely impressed by the measures that had been put in place in our schools, and our teachers and principals deserve high praise for their preparations on the first day of school, to set our learners' and parents' minds at rest. Because we have a capable, caring Government, they can rest assured that their children will benefit from the opportunities that we give in the Western Cape, which will be crucial in setting them on a path that will provide them with the best possible opportunities to live a fulfilled life.

The COVID-19 battle the Premier referred to has affected education, probably, more than many. Being leaders in government is difficult and during a global pandemic, even more so. It requires decisive leadership and clear, consistent communication. It also requires calming of people's anxieties, not stoking them and the only government where this is evident in South Africa, is in the Western Cape as there is a complete vacuum everywhere else. Opening schools during a pandemic was never going to be easy. Complex decisions had to be made and I am proud to say that as the Western Cape Government, we made them on the basis of the law, health experts' advice and in the best interests of our residents, not on the basis of fake, hysterical messages sent to communities to instil fear in already anxious people. And the data we have show that the measures we relied on were effective in limiting the spread of the virus in schools.

Of our schools, 81% have reported fewer than five cases each at their school, with a quarter having reported no cases at all, the number of cases mirrored

infections in the community. But, of course, we have lost 104 of our teachers and 35 of our staff, and we mourn each one of them. We also want our teachers to be able to receive the vaccine as soon as possible, long before National Cabinet Ministers or Provincial, for that matter.

Another area where emotions run high and which resurface, of course with predictable regularity just before each election is that of school closures. So, it was unsurprising to see member Sayed parading around Graafwater this week, trying to whip up people's emotions regarding the repurposing of Graafwater High School for a desperately needed special needs school and school of skills. But as much as we are used to opportunistic politicians trying to be relevant by manipulating poor and vulnerable people, when it is done by telling blatant lies and using racist rhetoric, it is unacceptable, even for ANC politicians.

Some facts about Graafwater are as follow:

1. Without the Graafwater Special School, learners with special needs would have to travel at least 128 kilometres to school if they could find a space because special needs schools are heavily oversubscribed.
2. Most of the learners who previously attended the high school were not actually from Graafwater itself and could be accommodated at alternative schools with our learner transport provided.

But never one to miss an opportunity to divide and stoke dissent, member

Sayed made three choice statements [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Hon MEC able to take a question?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Which I will have to highlight because we cannot trust them with the facts. No, I will not. Firstly [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one minute, hon Minister. Please, I cannot [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: But you must wait for the Deputy Speaker to ask you if you will not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Member, can I please ask that you put your hand up on the screen so that we can see that, rather than interjecting as such. We have just said no interjections. The Minister [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: But I am sitting in the Chambers, Deputy Speaker, there is no screen on which I can put my hand up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I am not looking at the chat, I am looking at the hands to come up and that is the important part. The Minister has clearly indicated she will not take a question, she is busy with her speech. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: But Deputy Speaker, on a point of order you cannot expect me to put my hand up on a chat when I am sitting in the Chamber.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I fully understand. Apologies, I understand that, but I would have assumed that someone would have let me know. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I continue, Deputy Speaker? Thank you. So, member Sayed made a few choice statements which I am going to highlight and contrast them with the actual facts. He said, in typical ANC fashion, “This would never happen in a white community.” Fact: maximising State’s resources and providing for the needs of the most vulnerable will happen in any community under a DA Government. He said there was no public participation, the WCED tried tricks. Fact: public hearings were held on 20 August 2019 at Graafwater High School and 21 August 2019 at Lamberts Bay Primary School. For the Graafwater High School meeting, members of the community [Interjection]. refused to sign the attendance list, but it is captured in the minutes as is the contribution of a Mr Franklin Adams and another person. How is that for ‘tricks’?

Also on record is a petition dated 22 May 2019, written submissions from community members, as well as attendance registers for meetings with parents from Graafwater on 16 May 2019 and Lamberts Bay on 20 May 2019. He then said, “The Premier is going to lie to the public on Wednesday and

Debbie herself” – he has not got the decency to even call me ‘MEC’ – “has kept this issue under wraps and they lied to us.” Fact: no, we did not. Next, he said in 2019, “As a result of public pressure, many schools did not have to close.” This is how they manipulate communities. Fact: of the 17 schools that were the subject of a court action all, but one were confirmed to have been valid closures of schools by the Supreme Court of Appeal. So, exactly one school did not have to close because of a procedural issue. But the member wants to support another court action, wasting more of our scarce resources that we so desperately need for delivering services.

He then said, “This matter is now in Debbie Schäfer’s name.” Fact: what was in my name was actually my title as an office bearer of this Government on an interdict application to stop people who were threatening the school and learner transport, with violence on Monday. One of the prime protagonists being who Member Sayed refers to as: hon comrade Franklin Adams. This ‘Adams’ is the same person who was a councillor in Stellenbosch, was fired and put up again by his party, and is again a councillor in Stellenbosch. He was arrested for assaulting police officers, accused of assaulting a WCED official and the main instigator behind the violent threats to the school; the same person who assaulted a 70-year-old frail, petite, woman councillor in Stellenbosch. A real pillar of the community and proudly supported by the ANC.

This is exactly the kind of leadership we do not need: divisive, rather than decisive, looking for relevance in all the wrong places. The fact is that there

is nothing wrong with closing schools. It is a part of good government when circumstances change. If the ANC exercised some of it, hundreds of half empty schools in the Eastern Cape would have been closed by now, saving money we desperately need because of the flagrant theft by the ANC. But they continue with populist tactics because they are too scared to lose any more support. Well, I think it is time they jumped off the fiscal cliff they have brought us to so that we can rescue our country for the millions of people who deserve better.

While the ANC brings us lockdown, lies and loadshedding, the DA in the Western Cape is bringing leadership and hope, where Minister Lindiwe Zulu was making videos about her terrible plight of not being able to go shopping, we stood on principles to demand that ECDC centres reopen for desperate parents and owners who were going bankrupt. When SASSA, the organisation responsible for caring for the most vulnerable, closed its offices during lockdown, leaving millions with no support, our Department of Social Development distributed and coordinated the distribution of food aid. The Premier spoke about the 1,6 million meals that we, as the Education Department, fed to desperate children during lockdown. And it was the ANC that had to eat their words when a court order compelled them to do the same, after the National Minister's instruction not to feed, as a result of which we could not use the NSNP funding.

In Education, our team has been truly inspirational in its resilience. To assist parents and learners, we developed weekly lesson plans detailing exactly

what concepts must be covered, to keep up with the curriculum. Our ePortal is a national treasure with over a quarter of our users coming from outside the Western Cape, leading from the front. During lockdown we increased the number of resources available on the ePortal – note: during lockdown – from 14,500 to 29,681 and the fee resources tripled to 23,461. We have seen over 2 million individual downloads of resources. The number of users has increased by 25% and the percentage of returning users has more than doubled.

Our teachers needed to quickly improve their skills in remote learning, so we have a self-paced online learning course to assist. Our team also produced downloadable [audio distorted] for getting started on five different platforms that can be used for remote teaching. And now that we need to implement a catch-up plan for the curriculum, the Western Cape is again leading the way in connecting remotely and safely to teachers, to work through the adjusted teaching plans. Over the last week or two, for the revised Term 1 curriculum, 29,000 teachers connected to online sessions this week.

Our Schools Evaluation Authority, which has cost extremely little for the value it has already given us, is unique the Western Cape because we use our concurrent legislative competency and of course, because the ANC and their allies are opposed to anything that enhances transparency and accountability. They did not simply put up shut-up-shop like Home Affairs and SASSA, but they refocused their work to evaluate the responses of our schools and the psychosocial impacts of COVID-19 on staff and learners. And given the few

people they have there, their work is phenomenal.

The Education Department is, of course, integral to economic growth. A quality education enables people to make a meaningful contribution to the State, both in the skills they contribute and the taxes they pay. So, it is vital that we create opportunities for all our learners and why our emphasis on [Inaudible.] is so important. That is also why our special schools and schools of skill are so important, like the one in Graafwater that hon Sayed is trying to close, because we actually care about all our learners and we want them to all have the best opportunities we can offer.

We are also leading the way in the education sector nationally, on the Green Agenda. We have now approved subsidies for schools to acquire the smart water meters to reduce their water consumption, and a number of our schools are now using solar energy. And other provinces are also now starting to look at that option. We are also working with the University of Stellenbosch on other electricity saving methods and the time is too short for everything that we are doing, but I have to say our team has done us proud. Because our Government cares for the people of our Province and we will never give up on them, even when the National ANC Government does.

If I have a bit of time, I want to just address some of the issues raised by other speakers. Brian Isaacs: he had multiple opportunities to overturn his dismissal. He has failed in every one of them and the way he is behaving shows that the decision was completely and utterly justified. Be for me to

decide whether they want to be professional educators or whether they want to be politicians. They cannot be both.

As far as the School Evaluation: I have already said they have about four people evaluating. They have done the most phenomenal work, far more than the national [Inaudible.] which has achieved absolutely nothing and is now really quite dysfunctional. The Brackenfell Report is not hidden. It is actually being applied for by way of a prior request by the ANC who did, in fact, follow the process, unlike the EFF who to this date has not done so. And they are welcome to do so, but it has already been published by the ANC in the statement after they received it from the prior application.

As far as principals' appointments: I am not sure on what basis the hon Sayed has the ability to make a decision as to who is a competent principal, but principals are actually appointed by the Head of Department, not SGBs. The SGBs nominate and interview and make recommendations. And our HOD has been extremely diligent in ensuring that he is satisfied with the candidates for principals because it has been shown time and time and time again that if you have a good principal in the school, that school thrives and if you do not, exactly the opposite happens. And if you cannot have a good principal in the school and they are appointed, it is extremely difficult to then remove them from that position. So, I have not got the details of that particular school, but I have absolute confidence in my HOD.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister Schäfer.

[Applause]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now call hon Mackenzie to do the final wrap up, thank you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hon members and hon Premier, thank you for giving me the opportunity to finish this debate today. I first of all want to thank Dr Balie and his team for taking us through to Genadendal the last few days. Thank you for your time and your effort: [Applause] Mrs Marie Hector who is also here, who is a board member of the Genadendal Mission Museum and Ms Judith Balie. Thank you very much for taking us through the history of this beautiful town. And it is actually, hon members, it was quite embarrassing for an hon member of this House, hon Windvogel to say we behaved like tourists in a foreign town. We should encourage tourism and as members of this Parliament in the Western Cape, given the state of the pandemic, we should be going more to the small towns and seeing what our country has to offer.

Hon Premier, yesterday you delivered the State of the Province Address, outlining how the Western Cape is leading from the front to deliver jobs, safety and dignity for the people of this province. And somebody said earlier on, 'You can be present, but you cannot hear' and it is clear some of the

members in this House did not hear. This is very interesting because I did listen, and I want to thank Member Dugmore for bringing up the matter of workers' rights. It would be great if hon Dugmore were to apply and practise what he preaches because he rightfully raised the issue of farmworkers' rights, the workers of Government officials and the dignity of workers.

But hon Dugmore failed to mention a court ruling last week, a court ruling by the CMMA of which the ANC caucus, of which he is the leader of, illegally fired nine workers. And the CCMA ordered them to reinstate those workers to the tune of R1,2 million. †So: bo blink, onder stink. [So: shiny outside, rotten inside.] [Interjection.] What a hypocritical statement to make. That is what the CCMA ruling said. In fact, those were the findings and the ruling the CCMA made. It was your party that gave those workers the boot on or before New Year's Day, on 31 December. Imagine being fired on 31 December. What a black Christmas, a bleak Christmas for black workers to have by a party who purports to fight for the rights of black people. †Bo blink, onder stink. [Shiny outside, rotten inside.] Actually, hon Premier, it is: † bo stink en onder stink [rotten outside and inside.] That is the ANC. †Hulle stink van kop tot toon. Die hele liggaam stink. [They are rotten from head to toe. The whole body is rotten.]

Hon members, what is more hypocritical is that member Dugmore stood up here and he said, and I do not want to go into detail because I do not want to give that particular party any ammunition, but he referred to the City of Cape Town, the most well governed city in the country, yet he failed to mention

this SIU Report. In fact, on page 38 when I read that report, which I have to say the ANC did not bother to read their own report, because in that report, hon Dugmore, their spokesperson, of which member Dugmore is the leader of the caucus, said they studied the report, but nowhere in the report did it mention Matzikama; but in that report member Dugmore, if they did bother, hon Premier, to study the report on page 38, the SIU clearly state that they are withholding the funding on instructions of the municipality to withhold the funding. So, they issue a statement which was clearly, in true ANC style, they did not bother reading it which shows exactly a municipality where they govern, corruption takes place versus the municipality where we govern.

The SIU, by the way, made three key findings and I am going to give it as reference for member Dugmore, they made three key findings. Of the Department of the Premier: there was no rotten corruption. On the completed investigation of the Department of Education led by Minister Schäfer, there was no corruption. Of the Department of Health, there was no corruption. Out of the 13 billion of the [audio distorted.] was 3.2 billion, there was zero corruption, but in all the other eight provinces governed by the ANC they had further requests for information. In fact, one of them was so damning the investigator said they could not find any information on the spending of PPE corruption. Those are individuals that the most competent government in the country, is supposed to get advice from. Unbelievable!

Hon members, we heard from hon Sayed who spoke earlier on, and we heard quite a lot that was said, which is actually a whole lot of nothing. Because as

member Schäfer said, hon Galil and his company, the National Minister of Education, wanted to stop the feeding of millions of children. A court had to order them – a court, not their conscience, not doing the right thing – a court had to order them to feed millions of destitute children in the country. Now, that is despicable: †hulle stink van kop tot toon [they are rotten from head to toe.] In fact, we should rename the ANC, from the ANC to the AWS: †alles wat stink. Hulle stink heeltemal [everything that is rotten. They are totally rotten.]

The hon Sayed went further, and he talked about allocating funding from National Government. Now, that is a problem with the ANC: it is not your money. That is why they keep stealing because in their mind, it is their money. It is taxpayer's money. So, when you do a direct funding from National to a clinic in Genadendal, it is still taxpayer's money. Because they operate from this premise that it is their money, they can steal the way they want to and that is exactly the problem we face in this country.

Hon Smith, you know, it is just amazing how people talk and sometimes, they do not refer to the facts. Under the leadership of the Department of Agriculture and I am going to name a specific case, a specific case as highlighted this morning in National Parliament. When it comes to farming and farming communities, the DA actually does land and agricultural reform. What we found as of this morning, hon Dugmore and four of your members spoke – hon Windvogel, hon Dugmore, hon Smith, hon Galil said nothing about what is currently happening in the Western Cape where a member of

the ANC, an ANC convener, nonetheless, Mr Mzi Madoda Kalago has taken a farm, a farm meant for a Coloured farm, a Coloured farm if I can put it that way, they have taken. The ANC convener in the Western Cape, a member of Parliament of the ANC – †bo blink, onder stink? Bo stink, onder stink. Die ANC stink almal. [Shiny outside, rotten inside? Rotten outside, rotten inside. All in the ANC are rotten.] They never said anything about one of their own members. A member who is supposed to convene the ANC to rebuild the ANC, has taken a farm from a Colour person in the Western Cape. †Bo blink, onder stink? Bo stink, onder stink. Die AWS: die hele liggaam stink. [Shiny outside, rotten inside? Rotten outside, rotten inside. The whole body is rotten.]

Hon member, now that you come to a very serious matter which is actually sad that member Dugmore did not raise. Last week I was watching the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, the Zondo Commission as it is famously known, and there was something that shocked me to the core. We knew about it, we had suspicions about it that the ANC was funded by the State Security. Confirmed by the Acting Director General of State Security that the ANC and to quote him directly, member Dugmore, I do not want to misquote him, to quote him directly, “There was a project to boost the fortunes of the ANC.”

Now, these are the questions we should ask in this House and member Dugmore should actually do a statement in this House. How much money did he receive from the State Security? Where is the money that they received

from the State Security and which other NGOs did the ANC fund in the Western Cape to either destabilise the DA, because the only way the ANC can boost their fortunes is if they destabilise the DA and that is the question. In fact, hon Premier, we should just call for the disbandment of the ANC in the Western Cape because that is what they are busy with. They are busy destabilising the province and that is quite sad.

And I am not surprised actually, that another political party that is not so good received a Cabinet position. So, there are more questions to ask, hon Premier: did they also get some of that money from State Security? Because, it stays to know, hon Herron says no, we will hasten to believe you the moment hon De Lille resigns, but for now we can only say until such time as there are reasons given why hon De Lille is in Cabinet, which none of us can give a credible reason because she did not bring any votes. It could only be that the State Security money went much further than the ANC and not to yourself, Mr Herron, but perhaps to the party.

Hon members, there is another matter which is actually also far deeper, and I have to say, hon Premier sometimes some of these things are actually unbelievable. It is unbelievably true the level of corruption that has gone out in this country under the ANC. [Audio distorted.] to say. In Laingsburg, member Dugmore and we talk about PPE, SIU funding, Mr [Inaudible.], he created a position for his daughter that was not on the organogram. † Die pos bestaan nie eers nie. [The post does not even exist.] They just created it. That is corruption led by the ANC, †hulle ruik slegter as muishonde [they

smell worse than skunks.] †Bo stink, onder stink? Nee Mr Dugmore, ANC is bo stink en onder stink. [Rotten outside, rotten inside? No Mr Dugmore, ANC is rotten outside, rotten inside.] The SIU too, by the way member Dugmore, you know is currently investigating the same municipality for SIU corruption, PPE corruption. †Bo stink, onder stink. That is the ANC, member Dugmore and that is quite sad.

Hon Smith, and you know again, when it comes to facts in this Parliament, sometimes we have to fact check what these members say because when you †stink van bo tot onder, alles wat daar deurkom stink [stink from head to toe, everything that comes through there stinks.] If you look at some of the comments that he made earlier on, and I am going to read the facts verbatim. There are currently 99 units that are still to be handed over. There were delays by the municipality in finalising the beneficiary list which was restricted by COVID-19 protocols, which the ANC National Government keeps on declaring a state of disaster. But we all know the only reason they do it is because they want to hang onto power, led by the Minister of Local Government, which is actually the Prime Minister. And the second houses already, the first housing handover already happened, hon member. Oh sorry, are you saying something, Deputy Speaker?

Hon Xego, you mentioned a super spreader event, but was it not your party that was at Brackenfell – zero masks, hugging each other, pushing people? It was your party that partook in a super spreader event. In fact, I think I have mentioned it before, we should charge them criminally, Premier

[Interjection.] because they partook in their criminal super spreader event
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Chairperson, point of order?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Which led to the numbers increasing in December. So hon member Xego, please speak to your member? When they protest, please wear a mask and there was definitely no social distancing, no hand sanitising taking place and it was his member. The same member Xego, it is so hypocritical. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Chair, this is...

Mr R D MACKENZIE: They were the ones that criticised you, Premier, when you called for the economy to be opened up. He was one of those standing on the podium, why is the DA calling for 'can we not open up?' Now, they are talking about jobs that are lost. Actions have consequences. You close the economy; people are going to lose their jobs. That is how the world works.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member, one minute. I have a

point of order coming from the Chambers. Who is – hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, we have started a new parliamentary year and I think, maybe in keeping with that, hon Mackenzie has made the mistake last year. I think just to even show also, I mean, to his colleagues that he must speak through you, Deputy Speaker, and not directly to the member. He cannot address hon Xego directly, even though he wants to cover the issue of racism at Brackenfell by talking about how the march happened. He must speak through you, Deputy Speaker, and not directly. That is a simple Rule. He must check his facts on Rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed, I have received that. Thank you very much. Hon member, please talk to me, thank you very much.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I could smell hon Sayed from here – †van bo stink en onder stink [rotten from outside and inside.] I appreciate that. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to end off by thanking the Premier and his Cabinet for giving this province hope and continuing to address the fears. And we know that the work, that a lot of work needs to be done to get our province out of this situation that we are in. The Western

Cape is a caring government. We continue to provide while the ANC steal.

And we just saw two hours ago, member Dugmore in case you did not get a smell from the Eastern Cape, the current MEC of Health has been fired. Another MEC fired. She has been fired, but it is not a good thing that she stole from Mandela's funeral. I mean, how pathetic do you have to be to steal from Nelson Mandela's funeral. I mean, that is the quality of people that are in the ANC: †bo stink, onder stink, hulle stink heeltemal. Ek kan nie meer verder sê nie, ek is nou te kwaad. [Rotten outside, rotten inside, they are rotten all over. I cannot say anything more, I am too angry now.] Thank you, Premier. [Applause]

An HON MEMBER: [Interjection.] very.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Applause] Thank you very much hon members. That concludes the debate on the Premier's State of Province Address. Business will now be suspended. Members and guests are invited to enjoy some of the refreshments at the Shifa Hall. Please make your way there. For those that require assistance, shuttles will be available at the entrance to the hall. The Premier's reply to the debate will commence at 14h00 – that is 2pm. The bells will be rung to indicate the resumption of business. The bells will be rung at 13:55, correct, Mr Secretary. Thank you very much, the House is adjourned.

[The House adjourned and resumed at 14:00]

The Speaker took the Chair.

The SPEAKER: You may please be seated. Order, hon members! As you know that we had a debate on the State of the Province Address, which was delivered by the Premier yesterday. Now we are approaching an opportunity where the Premier would then provide the reply to the debate and the contributions made by the hon members. At this point I would like to request the Secretary to read the Second Order.

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

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I now call on the hon Premier.

Reply to the Debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, for this opportunity. Can I also say thank you very much to the hon members for their contributions in this debate, both here in this session in Genadendal, I think really historic that we are here in this town of Genadendal, but also those that are back in the Chamber and of course those that are in their constituencies, thank you very much for all of your contributions.

I also would like to say that in my reply I am not going to reply specifically to every member of the Democratic Alliance, because I think in this reply

I am going to spend some time on the issues raised by the Opposition, but can I just say to each and every member who took part in this debate from the DA, thank you very much for your contributions in this, for your continued work in our Standing Committees, and of course those Ministers in our Cabinet, thank you very much for what you do in the interests of every single citizen in our province. It is noticed and it is absolutely appreciated. Thank you.

I also want to, before I get going, reflect just on this space that we are in and once again say to the school principal, Mr Benjamin, thank you very much for allowing us to be here, allowing this Parliament to be here, and it is really much appreciated.

I also would like to then recognise Genadendal once more, the people of Genadendal. You know, I referenced a couple of things that happened in this town throughout history. I also referenced some things that I had read about this town from my own experiences on visiting this town, but there is one thing that really stands out, that every single time you come here, you learn something more. You learn something more about our people and you learn something more definitely about our history and specifically there I would like to recognise Dr Balie once again, who took us on that tour, who took us on a tour and you could feel his passion in that tour and it really stands out and I thank him for that. I thank the Board. I thank the Museum.

I also would like to thank the nurses of the healthcare facility here that is a

temporary space because we are busy revamping the clinic at the moment, but I got to actually visit those nurses who give care to the citizens of Genadendal. I must say that in all of my experience in Government, when you go to a temporary facility while Government is revamping and reinvesting, like we do here in a new clinic, a temporary facility could not have ever been better than the one that I saw yesterday where you have got a temporary facility in one of your historic buildings with so much space was unbelievable. Really, it was great the kind of infrastructure that you have that has been developed over years and years and years and it can be used in this regard.

Hon members, I think before I really get into the meat of replying, I would like to first of all just recap. Obviously, those of you who have tuned in and are watching this reply right now, of course yesterday in the State of the Province Address, first of all I spoke about our response to COVID-19 and our four-prong approach. Yesterday a great occurrence happened where we had the first vaccinations in this next trial of vaccines happening in our province, the first province to kick it off, but of course it is happening across all of our provinces because provinces have this competency of Health and that is where these plans get rolled out in every single province; everyone with their own plan. But I want to say that it was with the COVID-19 plan that we spent quite a lot of time on. Of course, then it was also talking about recovery and while this COVID-19 has not by a long shot left us here, it has left us pretty devastated, it has left us with many losses and of course many of those are job losses, many of those linked to our Recovery Plan of getting

those jobs back, of making sure that we are creating a safe environment, but also focusing on dignity and that welfare net and that support net across our province. Of course, I also ended off in speaking about the two big departments in our Government. That is where most of our budget goes and perhaps also talking about budget, I notice that a number of people were expecting the State of the Province and the Budget Address to be aligned into one, which I also thought quite strange, because the members that were raising that, just for your information, we do have a Budget Speech coming. That has to come on the back of Minister Tito Mboweni giving his Budget Speech, but I do know that there seems to be delays on that national level around letters of allocation to provinces, that I can only think goes to some of the infighting at our national level that I spoke about, this environment that we have to operate within, and we still need clarity on that budget. So it is very difficult in a State of the Province to align actual budgets when we have a process and I am sure all of you will remember that now that I have reminded you of it.

I also want to say that something that really stood out for me, it really surprised me, is how much energy was put into the kind of delivery of the speech, how much energy was put into whether I tabled the document and what I spoke to and whether it was submitted through new technological mechanisms like WhatsApp groups where it connects all of you, and of course this environment that we find ourselves in, where we are able to conduct Parliament in a multiple of spaces across this province at one time, running on the back of data and a broadband capability that has been rolled

out in this province. I think that astounded me. It really did. There was a lot of noise about the means of delivery, let alone not much noise or substance, to the substance of the actual speech, the detail and the data. But just for clarity, hon members, of course everything that I say is in Hansard, because that is how it is recorded, when I or any of you speak in Parliament that gets recorded in Hansard. Of course, over and above that and what I spoke to was the speech. It was detailed and documented and you have access to both of those and both of those you can hold me accountable to.

Then Mr Speaker, in replying I think I must – many people raised the issue on vaccines and whether we should be procuring our own vaccines and the vaccine rollout itself, a roll of a province and a national government, without getting into too much detail, I think I just want to say two things. Number 1 is as I stand here today, we do not have a single SAHPRA-approved vaccine for rollout in South Africa right now. We have other countries in the world that are reaching 70% and 80% coverage. We have countries where 1,3 million people are being vaccinated a day, and in South Africa not one vaccine is approved yet for rollout.

What we do have is special dispensation for the continuation of a trial, and I applaud that. I have said yesterday that I think our specialists, our professors, those people involved in these trials are outstanding and I really want to support them absolutely and how we get these trials to move us to an approved space as quickly as possible, but the second reality facing us right now that as I stand here, even this trial which is giving us so much hope, at

the moment we have 13 000 vaccines in this province, 13 000 vaccines in total, for 130 000 healthcare workers, we have 13 000 vaccines to start for nearly seven million people and quite frankly that for me is a massive risk just looking at our trajectory and the pathway that we have to navigate in the year to come. I would also like to say that another criticism that we picked up in the debate and perhaps the biggest criticism coming from the ANC and the hon Dugmore, was how the poor are treated in this province.

It is quite interesting that this is what is brought up by the ANC. The ANC, the party that believes in their longevity which is based on keeping our citizens poor, because there is one thing for certain, and that is under ANC Government in the last 27 years people in this country are getting poorer and not the opposite. Under ANC rule in this country they are getting poorer and not the opposite, and if we actually want to unpack how the poor are treated in this province, go and just have a look at our response to COVID-19 and we are absolutely zooming in focus and what has been said in this House today, have a look at how the ANC tried to stop us during those school-feeding scheme programmes or try to stop our ECD Departments in making sure that we were getting nutrition and food to the poorest of the poor, those who needed it most. Who was trying to stop us – the very ANC who believes that in order for them to stay in power they must keep our citizens poor, and then they have the audacity to raise that as an issue in this province.

It is not only the feeding schemes, it is how we deal with every single thing within this Government and where our budgets go, how we enable an

enabling environment so that citizens in this province can find a pathway to prosperity. That is what we focus on. That is what is at the backbone of every single thing that we do. I mean it was raised earlier by the hon member Mackenzie, how disgusting is it when a Premier has to fire one of his MECs because they stole money from Mandela's funeral. I mean, if that is not something that really showcases and epitomises what the ANC stands for, well, I do not think there is anything else. So I think it is really rich when that is a criticism in this debate from a party that have got absolutely nothing to show for, in an opposite direction.

I would also like to talk about the issue raised around land and of course land is a massive issue for us. It is a massive issue in our country and definitely in our province. I commended yesterday the hon member Simmers in what he is doing and the innovative way in which he is trying to bring land and land ownership to people in this province. A thing that is not spoken about often enough at this level is the policy differential between the ANC Government and the DA Government and their position on land, and I think nothing stands out more than what was mentioned today around two Mr Cloete's.

There are two Mr Cloete's in this province. One Mr Cloete in this constituency, in this jurisdiction, in this district – that Mr Cloete, a really successful farmer, someone who we can be absolutely proud of as South Africans; that Mr Cloete is not able to own the land that he farms. Why?

It is a policy position of the ANC that says you will not own the land in this

country. The ANC will own the land in this country. Why do they do that? It is so that they can control it and go back to the age-old problem that everything the ANC does, they do it for their friends, they do it for their politicians, they do it for people connected to the ANC. So, the other Mr Cloete, someone who we have spoken about many times, I have, when I held the position of the Minister of Agriculture, that position that Minister Meyer holds now, Minister Meyer has made strong statements supporting Mr Ivan Cloete. Mr Ivan Cloete – you will remember he was part of a programme on a farm called Bellevue just on the Cape Town side of the Paarl Mountain.

Mr Cloete was given an opportunity, but guess what the Department of Land Reform did to Mr Cloete, they gave him the farm and someone else the farm – two people, and then after that, without giving them rights, without giving them even a lease document that they could enter into an agreement where they could actually start even getting their own electricity supply from the municipality, because you have to go and show your lease agreement or your land holding before a municipality can supply you with electricity. No lease came out of that Department whatsoever, until the municipality had to cut off the electricity. Other farmers in the region went to pay that electricity account just to keep him enabled to farm and then the very same ANC, the very same Land Reform Department exited him from that farm. A long process, and this is an award-winning pig farmer.

The next process is he gets a farm out in the Swartland district. He gets a

30-year lease. That was a battle on its own, what was referred to by the hon member Mackenzie is that an ex-ANC MP who finished his term just a year and a half ago, that MP Kalako, he seems to be the leader of a coalition organisation who is now going to be given that very farm, the farm that Mr Cloete eventually got not to own, but through a lease, finally, and even that lease agreement is not adhered to because the ANC does not believe in land ownership. The ANC are now kicking this Mr Cloete off his farm for one of their mates, one of their politicians; what they believe in actually – no land ownership and everything we do is for our friends and our family. †Absolute skande! [Absolute disgrace!]

But I also asked the members of this House to come with solutions, come with new things and the hon Leader of the Opposition said to me he would like me to come along with the Minister of that Land Reform Department and to talk about the 5 000 hectares in this region.

Hon member, I absolutely will come along. I will come along with you. I will come along with the Minister, let us come and see what we can do about getting that 5 000 hectares transferred into individual ownership here in this region. Not the ANC policy on some half-baked lease. Let us come along and see how we can get that land transferred through a process so people can become land-owners in this region and I absolutely take you up on that offer. I will do that and our offices can get together, let us get that going as quickly as possible. Let us make sure that by next year when we have a State of the Province Address we can actually say 5 000 hectares were handed over and so

I take that challenge up absolutely and I look forward to the process.

I said that that I am not going to address every single person in this reply but hon member Xego, I have to say just two things to you. I think the first thing I need to say to you... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, will you please address the Presiding Officer.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you, to the hon member Xego, I have to just say two things: the first thing that I need to talk about is his statement that said this Province has failed in dealing with COVID-19. I think that is such an insult to those frontline workers in this province. It is such an insult and dishonour and disrespect to those men and women who are in our healthcare system who spent days on end fighting to save lives in this province. I think that disrespect is horrendous that he can hide behind privilege in a Parliament and make such an insult to these amazing people, these frontline workers in our province. That, sir, is shocking, but what is even more outrageous and shameful, is when he starts to talk about how a virus gets spread between provinces and one province sending a virus to another province and *vice versa*. That sir, is outrageous, is shameful, is something that I think you should stand up and apologise for through you, hon Speaker, because, you know, we have laws in our country that talk about fake news and if ever there was fake news around the pandemic that is fake news. That is absolutely shameful and outrageous. Shame on you, hon member!

Speaker, I would like to talk to the hon Windvogel and perhaps at the start of the hon Windvogel's speech she spoke about corruption and then she said the hon or the President is dealing with this corruption. Is this the current President, President Ramaphosa, is it Cyril, or perhaps it was Jacob, was Jacob dealing with corruption? [Interjections.]

I think the big problem with our country at the moment is how the ANC deals with corruption; how they have been dealing with it, and the problem is that we know billions and billions of rands are actually stolen from the poorest of the poor in our country. Those billions in our country that Government is supposed to use, those billions and billions that are raised on the back of hard work by taxpaying individuals in our system and get stolen on the way, to giving service delivery to citizens in our province. That is absolutely shameful as well and quite frankly we cannot talk about "the President is dealing with it and look at this SIU and look at this programme." What we want to see are those people that were responsible for the corruption in jail and not evading the Zondo Commission and finding excuses to get away from courts of law. It is just unacceptable and if you were really serious about dealing with corruption, we would see many more people behind bars in this country. We would be seeing many more people being held accountable and responsible for the millions and billions that have been stolen from the poorest of the poor in our country. But there is one thing, hon member, that you raised in your debate and you spoke about the transport of farmworkers and I support you on that. I think that is a crystal-clear issue to be raised in a platform like this and I have seen the horrendous accidents that have taken

place and people put at risk that are transported in systems that are unacceptable.

I want to commend Minister Meyer here who has already said that in this province he is going to champion looking at how we change that through regulation, through licensing, he is going to look at different mechanisms that we actually deal with this problem, and of course I think we all need to make sure that we are putting inputs into this problem because I agree with you on that. This is something we have to change. Of course, that is what this platform is about. It is about being able to raise issues that are affecting the citizens of our province. I thank you for raising that point.

One other thing that I want to raise under the hon Windvogel's speech, is that and it is perhaps not necessarily only under or because of what she was saying. It is probably everybody from the ANC that has spoken today and in all of the debates that we have in our province year after year and this is my challenge back to the ANC; I never hear you bragging about what you are doing in other provinces. I never hear you saying, "This is where the ANC has put some policy in place, and this is the difference that it has made." You never do it. Why not? Why not raise issues that say: "Where we are governing things are getting better."

Maybe it is because you cannot. [Inaudible.]. But that is the challenge to you – please put those to your colleagues in other provinces. Come up with great solutions. Lead from the front and make a difference for the citizens where

you govern, because that is exactly what we are doing where we govern, leading from the front to make the biggest difference we can with the time allocated to us that we will do it, and we swear that allegiance to the Constitution on behalf of the citizens of this province.

Speaker, I then move on to the hon Herron and thank you very much for your contributions. I think first of all the statement that you made about undermining COVID-19 Regulations. You know, we do believe in this province that it must be data-led and evidence-led. I also firmly believe and I have said a number of times, that a number of our regulations during this COVID-19 pandemic over the last year have not been fully thought out, have not been properly effective or probably even negatively affecting things in the wrong direction and that is why we always argued for finding that balance between blunt regulations on the one side and managing the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as how do we get the balance right on the other side and that is where those regulations come in and not all those regulations are equal and where they are not, I will definitely speak out against them.

We believe in a differentiated approach because the virus behaves in a differentiated approach. It does not attack citizens equally across every province in the same way. We have waves in different provinces in different regions and districts at different times and so you must be able to be much more flexible than we are right now with those regulations.

I also noted, hon Herron, that in the Standing Committee you were

advocating that we keep this hardest lockdown in place until we have either vaccines or in preparation for the third wave, but we cannot have that kind of approach. We have to make sure we have balance between the two. It is about that balance and how we learn from our processes that is actually going to enable us to deal with the next wave and the one after that, as we bring vaccines into the system. We have to be nimble and we also have to apply the science to those regulations because at the moment when we have these blunt lockdowns they definitely are detrimental, for example in the Northern Cape they were held ransom to so many of these lockdowns that we probably found much more necessary perhaps in our cities or in those provinces where the waves were much higher, and so it is just not the Eastern Cape or the Western Cape or the Northern Cape that needs to see these differentials, we need to see them across our districts and be able to act quickly and swiftly.

I also want to say to the hon member, he said a few things about vaccines and the one thing he said to me, he was speaking about the “lack of trying and why did you not try earlier?” And I want to say I think he is right. We should have tried earlier, because as I said, right now we only have 13 000 vaccines in our province under a trial. So I think we should have tried earlier. He also mentioned that he thought it was quite embarrassing that we are only calling suppliers now. Hon member, I find it not embarrassing in the least in trying to save lives in our province, and those men and women who work in our procurement department who are making those calls to those vaccine companies, to those pharmaceutical companies, I give them every single bit of support that I can and thank them for making those calls. They

are not embarrassing at all. They really are working very, very hard at making sure that we get vaccines into our system and wherever there is a failure or shortfall we need to fill that as quickly as possible and also to those very same procurement officials that have shown through procuring for PPE in our province, the excellent work that they have done. They are going to be applying exactly their same methodologies, but I wish them all the luck in making sure, not only for our province, but if we can even get vaccines that are going to help other provinces we will do so as well. It is not embarrassing in the least.

The hon Herron also spoke about infrastructure authority and I know that the hon member thinks that maybe that I am able to perform miracles but in four months it is impossible to set up an infrastructure authority. I said yesterday that what had happened in the last four months, I spelt it out and exactly where we are, and it is going to take months and months still to put an infrastructure authority in place. It takes time. We will do it properly. We will make sure that when that system is set up that it can be corruption free. We will make sure that this authority is set up in the best interests of the citizens of this province and we will do it as fast as we can, as efficiently as we can, but also we will do it properly.

Speaker, I want to speak to the hon Smith and I also know that the hon member Mackenzie has mentioned a few things in his sweeping position that he had at the end of the debate, but I want to say to the hon Smith, you raise a couple of issues where you make these spurious sort of announcements

about corruption, you talk about things happening in municipalities here in this region. Hon member, I would actually challenge you to give detail on what you are saying, or tell me the case number of the charge that you have laid, but perhaps it is also quite interesting if I have a look at the one item you are talking about, Erf number 599, and another item you spoke about which is quite a large electricity bill of an outstanding amount plus the penalties that were paid on that bill. The interesting thing is, both of these instances happened before the DA took over control in the Agulhas Municipality. They actually happened under ANC control. So you must also be careful on the kind of evidence that you get and then what is happening around it, but what I can say to you is that the DA Government is busy dealing with it at the moment. It was ANC bad government that actually ended up with putting us in this position of that erf or that outstanding electricity bill, but the DA Government and the DA Mayor is busy dealing with it and we will fix that problem, but can I say once more, that you cannot come and say these things without giving the evidence, using the protection of this House to make spurious comments, and then do nothing about it. You either have to go and lay that charge or say it explicitly here so that it is in the Hansard so it can be held and kept on record. You cannot get away without doing that because that is unacceptable and that is really politicking within this space we find ourselves in, but maybe that goes back to the same point about how the ANC does deal with corruption. We have to deal with it decisively. We have to lay these charges. We have to make sure that those charges end up with people getting into courts, and that there are court findings, and that there are consequences to that corruption. We have to deal

with that in our country. If we do not, we will carry on in the same vein that we always have under the ANC, like I said last year, like the Titanic, just keep on going down until we hit the bottom of the ocean. That is unacceptable, and you need to actually stand up stronger in these things... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Minister Bredell.

The SPEAKER: Who is the hon member speaking? Hon Premier, will you please take your seat. Hon members, I would like to make an appeal that we follow the Rules if we so wish to address the House, and we do so by first indicating by a show of hand, but we do not speak, and the hon members in the Chamber, there are Table staff there that are able to guide you and they inform us if you so wish to say anything in the House. So that helps us to maintain order and also ensure that those who are connected virtually there is no disruption and there is no disruption for anyone that is listening. It is alone the Premier who is currently on the podium. On that note I would like to request the Premier to proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, I will now move on to the hon Christians, and thank you very much for your contribution. Perhaps, first of all, you spoke about ivermectin and I cannot do what you say, because as a responsible government everything we do has to be based on the studies and the approval. I spoke about vaccines and we can only start procuring vaccines and administering vaccines on approved vaccines that go

through trials which are happening now with Johnson & Johnson. I also saw a very disturbing item in the news today, where even some of the researchers dealing with the Pfizer vaccine that is on its way here are questioning the effectiveness against 501V2 and that is worrying to me as well. But exactly the same with therapeutics, whether it is a vaccine or a therapeutic, we have to make sure that we have proper trials, proper testing because that is what we believe in as a government and I think as a responsible government looking after the health and safety of its citizens we have to make sure that those approvals are in place. But I also agree with you that when a therapeutic comes along we need to act with vigour. We need to make sure that we do everything possible, if this is a lifesaving drug, if this is like dexamethasone that is going to make a big difference, we have to find ways to check the validity and then make sure that it is available. But that is why I explicitly said I really welcome first of all SAHPRA's announcement that any doctor in our province or in our country can actually apply for that Section 25 and administer to their patient, but of course it must be part of also giving us the data on that trial. But I also, as I spoke about Stellenbosch and I think it is a Stellenbosch-led and UCT-supported trial that is happening at the moment with ivermectin and any of the other ones, believe we have to make sure that we find ways in which we can protect ourselves going into – what is surely going to happen to us - that third wave, and of course between now and then it is about therapeutics and vaccines and it is a race and we have to make sure we support every single part of it.

I think you also spent a bit of time talking about the Regulations that we are

going to change around liquor and you know, I was responsible for that legislation at the time 11 and a half years ago, I was in opposition where it took us a few years to write that piece of legislation. It was so sort of public-participated it actually worried me, because we spent too much time year after year instead of getting a piece of legislation in place. I want to say again that regulation and legislation is one of the tools that we have. I am looking forward to this change, this regulatory change that is going to come, and you guys are going to be able to take it out for public participation again, and the comments that you made, you can put it back in at the Standing Committee level. We have to make sure we get a good piece of regulation. Let us try quickly and do it. Let us get another one on the back of it. I think we probably change regulation and legislation too slowly. We innovate and we are trying to find new ways. I think we need to find new ways and quicker ways of passing legislation. Let us use more technological mechanisms of getting public participation in because, we all know, you go into those halls and six people come and address you on the legislation, but we have millions of people out there.

Let us get, like we are here today, remote inputs into it. Let us get a good piece of legislation, let us test it, try it, if it works, great, if it does not we will stop it and try something else. But it was really interesting for me yesterday going on the tour and looking at the printing press and you will remember it, and the sample that we were given that came off the printing press which was many, many, many years ago and this speaks about alcohol. It speaks about the effect of alcohol and how it keeps people poor, how it

undermines your ability to work, how it causes ructions in the household. *Huisvrede*, it speaks about. It talks about how it really does lead you in the wrong direction and the abuse of alcohol puts people at risk and of course that is what we have to do. We have to create a regulatory environment that helps us with behavioural change for our citizens. It is not a brand-new problem, it is a problem that has been there for a long time and of course we need to be able to innovate and find regulatory environments that change it and enable behaviour change.

At the end of the day, it is actually about the abuse. The abuse of alcohol, what it does, how it affects trauma, how it affects gender-based violence and crime, and so that I am also not really talking about regulation because we can actually write a law that says you will not drink and abuse anybody. That is not going to help us. What is going to help us is the regulatory framework but then influencing behavioural change and at the end of the day that is what it has to be. It is about responsibility of citizens and of course we all have to work together in making sure we get that right.

Then with the hon Marais, again I think had a lot to say about federalism. Sometimes a bit confused about federalism and almost independence, but the hon Marais, I must say that is what I said yesterday, and specifically on federal powers where the ANC fails, and that is primarily what is driving so much of those areas where we are putting in extra money, where we are trying to deal where failure is at a national level, policing. I mean it is absolutely evident that we need to have better policing control and I think it

was said by the hon Christians, I think also by you. Let us get more decentralised mechanisms so that we can actually take more responsibility at a local level at a municipal level, at a regional level, and at a provincial level; whether it is policing, whether it is education, as I spoke about in our oversight bodies and in education and that is really what I think drives much of the debate at the moment, trying to fix those failures.

Hon members, perhaps just highlighting before I get towards closing, some of the other issues that were raised, and I said that I was not really going to debate with every single person, but I must say, I want to highlight a few issues that were raised by Minister Meyer, also by hon Bosman; the issue of SASSA and I think that is something that was a huge blight on our province.

The way that our most vulnerable, poorest of the poor were treated outside those SASSA offices, and all SASSA offices where it is just not moving properly, where people who are the most vulnerable in our society, who should be the ones that we care for the most, and that is another area that I have not spoken about from a federal point of view, but perhaps it is time as well that provinces get given much more power when it comes to looking after the vulnerable because one thing that has been proven is that SASSA and the National Department are not able to do it. I mean it was an absolute †*skande* [disgrace] when that Minister sat in that Casspir and we still do not know, because we have not received from the investigation, who gave the order to water-cannon our citizens sitting in wheelchairs, to water-cannon our citizens, the most vulnerable waiting for something to help them feed

themselves and their families. I mean that is an absolute embarrassment.

I think I would have really liked to have seen the Opposition also taking strong positions on that as the ANC in this province and taking a position on that and how they actually also take on their national colleagues when the citizens of this province are feeling pain, when the citizens of this province are being abused in the way that they were being abused. That is unacceptable and we need to find ways in which we fix this.

I also want to say that I have not responded to the hon Sayed. It was interesting that the hon Sayed was given more time than the Leader of the Opposition but I do not think I need to respond to him because the Minister of Education I think gave him sufficient †*klap* [smack] so I will just then move on to a few other closing comments.

What I want to say in the State of the Province, we have huge challenges ahead of us, our province and our country. The challenges of getting beyond COVID-19 are massive, and we need to make sure that every one of us is pushing in the same direction so that we get the best solutions we can and I can assure you that this province will continue to lead from the front in this battle.

We call on every single citizen to keep on doing what they are doing. At this stage I want to again say thank you so much to the frontline workers. They really have been phenomenal and have stood out. I also want to say thank

you to the NGOs and those citizens who get absolutely no reward for what they have done. Those ones that have stood up when they were called on and have fed our nation and have fed those citizens the most in need, who work tirelessly day and night in those NGOs in those soup kitchens. I want to thank those businesses who have also been there, those businesses who I think it was just two days ago - I must refer back to Laingsburg and to the Karoo region who I saw again - still, even though we have started to see some rain in those regions, Coke and those trucks taking water to the most vulnerable. Thank you so very much for that.

To those Mpumi's who have got those soup kitchens across our province, thank you so very much for what you are doing. We really do appreciate it. I also want to say that we are really sad to have to say goodbye to General Matakata, I think, as you knew her, but now General Mokgabudi. As you heard from Minister Fritz, she got married and I congratulate her on her wedding, but I want to say to her it is really sad to be able to say goodbye to you because you really have made such a difference for us here in the province. We really started to get into a great working relationship. You know, we speak about federal, but federal is also about a relationship. It is a relationship between a national government and a provincial government, or a national government, a provincial government and a local government, and we have this massive confrontation in trying to build safety for our citizens between the role of SAPS and the leadership of SAPS, but our National Commissioner engaged and we went through a process and we got General Matakata and thank you, General, I wish you all the very best in your next

journey. I believe it is also going to still be and I hope adding to our policing system in our country. I would like to say to General Patekile, who has now been asked to act, thank you very much for stepping up at this moment when safety is such a key priority for us. We need to make sure that we keep our citizens safe and I would like to say to Minister Fritz, and the process that is ahead of us, please let us enter a process again, let us get ourselves a good upstanding general to come and lead this province once again. Let us do it as quickly as we can so that we can continue to focus on building these partnerships between societies, communities, our law enforcement officers, our police, our judicial system, our politicians, the whole ecosystem around focusing on safety.

And while thinking about safety and talking about safety, Mr Speaker, what I would also like to say is that I gave my condolences to those families who lost their children in the sand caving in on those tunnels where people were illegally excavating and stealing sand off our road reserves.

I once again want to reiterate and of course I do not have *locus standi*, you do, Mr Speaker; we are in this remote space outside of the Legislature but one thing that is amazing is how this setup has been put in place. I want to congratulate you and your team for creating a parliament here in Genadendal.

Well done for connecting us to the Legislature, to those remote, but of course connecting us to this province, and it really looks great, it is efficient, it looks like our Government.

It also looks great because we have these beautiful flower arrangements here and I noticed outside and inside there are four flower arrangements, Mr Speaker, and I think it would be only fitting if you as Speaker also like we did last year, send flowers to a family who had just suffered a major tragedy, that these flowers go to those families of those young children who were lost to us. I think that would be a good fitting end to our State of the Province and in a way that we need to send support and our love to these families.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to then say in closing, it has been a privilege and an honour to be able to be here in Genadendal, in this Valley of Grace, to once again put the State of the Province out, put our programme of work going forward. I said it is going to be a tough year. It is absolutely going to be a tough year, but it is nothing that this DA Government, no challenge that this DA Government will not rise to. We will rise to this occasion. We will take on this challenge. We will lead from the front. We will make sure that we do everything in our power to make sure that this ecosystem enables growth and jobs, that we build a safer society in the Western Cape. We really start to tackle those big things that affect the most vulnerable, that we make sure that we have dignity and safety and a safety net in the wellbeing of our citizens.

We will continue to in each and every one of our departments, to do everything that we can to the best of our ability to make sure that we lead from the front in this province for South Africa, because for our country it

needs a province like ours to be doing its absolute best in making the biggest difference that we can.

Mr Speaker, thank you once again for the opportunity, members, thank you for taking part and citizens of this province, I wish you well this year, and please join hands with us in making sure we get through this pandemic and we build a better province. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon members, hon Premier, the gesture to give the flowers to the families of the four children, it is the only befitting measure that we can all agree to that those families deserve, and therefore it is being agreed to, hon Premier, may their souls rest in peace.

I just want to say in ending this session, it has been quite a journey, we started off last year to think about where to go to and I can say that it was the best decision. I see the Mayor of Theewaterskloof Municipality there. I just want to say Your Worship, Kallie Papier, thank you very much for being a partner to make this a reality and for supporting us when we wanted to bring SOPA to your municipality and of course to the Overberg district. Please, let us put our hands together for him. Please, let us do that. [Applause.]

Thank you, because if we do this as we said we will do so in 2019, it means that whenever we go to a locality we work with those local municipalities, but most importantly the school principal, the Chairperson of the Governing Board, and the Governing Board members and the parents here of the school

who have agreed for us to come here and of course the Minister of Education did not resist, even though it is difficult to use schools, hon Premier and hon members, but we have committed that we will have less to no disruption to the school programme and indeed we have delivered on that. We have delivered on that. We did not have any disruption to the school programme. It continued seamlessly. Instead, we have made history for the school and the learners at the school here. So thank you very much to the school and the leadership here in general.

To the Moravian Mission, thank you very much, Ms Hector, again for your support, and of course to the leadership of the Museum, thank you very much for everything that you have done for us yesterday. We enjoyed it. We are going to come back to Genadendal, one way or the other. Committees must come back here. There is a lot of work to do. We need guest houses in Genadendal. We need restaurants in Genadendal. I was looking for coffee this morning. I want to buy coffee next time in Genadendal. So let us do more as Parliament, as public reps to make it a community that we are proud of, because there is a lot of history here, and that is the pride of this region already. So thank you very much.

To the Chamber, hon members, we see you. Thank you for your indulgence. You have been really behaving there and obviously thanks to the hon members with us here in this venue in Genadendal, and we thank the Business Chamber here, the Councillors, the Speakers, Deputy Mayors, Mayors, everybody, thank you, and the officials of the Provincial Parliament, without

you none of this would have been possible.

†Baie dankie! [Thank you!] Let us put our hands together for them.

[Applause.]

On that note, this is the end of the session, and I would like to request that the hon members rise and the guests rise but upon the conclusion of the procession, I would like to request that the guests do not move until the hon members leave, so that there is order. Remember we have COVID-19 and let us please not take any chances. This is a matter of life and death so let us remain standing and then the hon members will follow, after myself and the Premier, as the procession will lead, and then thereafter you will all leave. The session is adjourned. Thank you very much.

The House adjourned at 14:55.