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THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2026

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Order. Hon members, before we proceed, I would like to make some comments about the logistical arrangements. Today's sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules and, in instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final. Hon members, the quorum requirements for the sitting of the House are as provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will be recording members' attendance. Hon members who are present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Unless there is an indication of unanimous

concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and who are entitled to cast their votes in accordance with our Standing Rules.

Hon members who are considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and will be called to order. When an hon member wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer as normal, but must mute his or her microphone when he or she has completed speaking. The hon members are kindly requested to ensure that their microphones are unmuted when they are recognised by the Presiding Officer, and to mute their microphones when they have finished speaking. I kindly request that those who are not members of the House, observe the decorum of the House.

Hon members, for the purposes of the sitting, language interpreting services are available by using the devices at your disposal. If guests require an interpreting device, please raise your hand and an attendant will assist. Officials are available to assist hon members who are experiencing challenges with accessing the interpreting services during the sitting.

Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sessions and, to this end, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. The Secretary and her administration will ensure that there is a dedicated technical support at all times during the sitting.

Hon members, please allow me, before we proceed to the business of the day,

to welcome our guests in the gallery. We have received requests from various members and, in particular, our young citizens of the province, to attend today's sitting. So welcome to each member. We have members ranging from Langeberg, from Drakenstein, members from Hope FC and the Metro and various corners of the province, as well as members or young citizens online who are joining the sitting today. Please feel very welcome. You are very welcome to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and we are most delighted to host you today and I hope you will enjoy the sitting.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, we will now proceed to deal with the Speaker's Debate as printed on the Order Paper in terms of Rule 147.

### **SPEAKER'S DEBATE**

From Classroom to Career: Building pathways to jobs, skills and opportunity for young people in the Western Cape

The SPEAKER: Hon members, Ministers, distinguished guests, members of the public and especially the young people of the Western Cape. †Goeie middag, gaste en veral die jongmense van die Wes-Kaap. Welkom by hierdie Speaker se Debat van die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement. [Good afternoon, guests and especially the youth of the Western Cape. Welcome to this Speaker's Debate of the Western Cape Parliament.]

As we continue to commemorate Youth Month, we are reminded of the courage,

the sacrifice and the determination of the young people of 1976, whose actions helped shape the democratic South Africa we enjoy today. Their legacy places a responsibility on all of us to ensure that today's youth have access not only to freedom, but also to opportunity.

†Ons herdenk vandag nie net die verlede nie, maar kyk ook vorentoe na die rol wat ons almal moet speel om geleenthede vir die volgende geslag te skep.

[Today we do not just commemorate the past but also look forward to the role that we all have to play to create opportunities for the next generation.]

This year's topic, From Classroom to Career: Building pathways to jobs, skills and opportunity for young people in the Western Cape, speaks directly to one of the most pressing challenges facing our society. While many young people are leaving our schools and institutions with ambition and potential, too many continue to encounter barriers when seeking employment, practical experience, skills development and economic participation. The purpose of today's debate is therefore not merely to reflect on the challenges confronting young people, but to explore practical solutions, innovative partnerships and policy interventions that can create meaningful pathways from education into employment and entrepreneurship.

As representatives of the people, we have a collective responsibility to ensure that our education system equips young people with the skills needed for a changing economy, that opportunities are accessible to all communities and that no young person is left behind because of where they live or the circumstances

into which they were born.

†Die jeug is nie net die leiers van môre nie, hulle is reeds die innoveerders, entrepreneurs, gemeenskapsbouers en veranderingsagente van vandag. Ons taak is om die omstandighede te skep waarin hulle kan floreer.

[The youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow, they are already the innovators, entrepreneurs, community builders and agents for change of today. Our task is to create circumstances in which they can flourish.]

I trust that today's debate will be robust, constructive and focused on outcomes that can make a tangible difference in the lives of the young people across our province. †Mag hierdie debat nuwe idees inspireer, sterker vennootskappe bevorder en hoop gee aan die jongmense wat ons op staatmaak om 'n beter toekoms te help bou. [May this debate inspire new ideas, promote stronger partnerships and give hope to the youth who are depending on us to help build a better future.]

Hon members, I now call upon the first speaker to address the House. †Baie dankie. [Thank you.] †Enkosi Kakhulu [Thank you very much.] Thank you. I recognise the hon Minister of Finance, Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and welcome to the youth of Drakenstein, Hope FC from Mitchells Plain, Langeberg, the Metropolitan and the student, third year B Accounting from Stellenbosch University, job shadowing me today, Ayabonga Hlumkeza from Mossel Bay,

who wants to become a CA one day as well.

Hon Speaker, this week as we mark Youth Day and reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, we are reminded of a defining moment in our history. Young people stood up against a system that denied them dignity, limited their futures and excluded them from opportunity. They demanded education that would open doors and give them a fair chance at a meaningful future. Fifty years later, too many young people in the Western Cape and across South Africa still face real barriers to accessing opportunity.

The Western Cape's approach is to start with growing the economy. We know that businesses create jobs when they can invest and expand, and that young people must be equipped with the skills and experience to access those opportunities. Over the next three years, R36.65 billion is committed to driving this work with a clear target of enabling one million residents to access economic pathways by 2030.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is aligning training directly with labour market demand. Young people are placed in real workplaces in partnership with companies and SETAs, where training, apprenticeships and qualifications are co-funded and shaped by industry. In the past year alone, more than 2 200 unemployed youth were placed into these opportunities through the Skills Development and Innovation Programme. They are gaining experience in sectors such as business process outsourcing, manufacturing, hospitality, technical trades and technology, while receiving

accredited training, work readiness support and stipends. The programme is designed for absorption, with a target of up to 80% of participants moving into employment after completion.

We are also preparing young people for the demands of a changing economy. Through partnerships with Microsoft (South Africa) and GIZ, the TVET-Ikamva Digital Skills Platform has been rolled out across the province, offering training in AI, cybersecurity, software development and data analytics, reaching thousands of young people. We also have targeted pilots, including the Forvis Mazars Women in Tech and Digital Roles Pilot, which equips unemployed youth and TVET graduates with advanced AI and Cloud skills aligned to industry standards. And the Electrical Vehicle Training Pilot introduced youth to new curricula aligned to green and automotive sectors.

We are also upskilling provincial officials for the future. And, hon Speaker, I am proud to announce today that the Provincial Treasury has secured funding for the Transport Education Training Authority to train 200 Western Cape Government officials through a one-year supply chain practitioner learnership programme. This initiative equips participants with accredited skills at NQF Level 5, while supporting the professionalisation of public procurement and strengthening institutional capacity, contributing to a more capable and effective and ethical Public Service and, alongside our Premier, we will be inducting the new learners in July.

One of the biggest barriers, hon Speaker, to young people accessing

opportunities is also simply not knowing where some of the opportunities exist. To address this, we are investing in structured career exposure through the Career Club Initiative and events such as the Youth in Action Expo, the Eden Future Tech Expo and the Drone Pilot Training Programme, where young people are introduced to industry expectations, emerging sectors and real career pathways.

In 2025/26, the Youth in Action Expo alone reached over 14 000 learners, connecting them to bursaries and internships. And our Department of Agriculture is also strengthening pathways into the sector by investing in training that is directly linked to industry needs. Over the medium-term, or the next three years, R211 million is directed towards higher education and training, with young people accessing accredited programmes through our Elsenburg Agricultural College. This year, more than 600 students are enrolled in Elsenburg, while 192 bursaries have been awarded to deserving students.

In addition, the department is investing in skills development beyond formal qualifications, with almost 3 000 participants trained through short skills programmes, many of whom are unemployed youth, emerging farmers and agriculture workers. These pathways are reinforced through practical work-based learning, industry partnerships and expanded access through decentralised training centres and recognition of prior learning.

The approach ensures that young people leave not only with the qualifications, but with the skills, experience and networks needed to secure employment, start

businesses and continue their studies. These interventions are already making a difference. The Province has achieved its target of ensuring that 70% of programme participants become more employable. This means that you are more likely to find a job once having completed one of these programmes. And it shows that when the economy, skills and opportunity are aligned, the outcomes begin to shift.

The task ahead is to scale our work and that every young person in this province can see a pathway and has a fair chance to access it.

†Dit is elkeen van ons se verantwoordelikheid om hierdie geleentheid op te neem. Aan elkeen van ons jeug hier vandag, en in ons provinsie, gelukkige Jeugmaand, en saam beweeg ons vorentoe vir ons toekoms. Ek dank u.

[It is the responsibility of each of us to take these opportunities. To each of our youth here today and in our province, happy Youth Month, and together we move forward for our future. I thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon Minister.] I now recognise the hon Leader of the Opposition, honourable Sayed. Order. The Leader of the Opposition. Order, hon members. There is a member on the floor. Order. Hon Sayed, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, hon members, our guests in the gallery, the little leaders, the principal and staff of the Sentinel Primary School, learners who are currently unplaced, the leadership of the

Macassar Education Forum and Environmental Forum, and the South African Action Committee for Education, and all guests in the gallery, including Hope FC, and warm congratulations to Hope FC for gaining promotion to the Motsepe Foundation Championship, the ANC welcomes this important debate.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please take your seat. Hon member Adams, is that a point of order? You indicated to me that ...? My apologies, hon member Sayed, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The ANC welcomes this important debate because it goes to the heart of the future of young people in the Western Cape. But let us be clear. Our real audience today is not the political noise in this House. Our real audience is the young person in Macassar, Delft, Khayelitsha, Beaufort West, Mitchells Plain, Nduli, Vredendal, and every community across this province asking one painful question. After school, what comes next?

The subject before us speaks about moving from classroom to career, but for far too many young people in the Western Cape, that journey is broken. It is not a pathway, it is a wall. A classroom must never become a waiting room for unemployment. Education must lead somewhere. It must lead to skills, work experience, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, employment, dignity and hope.

This year, as we mark 50 years since the June 16th, 1976 uprising, we remember the youth of 1976. We remember that they did not merely reject Afrikaans as a

medium of instruction, they rejected a system designed to decide in advance how small the future of Black children should be. They fought for dignity. They fought for equal education. They fought for a future. Today, we draw inspiration from that generation of the young lions of OR Tambo, young revolutionaries produced here, like Ashley Kriel, Anton Fransch, Robbie Waterwitch, and Coline Williams. They taught us that young people are not spectators in history. Young people make history.

We also salute young people across the world who continue to push back against the right-wing global offensive. This debate cannot be reduced to a list of Government programmes. The question is not whether programmes exist. The question is whether there is a real, integrated and measurable pathway that takes a learner from school into skills, from skills into experience, and from experience into work. In the Western Cape, the answer is, no.

What this province needs is not another glossy programme list. It needs a real Classroom to Career pipeline with measurable targets. It needs to know how many learners receive career guidance, how many TVET students receive work placement, how many graduates enter internships, how many young people enter apprenticeships, and how many are supported into sustainable work or enterprise.

The ANC calls for an integrated provincial youth pathway plan that brings schools together, TVET colleges, SETAs, municipalities, provincial departments, the private sector, and community organisations. That plan must

include guaranteed workplace placements for TVET students. It must include various expanded opportunities and internships, proper career guidance, support for youth enterprises, and a review of the Quintile funding system so that funding follows the socio-economic conditions of learners, not merely the suburbs where the schools are situated in.

Hon Speaker, we have young people with matric who cannot access work. We have TVET students without workplace experience or without any workplace placement. We have graduates sitting at home with qualifications, but no income. In Hout Bay, a recent local job opportunity received 493 applications. More than 80 of those applicants were university graduates. That tells us something.

And the system fails from the very beginning when learners are not even placed in school. Today, two learners from Macassar are seated in the gallery, still not placed in school since the start of the school year. We learnt about this on Monday when the Macassar Education Forum came to approach us. Equal Education has even communicated cases of unplaced learners to the Premier's Office, to WCED, but there is no political will to resolve this. How can we speak about careers when children are still being denied access to classrooms?

We must also speak for rural youth. The Classroom to Career pathway cannot only exist for urban centres, when schools like Nduli Primary remain neglected, when rural learners have to travel long distances and, in many cases, do not even get that particular learner transport. DA double standards are clear. An

MEC who presided over repeated learner placement crises, teacher cuts and declining confidence in the system should have been held accountable. Instead, the DA rewards failure with promotion. This is not accountability. That is political protection. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The same failure to plan is visible beyond the classroom. To the young people of the Western Cape, we say to you, do not outsource your future. The generation of '76 organised, mobilised and stood up. Today, you must do the same. This weekend, register to vote. Mobilise friends, families and communities. If you want a government that puts jobs, safety, housing, education and dignity first ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... register, organise and vote for the African National Congress. The youth of 1976 taught us that young people are not only the leaders ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... they are the makers of history today. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much to the hon Leader of the Opposition. This is just a friendly reminder to our guests in the gallery, you may not participate in the proceedings of the House, and that includes clapping or agreeing with the speaker on the floor. You are very welcome to observe the sitting, but please do not participate in the sitting. Order, hon members.

Before I recognise the hon Adams, can I just get – order, hon members. There is a member on the floor. †Agb Adams, is u gereed? [Hon Adams, are you ready?] Order.

Mr B DAMS (PA): I was born ready in 1976, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Order.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Let me tell my hon comrades across the benches on the wrong side, Hector Peterson was born in August 1963. He died on the 16th of June 1976, but little did most South Africans know that the Peterson surname, before it became Peterson, was Pitso. And there was a reason why they had to change their surname to Peterson, because that was to get a job as a Coloured person. Today, the Petersons must change their surnames to Pitso to get a job in the Western Cape. And by that, let me welcome all of the youth from the Western Cape, †van die Paarl, van die Drakenstein, van Macassar, van Delft, van Stellenbosch, en Mosselbaai is ook in die Huis, heet ek hulle welkom.

Agb Speaker, ons sit met 'n probleem waar die meerderheid van die gemeenskap in die Wes-Kaap se jeug sonder werk sit. Hulle ouers kan nie NSFAS bekostig nie omdat hulle is in wat ons noem die middel-inkomste gaping, hulle ouers se gesamentlike inkomste is meer as R350 000. So baie van ons jeug kan nie verder gaan studeer nie. Agb Speaker, as daar van hulle is wat verder gaan studeer, sit ons jeug, die Bruin jeug wat die meerderheid van ons gemeenskap uitmaak in die Wes-Kaap, met 'n ander probleem, agb Speaker, dat regstellende aksie wat die DA huidiglik ondersteun in hulle huidige vorm, teen ons jeug is wanneer hulle gaan werk soek in die mark daarbuite. Wanneer hierdie jongmense klaar studeer het en hulle wil by organisasies soos Eskom of by Airports Company South Africa of by groot visserye werk, waar die agb Minister nou gaan werk, dan kry hulle nie werk nie omdat regstellende aksie teen hulle tel.

Agb Speaker, dit is tyd dat die Demokratiese Alliansie daardie probleem, saam met die Patriotic Alliance aanpak en saam met die ander partye saamsit om seker te maak dat ons nie weer 'n rewolusie beleef soos wat ons in 1976 beleef het nie, want dieselfde rewolusie was dat die Swart kinders kon nie werk kry onder die apartheid-regering nie; huidiglik is dit teenrewolusie, die Bruin kinders kry nie werk in die huidige regstellende aksie-omgewing waarin ons jeug hulle bevind nie.

So, agb Speaker, in hierdie debat wil ek het vir die Opposisie vra dat hulle saam, die DA, dat hulle saam met die Opposisie werk om seker te maak dat die jong Bruin kinders, wat die meerderheid van ons bevolking uitmaak in die Wes-Kaap, dat hulle werk kry en dat ons moet toesien dat die NSFAS-toekennings

na gekyk word, agb Minister, die 350 000. Dit werk nie. Dit is hoekom ek vir u sê, agb Minister, deur u agb Speaker, want die agb Minister wil nou regdeur my praat en ek raak warm onder die kraag, maar ek het 'n regte baadjie aan, sy kan sien ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[of Paarl, of the Drakenstein, of Macassar, of Delft, of Stellenbosch, and Mossel Bay are also in the House, I welcome them.

Hon Speaker, we have a problem where the majority of the community in the Western Cape's youth are unemployed. Their parents cannot afford NSFAS because they are in what we call the middle-income gap; the parents' combined income is more than R350 000. So many of our youths cannot study further. Hon Speaker, if there are some of them who are continuing their studies, our youth, our Brown youth constituting the majority of our community in the Western Cape, has another problem, that affirmative action which the DA is currently supporting in its present form, count against our youth when they are going to look for employment in the market out there. When these young people have finished studying and they want to go and work in organisations like Eskom or at the Airports Company South Africa or at large fisheries, where the hon Minister is now going to work, then they cannot get employment because affirmative action counts against them..

Hon Speaker, it is time that the Democratic Alliance tackles that problem along

with the Patriotic Alliance and sit together with the other parties to ensure that we do not experience a revolution like we experienced in 1976, because the same revolution happened because the Black children could not find work under the apartheid government; currently it is counter revolution, the Brown youth does not find employment in the current affirmative action environment in which we currently are.

So, hon Speaker, in this debate I want to ask the Opposition that they together; the DA, that they work with the Opposition to ensure that the Brown youth that constitutes the majority of our population in the Western Cape, that they find employment and that we should look at the NSFAS grants, hon Minister, the R350,000. It does not work. That is why I say to you, hon Minister through you, hon Speaker, because the hon Minister now wants to speak straight through me and I am becoming hot under the collar, but I am wearing a real jacket, she can see ...[Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Adams, u tyd is verstreke, baie dankie. [The SPEAKER: Hon Adams, your time has expired, thank you.] Order, hon members, order. I now recognise the Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, if we were looking, hon Speaker, for

an example of failure in this House, we would have to look no further than the hon Khalid Sayed, the Leader of the Opposition himself, as voters in their hundreds of thousands abandon the ANC in the Western Cape.

Now, hon Speaker, the pathway from classroom to career is a handshake. On the one hand, we need to grow the economy so that young people have more opportunities for employment.

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: But crucially, on the other hand, we have got to deliver quality basic education that gives our children the knowledge they need to be employable, because if we do not get education right, we will not get economic growth right. And if we do not get economic growth right, we will not get jobs right. And if we do not get jobs right, we will never get South Africa right.

Now, hon Speaker, quality passes in mathematics and physical science open doors of opportunity for our learners. So the Back on Track Programme this year has a specific focus on mathematics and physical science in Grades 10 to 12 to help drive up participation and achievement levels in these subjects. Targeted mathematics tutoring is being provided to 4 000 learners in Grade 10 and 4 000 learners in Grade 11, while a further 4 000 Grade 12 learners will receive support in both mathematics and physical science. We will also be training 200 teachers across these two subjects so that they, in turn, can improve

the support they provide to our learners in these grades.

Hon Speaker, our technical schools must also become engines of economic growth, delivering industry-relevant training in conjunction with top quality teaching in technical mathematics and technical science. I visited Bellville Technical High School where a car manufacturer has developed a workshop that delivers the exact skills they need in their business, so that learners are job ready and have a job waiting for them when they leave school. Oude Molen Technical School learners have the opportunity to train in the use of AutoCAD design software so that they are already equipped with a qualification before they even leave school.

We want to create more of these kinds of opportunities for more learners, which is why we are investing R127 million into revitalising our technical schools, beginning with six schools, so that we can demonstrate a return on investment. And this includes funding for upgrading machinery and workshops, teacher training and workshop assistance, multi-certification opportunities and building stronger relationships with the private sector, providing new opportunities to over 5 000 learners.

Hon Speaker, we also have career planning as a critical part of employability in all fields and all industries. So, as part of the Western Cape Growth for Jobs Strategy, we have launched career clubs in 232 high schools to expose learners to a variety of careers and to connect them with private sector job opportunities. Over 250 000 learners across the province are participating in the various

programmes made available by this investment, which includes funding allocated directly to schools to launch their clubs.

Hon Speaker, this will likely be my last Speaker's Debate in the Provincial Parliament and it has been, I have to say, a privilege to serve in the House and especially as Minister of Education. The Education portfolio is a passion of mine. It has given me purpose and I have given it all that I have. And it is going to be very hard to hang up my “Western Cape Government for You” jacket. I have so enjoyed ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members, order. Hon Minister, you may continue. I am protecting you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I have so enjoyed, believe it or not, engaging with members of this House because, even although we disagree on many things, we all agree that quality basic education is the pathway to economic growth and jobs. And our commitment to quality education, I think, is demonstrated by what we have achieved: a huge investment in the foundation phase; the strongest learning recovery in the country through the Back on Track Programme; the Rapid School Build Programme; building more schools faster than any other province; a huge investment in special needs education with an additional 101 teaching posts this year; a massive investment in our school sport strategy and, of course, maintaining a stable department in the face of huge fiscal emergencies. And we have been able to ... [Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. We have been able to do this because, in the end, we have a shared vision across the House of delivering quality education ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...for every learner.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Order. Thank you very much to the hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order. Hon members on my left, there is a member on the floor. Order, hon members on my right. Hon Marais, you may continue.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Poverty is destroying the lives of young people but this poverty is a multi-dimensional poverty, hon Speaker. 57% of Black African youth and 43% of youth, Coloured youth, live in the Western Cape in poor income households. Between 2004 and 2024, youth unemployment has increased across all nine provinces, but the two largest contributors to multi-dimensional poverty in the Western Cape are educational

outcomes and Not in Employment, Education and Training, which is the NEET factor. Those two together contribute 66% to that index.

There is no longer time for talk, it is time for action. No youth should be allowed to drop out of school without having learned a skill or have some form of qualification. Does the Western Cape's Education Department monitor that at all? The answer is no.

We need a skills gap analysis and a labour market information forecast report which is necessary to match up what the economy of the Western Cape needs and what the demand is, and what our youngsters need to get in terms of getting employment. The Western Cape economy must not fail to provide young people with employment opportunities at the end of their studies. The young people in Parliament today must vote for competent leadership in South Africa. Use your power ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais ...

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Take back your power, like the youth of 1976. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order. Thank you. Order, hon members. Hon Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, when I reflect on the past 32 years of

democracy under the ANC, as a young person in this province, I am bitterly disappointed, not because democracy failed, but because cadre employment and corruption have stolen opportunities that should have flowed from our classrooms into careers. Today, almost 50 years after the youth of 1976 took to the streets of Soweto, South Africa's youth face a different struggle, an economy that has locked too many young people out of opportunities after years and years of ANC failure.

But in the Western Cape, under the DA, we work to move young people from classrooms and into careers. As colleagues have highlighted, the DA-led Western Cape has the lowest youth unemployment rate of any province in South Africa. For the DA, a job provides dignity and improves lives. As Premier Alan Winde often says, nothing stops a bullet like a job. A young person with a job is a young person with hope, purpose and a greater chance of staying out of crime.

Hon Speaker, in the Western Cape, under the DA-led WCED, we continue to achieve strong academic outcomes. We invest in ensuring children can read through the Back on Track Programme, which was rolled out to 20 700 learners in 2025. Last year, more than 91 000 Grade 3 learners wrote the Independent Annual Systemic Tests for Mathematics and Language, achieving the highest results ever. Mathematics improved from 44.3% to 62%, while language improved from 36.9% to 51.2%. This is due to the Structured Language Programme implemented in all primary schools since 2024.

Before learners can move from classrooms into careers, they must have a strong foundation, and that is the DA difference. At Grade 12 level, the Western Cape achieved the highest ever matric pass rate of 88.2% and the best ever Bachelor's pass rate of 49.2%, meaning almost half of our learners qualify for university entry, in addition to the Western Cape achieving the highest mathematics pass rates in the country at 73.7%.

But, hon Speaker, what is the point if our learners achieve strong academic results, but NSFAS or SETAs are in a dire mess because of decades of ANC corruption and cadre deployment? These are the very institutions meant to support young people and not to hold them back. The DA has called for them to be fixed, nationally and urgently. Young people need these institutions now.

Nonetheless, hon Speaker, here in the Western Cape, we are also revitalising technical schools, offering vocational pathways that prepare learners for work, further study and entrepreneurship. This also helps address skills shortages and reduce our dropout rates.

At the start of this year, School of Skills were introduced in the Eden and Central Karoo District, the Overberg District and the West Coast District. This is because the DA understands that all learners do not learn in the same way, but every learner must move from classroom to career. In 2025, nearly 7 700 learners enrolled in technical subjects, nearly 3 500 in agricultural technology, and nearly 3 200 in agricultural management practices. And this is the DA difference. In addition, hon Speaker, we also have career clubs that help

learners identify their career paths early. This is true Classroom to Career development.

To all young people of South Africa, in the DA we not only talk about opportunity, we create opportunity. The Western Cape is home to the country's youngest female Provincial Minister of Finance, hon Minister Deidre Baartman, and young members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, like myself, are entrusted with positions where decisions are made. Under the DA, young people are not merely represented, they are empowered ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): ... to lead and shape the future of our country. So I encourage young people this weekend, register to vote ... [Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I would like to ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Is that a point of order, hon member Sayed? Please speak to me.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker, it is a point

of order.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: My point of order is, the Premier is not present to appoint hon member Johnson as the new MEC. I was hoping that he could make that announcement ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... because he is a young person.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order, hon members. Just for the record, that is - order – that is not a point of order. And just for the record, and to the citizens of the Western Cape, the hon Premier is online and attending the sitting in terms of the Rules. This is an hybrid sitting, so members are able to join in person in the Chamber or virtually through the hybrid system, and the hon Premier is in fact attending this sitting. Hon member Johnson, you may continue.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, no. Can you confirm then that the Premier has heard the plea? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, that is not a point of order. Hon member Johnson, you may continue.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, back to the intelligent conversation. So I encourage young people to register to vote this weekend and check your registration status. Get involved, make your voice heard and, on the 4th of November, vote for a party that moves young people from classrooms into careers and from hope into opportunities. Vote DA. I thank you. [Applause.][Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order, hon members. Order. Order. Hon members, order. Order! Hon members, hon members on my left and my right-hand side. Hon members, before I recognise the next speaker on the Speakers list, I wish to remind the hon members that a Speaker's debate is non-political in nature. There are citizens in the gallery, there are citizens online. Can I please ask that you be mindful of those citizens watching online and watching you from the gallery. Hon members, the next speaker on the list is hon Brinkhuis.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJ): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and good afternoon to you, good afternoon to our colleagues. †Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

Al Jama-ah calls for greater investment in youth entrepreneurship. Many young people possess innovative ideas but lack access to funding. Business development, support in markets, government procurement and economic development programmes must intentionally create space for youth-owned enterprises to thrive. We must also recognise that employment alone cannot solve every challenge. Youth development requires safe communities, mental health support, social cohesion, and hope. A young person who feels valued and supported is more likely to contribute positively to society.

As we reflect on Youth Day, let us move beyond symbolic remembrance and commit ourselves to practical action. The youth of the Western Cape are not asking for handouts, they are asking for opportunities, they are asking for pathways that connect their education to meaningful careers and sustainable livelihoods.

The legacy of 1976 calls upon us to ensure that every young person has not only the right to learn, but also the opportunity to succeed. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I wish to also use this opportunity to remind you that if you are participating virtually, to please switch on your camera in the interests of the citizens. Hon members, I have communicated this on more than one occasion. Can I please ask that you work with me, and that if you opt to participate virtually, that you in fact switch on your camera, so that the citizens that are listening to us are able to see

you when you deliver your contribution. I recognise the hon member Christians. Hon member Christians, you are muted.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Okay, sorry, hon Speaker. Thank you, can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: Yes, we can hear you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: You are indeed audible. You may continue.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Every year, thousands of learners celebrate passing matric with the hope and expectation that either they will go into a tertiary institution, practical skills or employment. Yet, for many, this excitement turns into disappointment, sitting year after year, without a meaningful opportunity. We must be clear. Education is still not equal. It is unequal. The young learners that are in disadvantaged areas do not have the same opportunity as other learners. That is a fact.

The ACDP calls on Government and the private sector to do more for our youth. I heard what the Chairperson of Education said, but it is still too little. So many of our young people want to work with their hands. They do not want to go the way of the academic route. There must be more opportunities

for them and more schools of skills. I looked at Westcliff, a school of skills, and it proudly says it is a technical school, giving youngsters an opportunity to do what their passion is, and this is what we must do.

Young people are born with a passion. They want to do something, but the opportunities are not there. I am asking this Government, and I am asking the private sector, to take hands with our young people so that they can play a meaningful role in the economy of South Africa. So, the prayer is, let us put our hands together, heads together, and assist our young people. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon member. I now recognise the Minister of Health and Wellness, the hon Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you hon Speaker. Children at different stages of life, whether a newborn, a teenager or a young adult, have different needs. They face different challenges and require different forms of support. If we are serious about helping young people access jobs, skills and opportunity, then Government must respond to those needs at every stage of life. That principle underpins the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness' Life Course Approach.

We recognise that the pathway from classroom to career begins long before a person enters the labour market. The first thousand days of life are so important, because it is during that time that the foundations for brain

development, learning capacity and long-term wellbeing are established. A child who is healthy and well-nourished, is ready to learn. Yet today, approximately one in five children in the Western Cape is stunted.

Stunting is not simply about physical growth. It affects the child's cognitive development, educational attainment and future opportunities. The effects can last a lifetime. But before stunting is a health issue, it is also an issue of fairness. We cannot accept that the circumstances that a child is born into become the determining factors of their life. If we are serious about breaking cycles of poverty and inequality, then we need to intervene early before many of the disadvantages they face have taken root.

That is why we launched Khulisa Care. The programme supports underweight pregnant moms and mothers of low-birth-weight babies through food vouchers and community health worker support, until the child reaches six months of age. More than 1 500 mothers and babies have already been enrolled. While it remains a pilot, it reflects an important commitment, that prevention is better than cure, and that by intervening early, we can change the trajectory of a child's life. Hon Speaker, as children grow, they need to change. Adolescence is a period of enormous opportunity. It is also when young people can ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Can the Table Staff please mute all participants online? My apologies, Hon Minister. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Adolescence is a period of enormous opportunity ...[Audio distorted – technical difficulties.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Can I please ask that the Table Staff assist me? Order, members. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: It is when young people can become more vulnerable to substance use, violence and medical health risks, and our responsiveness must therefore change. Through the Planet Youth Survey nearly 50 000 learners across the province helped us to better understand the realities facing young people today and what support they need.

The survey reinforced the important role that parents play in shaping outcomes for young people. When parents are involved, set boundaries and maintain open communication, young people are significantly less likely to engage in these behaviours. If we want young people to build successful futures, then we must ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ... make those futures possible.

The SPEAKER: My apologies, hon Minister. I have been informed by

members online that there is no sound. Can I just get an indication that that is in fact so? The hon member that is online indicates that that is happening. I noted the Chief Whip of the Opposition is online. Hon member Bans, can you please give me an indication if you can hear me? There is no sound. In the interest of all hon members, I am going to – hon Minister, my apologies to do this. I am going to ask that I get an indication from the Table Staff if they can attend to the matter before I then take the next segment. But hon Minister, my apologies for your interruption.

Hon members and the guests in the gallery, in the interests of all members participating, I am going to suspend the proceedings for five minutes to allow the technical team to deal with it, and then we will resume. The House is suspended.

[Business of the House suspended at 15:07]

[Business of the House resumed at 15:13]

The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order, members. Hon members and the guests in the gallery, to the members online and the citizens watching online, my humble apologies for the technical glitch that we are receiving. I am informed by the Table Staff that you are now able to hear us. Can I just get an indication from the hon members if that in fact is the case? Hon member Windvogel?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Windvogel. Hon member Windvogel, I recognise you. Hon member Windvogel, you are on mute. Hon member Windvogel. Can I just get an indication from any member online? Hon Deputy Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The hon Chief Whip indicated at seven minutes past that there is still no audio on Teams. So perhaps that is why hon member Windvogel cannot hear you. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I was just informed that the technical glitch has been – there is still no audio.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: There is audio now.

The SPEAKER: There is audio now. My apologies, okay. We can therefore continue. Hon member Ngqentsu, is that a point of order?

Mr B NGQENTSU (ANC): I was going to suggest that perhaps we take hon Minister Wenger off the list. Maybe the proceedings will move smoothly.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon Minister Wenger has got the same privileges and immunities imparted by law, like all other elected representatives. Hon Minister Wenger, you have two minutes and three

seconds. I will make sure that you deliver and are protected within those two minutes and three seconds.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. If we want young people to build successful futures, then we must create the conditions that make those futures possible. That is why this week we launched the *Masithethe Let's Talk Positive Parenting Series* of podcasts, by equipping parents and caregivers with practical tools to navigate adolescents and connection. We are strengthening one of the most important protective factors in a young people's life.

Hon Speaker, the needs of young people continue to evolve as they move into adulthood. For many young adults, the next challenge is developing skills, gaining experience and entering professions from classroom to career. That is why we are incredibly proud of the work of the Western Cape College of Nursing and the College of Emergency Care, preparing young people for careers in nursing and emergency services.

Last year, 277 undergraduate nursing students graduated, while the College of Emergency Care produced 69 graduates. The department also funded more than 1 400 internship opportunities, and allocated more than 1 400 bursaries for scarce and critical skills. These are opportunities for young people to develop valuable skills, enter meaningful professions, and contribute to the wellbeing of their communities, helping us to create a healthier Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, we believe every young person deserves the opportunity to fulfil their potential. A child needs nutrition and developmental support. A teenager needs stability, belonging and trusted relationships. A young adult needs access to skills, training and opportunity. By responding to needs at every stage, we do more than improve health outcomes. We help create conditions for young people to succeed at school, develop their talents, build careers and contribute meaningfully to society. That is how we can break cycles of poverty, expand opportunity and build a pathway from classroom to career. So, to our youth, as Dr Zeuss famously said: “You are off to great places. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way.”

HON MEMBERS: Hear-hear! [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Once again, my apologies, hon Minister, for the interruption during your delivery. My sincerest apologies. I now recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): No standing ovation again.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I do not believe it is within the Rules for us to stand up for another hon member of the House when they are speaking. And hon member Ngqentsu is also not a woman.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. [Laughter.] Order, members! Hon members, that is not a point of order, hon member Walters. Hon member Ngqentsu, you may continue. Order, members. Hon member Ngqentsu, I will protect you. Please speak to me.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC, the hon Leader of the Opposition, the guests, my son in the gallery, †nomtshana wam uLuhle, nomtshana wam uZen. [My nephew/niece, Luhle, as well as my nephew/niece Zen.]

It is a great privilege to participate in this debate, as our country commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1976 generation. On behalf of our movement, we pay tribute to the heroes and heroines of 1976, both those who have passed and those who remain with us, for their immeasurable contribution to the struggle for freedom and the liberation of our country.

Thus, we in this House, hon member Maynier and his other forces never imagined that they would ever be in Parliament with Blacks, and let alone, serving in the Executive with Blacks. [Applause.] It is as a result of the sacrifices of the 1976 generation. The history of the 1976 uprising is often told through the events that unfolded in Soweto. Yet, it is important to remember that the flames of resistance spread throughout the country, including the Black townships of the Western Cape.

Our province produced many brave young activists, who stood at the

forefront of the struggle against apartheid and oppression. Among them were the Fassie brothers, Kenneth and Themba from Langa High, Rashied Omar from Salt River, to mention but a few. Their courage, activism and leadership inspired countless young people to join the struggle against the racist and barbaric apartheid regime.

Their names, together with those of many unsung heroes and heroines, form an important part of the rich history of children resistance in South Africa, and the Western Cape in particular. We are concerned at this point that the hon MEC claims to be leaving, we are told, what legacy is he leaving, of which he showed a meek finger to this generation, because as long as the people, the students of Bloekombos Secondary remain without electricity, without water, there is no legacy the Minister will leave behind.

Hon Speaker, the legacy must inspire us to confront poverty, inequality, unemployment, social injustice that defines the living realities of many young people in the Western Cape, not abstract debates of the elite and some remembrance. Perhaps the most important message we can convey to this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is that the best way to honour the class of 1976 is to continue their struggle.

We must challenge both this Government and big business to create meaningful opportunities for young people, rather than condemning them to insecure and precarious short-term forms of employment in this province. [Applause.] The youth of 1976 did not fight so that the future generations

can inherit poverty, unemployment, and also that concentration of the world to remain in the hands of the few Whites and some pockets of the Black image.

Like the then generation, young people today must raise their voices on issues that affect their lives and future. They must challenge unemployment, retrenchment, casualisation, labour exploitation. They must speak out against exploitation that is often prevalent in call centres. The hospitality industry, the security, the agricultural sector. They must reject the long destabilisation of work where young people are trapped in insecure, low paying jobs.

Young people must also confront the scourges of crime, racism, drug abuses which continue to destroy communities, and rob many of their futures here in the Western Cape. Far too many young people are recruited into gangs and used as foot soldiers in gang violence, extortion and drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Yet, despite the scale of this crisis, the Provincial Government's response remains overly focussed on school-going learners, while thousands of out of school and unemployed young people, the very group most vulnerable to gang recruitment, continue to fall through the cracks.

Beyond the nominal increase allocated to the budget of the Department of Land by Minister Mackenzie, there is little intergovernmental programmes that warrant recommendation. We must also challenge the Western Cape Government's failure to provide adequate sports and infrastructure, and its

continuing neglect of sporting facilities in working class communities, as witnessed in Hamburg, in Citrusdal, in Beaufort West, in Gugulethu, to mention but a few. Young people deserve access to safe and recreational sports facilities.

At the same time, young people must reject the xenophobia and all forms of division within the working class. We must reject the dangerous narrative that foreign nationals, whether documented or undocumented, are responsible for the unemployment and poverty, as witnessed in Kraaifontein and other parts of the province a few weeks ago, where learners were manipulated and hijacked by [Inaudible.]

The current amendment requires our youth to be politically conscious and organised so that their frustrations and anger and aspirations are not misdirected or manipulated. The real problem lies in employers and sectors of big business, in sectors such as agriculture, hospitality, that exploit foreign nationals as a source of cheap labour.

These sectors in this province are protected by this Provincial Government, particularly the agricultural sector. Hon Speaker, our struggle must never be directed against fellow workers and poor people. Instead, young South Africans and foreign nationals must unite, demanding the same work, fair wages.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, the youth of the Western Cape, under the

leadership of the ANC Youth League, [Inaudible.] Young Workers Organisation, All Progressive Youth Formation, rise up, organise and intensify the struggle against poverty, unemployment, inequality and exploitation, challenge both this Government and big business, until economic justice is achieved.

Do not relent. Do not retreat. Do not surrender, until economic freedom is realised in your lifetime. This Government must urgently, urgently make new comprehensive and responsive youth development policies that speak directly to the realities confronting today's generation, and places young people at the centre of development. Such a policy would be a fitting tribute to the spirit of 1976, and the meaningful investment of the future of our province.

We hear some of the ANC speaking here, and the content of their speeches indicated that they are detached from the realities of the youth of Khayelitsha, of Mitchells Plain, of Citrusdal, of Hangberg. Instead, they record on their own papers. There is nothing on the ground. What we see is young people ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please conclude.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ... gangs, as well as other wrongdoings. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sports, hon Minister Mackenzie. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you for calling this debate for young people. It is certainly a privilege and an honour for me to stand here on this debate. Hon Speaker, I post every day under the theme, *carpe diem*. It means, seize the day. Take advantage of the opportunity wherever you are in whatever you do.

I want to welcome and recognise Hope FC and the team from Mitchells Plain that are here today, because they took advantage of *carpe diem*. The cup on my left-hand side is not just a cup. It is what hope stands for, what hope means and what hope delivers when people take advantage of it. So to Marlin and Renee and Hope FC, you, what you have done is incredibly, incredibly successful, and that is why it is an honour for me to invite you and to have you here in Parliament today. †Baie, baie, baie dankie. [Applause.] [Thank you very, very much [Applause.]]

Hon Speaker, in communities where there are challenges, Hope FC represents hope. Not only for the people of Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha and the broader Cape Flats, but for the people of the Western Cape and of the country, and for anyone who does not watch soccer, today is the day to start watching soccer, because these future Bafana Bafana stars are sitting right here with us. As much as I would like to invest in the current team that is playing

tonight, I am not a losing man, so I will place my money on these young people for the next four or five years, because they are going to bring the World Cup home. [Applause.] Hon Speaker, that informs our strategy. What they have achieved now, informs our strategy to invest in ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. The point of order is hon member Mackenzie is saying that we are losing tonight.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not – order, hon members. That is not a point of order. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, I am a hopeful man. [Laughter.] An extremely hopeful man, and I hope that we are going to win and go all the way. What they have achieved informs our Western Cape Schools for Strategy. Two comments were made by our other colleagues on the other side about legacy. I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleague, David Maynier.

Two years ago, when we started talking about school sport, and looked for funding for school sport, my colleague, David Maynier walked the path with me, and we managed to find R130-million to invest in school sport. [Applause.] So, as you leave us and represent us on the national stage, I want

to say to my bench mate, thank you, †baie dankie, †enkosi, for helping me to get R130-million. [Applause.]

I appreciate you, and that, my friend, is one of the greatest legacies that you leave, because the beneficiaries of this will sit in this room, and the new sports facilities that are coming in communities across the province, our new leagues, our new sport equipment that we will be rolling out from Mitchells Plain to Khayelitsha, will have your name on it. Nkosi. Because we talked about it and we have done it, and have now delivered it, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. You, my friend, as a bench mate and as a fighter for the R130-million, I want to say, thank you. We are going to miss you, and we know, our National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, is in good hands, †so, bring die vis huis toe, en terug Kaap toe [so, bring the fish home, and back to the Cape.]

But, hon Speaker, it is the investment in young people that will change our communities around. What we see here today, I have got a sense of pride and emotion, to see these young people here today. I also want to welcome Lamicah, from Mitchells Plain, who is joining us today. She set...and hon members, I am not sure how privileged we are to have this young lady here. Lamicah Adamson, I think she is here.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Is she from Tafelsig?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: She is from

Mitchells Plain. She set a national record, hon members. A national record. So, if you do not watch athletics now, you better watch, because the next Olympic gold medal is going to come from this young lady from Mitchells Plain. [Applause.] It reaffirms, it again reaffirms our decision to invest the R130-million in school sport. That is what young people of today want, and that is what they need, and we see it now in 4K.

Hon members, I will side with my colleague, hon member Benson, who always has a lot to say, but people vote with their feet. Just yesterday, I actually felt a bit sad, hon Minister Meyer, because they have received four votes. †Een, twee, drie, vier. [One, two, three, four.] Yet, by Facebook pictures, they have over 30 people at the voting station. Your own members did not vote for you yesterday. That is the difference between you and us. People vote with their feet, and they raised the issue of Hangberg.

Again, sometimes things are very predictable, because the Hangberg, where hon member Sayed was yesterday, guess who invaded that land? †Hulle is doodstil. Hulle weet wie dit was. [They are dead quiet. They know who it was.] So, the damage and the maintenance cost, as always, have its roots and its origins at the ANC. Now the City must find new money to fix the Hangberg problem.

So, it is fine to stand up in Parliament and say the maintenance has not been done, but they forget to claim ownership of a man who is taking videos, who was part of the – you know the activist I am talking about, who damaged that

land. I think we all know who that is. Hon members, I must say that a lot of members – you all know who he is. A lot of members say a lot of things.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is the hon MEC willing to take a question and tell us who the person is?

The SPEAKER: Order. Order. I am going to ask the hon Minister. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take the question?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, hon member, I have nothing else to say.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Order! Hon member Sayed, on your point of order, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon members. Hon members, we do not support the EE in his current form to the hon member Marais. We do support meritocracy ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So, on a point of order, given that he did not – he got an opportunity to take a question, but the hon Minister is misleading the House. He is misleading the House on what he is saying.

The SPEAKER: Hon ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is a substantive motion.

The SPEAKER: Order, members. A substantive motion is related to a member in the House. The hon Minister referred to an activist outside of the House, so that is not a point of order. Hon – order! Hon member Sayed, is that a new point of order? Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, which the hon Minister said, we know. So, in that sense, it is casting aspersions on members of the House, because it is casting an aspersion assuming that we know who such an activist is. We know who such an activist is, and that we have got that particular knowledge. This is casting an aspersion. He must come with a substantive motion on that or get one of the shadow Ministers that they have there. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, I have given you latitude. Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Ministers. Thank

you.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon member Sayed, I have given you a lot of latitude. Hon members, if you rise on a point of order, can you please indicate your point of order. You do not need to elaborate or expand on your point of order. That is my job. I will interpret the Rule and the point of order. Hon member Walters, is that a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, I would prefer our Provincial Minister to conclude his speech. I withhold my point of order. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Just for the record, that is not a point of order. Hon member Mackenzie, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. There were some comments made by some of our members which obviously do require some response. Hon member Sayed said education must lead to somewhere. He said education must lead to employment. Education must lead to hope, and he was happy to draw inspiration from the youth of 1976.

But all the things they have said are not new. It is things that I personally, standing here, standing there as a back bencher, warned them about six, seven years ago. The issue of crime, we warned the then General Bheki Cele, ANC Minister, ANC Police General, not to dis-appoint and remove the Gang Unit.

We warned them, do not disband the Gang Unit. I warned them, do not disband the Gang Unit. I warned them not to give R40-billion to South African Airways. I warned them that a hundred ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You are lying.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is an hon member on the floor. Hon member Ngqentsu, what is your point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I want to establish, hon Speaker, whether the hon Minister is prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the hon Minister. Please take your seat. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, I only have 30 seconds left. I need to make my point.

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister is not prepared to take your question. Order! Hon Minister, you may continue. Hon Minister, please do not shout from your bench. Please rise if you want to address me. Yes, you may.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, my time is moving. I am busy ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: I will ask the Table Staff to check the time. Hon Minister Wenger?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: A point of order, hon Mr Speaker, that the time is being removed when you were asking the hon member whether he is willing to take a question or not.

The SPEAKER: I will ask ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Just ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Table Staff that it was 53 seconds. Hon member Ngqentsu, is that a new point of order because I have ruled on the previous point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The issue is that, hon Speaker, as when you allow hon Minister Wenger to speak, we are going to experience technical problems. You should not have allowed.

The SPEAKER: Hon ... [Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Because of her hand that ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Ngqentsu, that is not a point of order. Please take your seat. Hon members, may I please remind you that it is also unparliamentary to rise on frivolous points of order. Hon members, there are members in the gallery. There are citizens online watching this very, very critical debate. Before we end today, I am going to, in the record, remind members what a Speaker's Debate is, what it is supposed to be, and what the benefit of Speaker's Debates are. Hon Minister, you may continue. You have 53 seconds remaining.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Can I just say thank you to my colleague as he leaves us, hon minister David Maynier, thank you to our Year Beyond Team. We invest in young people. Our Year Beyond Programme, which takes in 3 500 people, is now so successful, that the programme will be rolled out in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng. So, they copy from us and ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please take your seat? Order, members. Order, members! Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Our Year Beyond Programme is now so successful, that the NYDA has approached us to take it to the Eastern Cape and Gauteng. That is how we invest in young people, and we continue to help other provinces in this country.

We know the youth challenges in this province. We know the challenges we face, and we are working very hard to address those challenges. I am privileged to be part of a government that is doing that on a daily basis, on a weekly basis. I want to thank our colleagues on this side of the bench. We are fishing in the right pond. We are doing the right things to ensure our young people get opportunities.

I can urge everyone to please watch Bafana Bafana tonight at six o'clock. This Friday night, our hockey team is playing at half past seven at Hartleyvale Stadium, and on Sunday afternoon, our Proteas Women's Team is playing at half past three. Support them and ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired. Please take your seat.  
[Applause.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I thank you.  
[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, before we adjourn for today, I wish to remind hon members that in terms of Rule 147 subsection 1, the purpose of the Speaker's Debate. The Speaker may, from time to time, but limited to once a month, identify topics of provincial interest and of non-party political nature for debate in the House.

Hon members, today I have allowed a lot of latitude across the floor, which

was in fact at times going against this Rule. I want to, for the record state that that is by no way a precedent set for the next Speaker's Debate. I wish to remind members that when you participate in the debate, or a Speaker's Debate, that it must be, your input must be nonpolitical.

Hon members, with that being said, that brings us to the end of this debate. That also concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all members will be exited from the sitting, and the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 15:39.