
THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be seated. Hon members, before we proceed, I would like to remind the House about some of the procedural arrangements. The amended Rules have already been adopted and members are familiar thereto. We will now promptly proceed with the business of the House. But before I recognise the Chief Whip, allow me to wish Mr Poggenpoel, who is on my right hand side, a blessed birthday and that you will have an amazing year moving forward. I now recognise the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker, and I want to extend my best wishes to Mr Poggenpoel, as well as Mr Cleophas' birthday was yesterday and Mr Sassman, who celebrated his birthday on Tuesday. The old guard certainly growing. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 21, precedence be given to the Subject for Discussion in the name of Hon Windvogel. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections, agreed to. I again recognise the Chief Whip.

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

That notwithstanding Rule 163 that the House considers the Principle and the Finalisation of the Western Cape Monitoring and Support Municipalities Amendment Bill B8 of 2023 today. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Members, are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections, agreed to. Before we proceed with the subject of discussion, I have a ruling. At this particular time, I would like the Minister Meyer to please stand. Hon members, during the

Minister's reply to a question on the 28th of 2025, the hon Minister said, and I quote from Hansard:

“The White House is transactional, they only believe talking to business people and so for us, this is a real issue, but we believe that our strength as South Africa lies not in panicking, but in consolidating the situation and unlike the Opposition on that side of the House, where there is little brainpower, little intellect, the data, the science and the research is guided, has guided this side of the House.”

And the hon member Stoffel noted that the hon Meyer’s statement, little brainpower and little intellect, is totally unacceptable and enquired whether this remark was unparliamentary or not. When I enquired from the hon Minister whether he is willing to withdraw, he responded:

“I am willing to withdraw if it refers to any specific hon member, which I did not.”

End quote. I have now, hon Minister, have had an opportunity to study Hansard and have no doubt that the Minister was not referring to any specific hon member, but was clearly referring to, and I quote:

“The Opposition on that side of the House.”

It is my view that to refer to members as having little brainpower and little intellect is derogatory and it slanders on hon members' dignity. Accordingly, I hereby confirm my initial indication that the words in question are indeed unparliamentary and therefore I order hon Minister Meyer to withdraw this remark. I so rule.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I accept your ruling. I withdraw and apologise.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. We will now proceed with the Subject for Discussion and I recognise the hon Windvogel.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Ms R Windvogel: The growing tide of violent crime in the Western Cape: its roots in social ills, the failure of the responses of the Provincial Government and the devastating impact that it has on communities, health facilities and social development programmes.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, hon members and the people of the Western Cape, the African National Congress brings this debate to the House today, not for political advantage, but as a solemn call for accountability. We are here to speak for the voiceless, for the people of

Kraaifontein, Khayelitsha, Nyanga and Mitchell's Plain. We are here to speak for the mothers who have buried their children, for the families living in perpetual fear and for the communities that have been transformed into killing fields under this Government's watch.

The Western Cape is drowning in a tide of violent crime. This is not a new phenomenon. It is a crisis that has deepened under this DA Administration's failed policies. Every year when crime statistics are released, our province shamefully dominates the national ranking for murder and gang violence. We consistently have the highest number of police stations in the top 30 murder precincts in the country. This is not a statistical anomaly. It is a damning indictment of this Government's failure.

The ANC is here today to hold this Government accountable because we understand a fundamental truth that they seem to ignore, that crime is not just a police problem. It is a social crisis rooted in poverty, unemployment, inequality, the collapse of social services and the hopelessness that this Government has allowed to infester our townships in the rural areas. In 2019, this Government launched its publicised Safety Plan with great fanfare, promising to halve the murder rate by 2029.

Six years later, the results show that the murder rate has worsened year after year. The Premier speaks of progress that exists only in reports no one has seen. If he were not occupied with his high office, we would call these claims what they truly are. The Safety Plan is a monumental failure, a costly public

relations exercise that has consumed millions of Rands while our people continue to die in our streets. Let us examine the cold hard facts from this Government's own documents.

During just the two weeks of June school's holiday this year, the Forensic Pathology Service recorded 194 homicides, nearly 14 murders per day. Of these, 52 occurred in just 11 priority gang areas, with Mitchell's Plain recording 50 murders and Bishop Lavis 12. These numbers represent human life lost while this Government's plans failed them. We see this devastating inequality in this Government's response.

When even people were killed in one incident in Gugulethu, where was the urgent intervention from the DA-led Government? Yet when gang violence erupted in Mitchell's Plain, we suddenly saw immediate action, rewards for information, deployed safety resources from the City. This selective response reveals a disturbing pattern of neglect towards certain communities. The Department of Social Development is failing our youth catastrophically.

There are over 360,000 young people in this province between age 15 and 24 who are not in employment, education or training, left on the sidelines with no hope and no future. This Government offers empty programmes with no measurable targets while shifting blame for prosecution to the NPA and SAPS, as if they have no role in prevention and rehabilitation. They have failed to implement the National Drug Master Plan and in many municipalities, local drug action committees do not even function. How can

we fight crime when we are losing the battle against the drug that fuels it?

The Department of Education is failing our children. With nearly 1,500 schools in the province, the celebrated School Resources Officer Programme operates in fewer than 80. Thousands of learners remain unprotected. Teachers in the Philippi need police escort because extortionists storm their schools. This is the reality of education in the Western Cape 2025.

Our health facilities are overwhelmed by trauma or violence, draining resources meant for healing and care and this neglect extends to our rural areas, where documents show communities must organise their own safety through Neighbourhood Watches to escort children because the State is absent. The much publicised cooperation agreement signed in August 2024 was hailed as a breakthrough, but it was nothing new. The Safer Cities Model was already working in eThekweni, while the Government delayed for years due to political gains.

A year later, there is no visible improvement. CCTV cameras in crime hotspots remain broken and useless. The LEAP Programme, as financial reports show, has millions in unspent funds. It is millions in unspent funds, staggering 58% of its vehicle fuel budget went unspent by December 2024. This Government's answer is always deflection, calling for devolution of policing powers while, failing at the responsibility they already have.

Spatial planning, youth development, social infrastructures, these are their

constitutional mandates, and they are failing miserably. Hon Speaker, this crisis is not accidental, it results from political choices. This Government allows instability to persist in poor and working-class communities because it serves the political interests. They consolidate power in wealthier suburbs by fuelling fear and divisions, a cruel calculated strategy played with the life of the poor.

We do not need more promises, we need a radical shift. We need a whole-of-society approach that tackles the root cause of crime, including poverty, inequality, unemployment, and illegal guns. We need this Government to stop the blame game and take accountability. The 14 lives lost in Kraaifontein in a single week are not statistics. They are a verdict on this Government's failure. The blood is on their hands. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, South Africa has no permanent Police Minister. The police top brass are fighting each other in a broken Commission of Inquiry. And while the President speaks about an AI revolution, the SAPS-CAS system is based on DOS. The National Prosecuting Authority has no succession plan in place, and no NDPP identified, and key NPA positions remain vacant.

I therefore want to thank the hon member from the ANC for raising this

debate, and we look forward to hearing what her party, in charge of the criminal justice system, is doing to fix these systemic issues. In the words of ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa," perhaps the political leaders of the criminal justice system should learn from the DA". Last week, Acting Minister of Police Professor Cachalia stood in Mitchell's Plain and told residents what they already know.

There is no concrete plan to stop the wave of gang violence on the Cape Flats. He told residents that they are defenceless. He admitted it. There is no resourcing. There is no implementation. And there is no plan. Let that sink in. A national government that is tasked with leading the fight against crime does not even have a plan to do so. This is neglect. It is betrayal. It is the National Department of Police, led by decades of a succession of ANC appointees, abandoning the people of the Western Cape.

The first responsibility for reducing violence lies squarely with the South African Police Service, which is under the control of the National Government. It is mandated by the Constitution to prevent, combat, investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure inhabitants and their property, and uphold and enforce the rule of law. Former Police Ministers Bheki Cele, Fikile Mbalula and the currently suspended Senzo Mchunu had opportunities to act, and they failed. They failed to plan. They failed to resource. And they failed to act.

Worse, shocking allegations have been made about SAPS being hollowed out.

Our police-to-population ratio now stands at one officer for every 429 residents, already worse than the national average of 1 to 417. But in some of the hardest hit areas, the ratio is catastrophic. One officer for 962 residents. Think about that, Deputy Speaker. 962 people for only one police officer? How can the ANC justify this?

How can they look at the mothers of Hanover Park, the fathers of Delft, the families of Manenberg in the eye and say, you deserve only half the police protection of everyone else in South Africa? Section 206 of the Constitution ...[interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: The Minister of Police must set national policing policy in consultation with provinces, taking into account provinces' needs. Why then has Pretoria decided that the safety of the people of the Western Cape matters less? Even our courts, the very halls of justice, are under attack. In the past eight months, there have been eight shootings in or around court buildings in this province. Six people have been murdered, including witnesses who were there to testify.

If our courts are not safe, justice cannot prevail and crime cannot be stopped. Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot sit by while Pretoria fails us. Any society that wants to change the trajectory of entire communities must act on two fronts, reducing violence today and preventing violence tomorrow. Violence

reduction means boots on the ground, taking weapons off the street, investigating crimes, convicting criminals and enforcing the law with urgency and courage.

Violence prevention means addressing the drivers of criminal behaviour – poverty, inequality, lack of opportunities and substance abuse – so that the next generation has a chance of a better future. In the face of national abandonment, the Western Cape is fighting back, because we have no other choice through both violence reduction and violence prevention.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat? I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Hon Deputy Speaker, this is a very important subject for discussion, and this side of the House listened attentively to the hon Windvogel when she tabled. Hon Windvogel is constantly in violation of Rule 40. I would ask that you please call Hon Windvogel to order, because she is in violation of Rule 40 consistently and as a known constitutional delinquent in this Parliament, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon... please take your seat, I will recognise you. I will deal with this particular point first. [Interjection] Hon members? Hon members? [Interjection] Hon members. Hon Members, I am not going to name any member as yet, but I would want to say, I would want to caution members on either side of the House to please allow each and every speaker

the time that is allocated to them, in order to participate in this vital subject of discussion that was brought forward by the hon Windvogel. I would want to caution each and every member on either side of the House. I will recognise the Minister, the clock was stopped. Are you rising on a new point of order? Let me recognise you.

†Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): *Enkosi, Speaker. Speaker ndicela ukubuza okanye ukucela uba uqaphele lengxaki siyibonayo apha kulendle yowiso mthetho yentoba abaxesha amanintsi umbhexeshi u-hon Bosman amaxesha onke kweziveki sizibalayo unento yokungathi uxhaphazana nelungu lethu, ilungu u-Windvogel. Ndiyayicela lonto leyo intoba uyisele iso, enkosi.* [Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, I would like to ask or ask you to look carefully at hon Bosman that at all times during these past weeks he or she has been looking like he or she is abusing out member that is Windvogel, please look into that. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I will definitely examine the Hansard and if need be, I will revert back to the House. I trust that members, in terms of the caution on either side of the House, because we have a speakers list, political parties agreed to their speakers and to afford each and every speaker the opportunity in order to participate in the debate. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Through the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, or LEAP, we have deployed over 1,000

officers to crime hotspots, and the City of Cape Town has deployed an additional 700 Metro Police officers. They are making arrests, removing guns and saving lives, but this cannot replace national leadership, resources and political will. Our violence prevention programmes, though less visible than uniformed officers, are equally critical.

Planet Youth, an international evidence-based model, gathers data directly from young people, to help communities co-create interventions that work. Over 50,000 learners from 123 schools participated earlier this year. The results show both strengths and gaps, where young people feel supported, where risks begin and where families and communities need reinforcement. We can take heart from the fact that 93% of learners report feeling safe at home. 84% say they often or always enjoy school, and most are engaged in after-school activities, whether sports, faith-based programmes or cultural activities.

These are solid foundations, pillars of safety, belonging and opportunity that we must build on. At the same time, the data reveals risks. It shows us where young people feel unsupported. The power of Planet Youth is that it gives us the evidence we need to tailor-make and co-design solutions with parents, teachers, NGOs and Government departments such as Cultural Affairs and Sports, Education, Social Development, Police Oversight and Community Safety.

For the first time, we have hard data from young people to guide our

interventions, and we will repeat the survey every two years to make sure that we keep listening. Planet Youth is about preventing tomorrow's violence today, and it is about ensuring that the next generation does not repeat the cycles of poverty, exclusion and despair that fuel crime. While we are planting the seeds of prevention, the fruits will only be seen in years to come.

But violence is here today. Without national leadership and violence reduction, the cycle of crime will unfortunately continue. The Western Cape will act to protect our people, but we cannot and will not make excuses for a National Government that has abdicated its responsibility. Our message to police leadership is simple – act now, deploy more police, resource our stations, root out corruption and restore safety to our courts.

To the ANC, you have failed to keep South Africans safe. You have failed to protect the most vulnerable. And in this province, we will not stand by while you fail again. The people of the Western Cape, our mothers, fathers, children, neighbours and friends, deserve a government at every level that protects them and prepares a safer and better future. The DA-led Western Cape is fighting for you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I would want to again remind members that the acoustics in this Chamber is such that our voice, that if we talk, it actually carries all across the room. We will now proceed. And I recognise the hon Stevens on the online platform.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance to participate in this critical debate. The growing tide of violent crime in the Western Cape, its roots in social ills, the failures of Provincial and National Government responses and the devastating impact on communities, health facilities and social development programmes. Speaker, the Western Cape is bleeding, literally bleeding. Our communities are held hostage daily by violence in our homes, in our streets and tragically, even in our schools, hospitals and clinics.

Gunshots ring louder than opportunity. Mothers live in fear for their children. Children grow up learning survival, not success. Let us be clear. Violent crime is not merely a policing issue. It is a symptom of deeper structural failures. Unemployment, substance abuse, broken families, poor schooling outcomes – these are the breeding grounds of gangsterism and violence and what has either Provincial or National Government done to address these root causes?

The truth is, far too little. The Western Cape Government continues to point fingers at national policing, parole boards or even the newest term on the block, devolution of powers, while failing to fully use its own powers in education, social development, housing and urban planning. Instead of building safe and integrated communities, this Province entrenches structural apartheid.

Instead of meaningfully investing in youth development, it would draw

support from NGOs or turn its back on those already doing the hard work on the ground. Speaker, let me give you one example. In communities like Hanover Park, Kraaifontein, Fisantekraal and Delft, residents have pleaded for holistic intervention, not just more police, but youth programmes, trauma counselling and job opportunities.

Yet the response remains fragmented, inconsistent and inadequate. This is not governance, this is abandonment. And while healthcare workers fight to save lives in overcrowded trauma wards and social workers carry impossible caseloads in broken communities, the Government fails to provide the support they desperately need. These frontline workers are left carrying the burden of a failed system.

Speaker, if we are serious about ending violent crime, we must invest in people, in their healing, in their empowerment and in the future. We cannot police our way out of a crisis that was born out of inequality and nurtured by neglect. I call on this House and on the Western Cape Government to stop the blame-shifting and to take responsibility. Let us join forces, hands in roundtables and come up with tangible solutions.

Our people deserve more than excuses or passing-the-bucket justifications. They deserve leadership that protects, empowers and uplifts and I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stephens. We remain on the hybrid system, and I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, communities are terrified as they continue to witness people being butchered and killed on a daily basis. The perpetrators of these hideous crimes are not only heartless, but they have also proven not to have any remorse as they do not draw a distinction between a child, a woman or an elderly person. They just kill.

It is sad that our children in townships are subjected to hearing and witnessing multiple gunshots with every day passing, as well as witnessing dead corpses in the communities. These traumatic experiences will have long-lasting and devastating effects on the psychology of these children going forward.

Deputy Speaker, we cannot live in a society where murder is normalised and end up having children who idolise and find criminals as their role models. It is indeed true that this will in turn put pressure on other State departments such as Social Development, who must now use resources into endless programmes aimed at reversing the psychological damage inflicted on our kids.

Deputy Speaker, this Government is just losing the fight against crime and they are concealing the evidence from the public by even delaying crime statistics. As the EFF, we believe that such omissions are not by mistake but deliberate. Deputy Speaker, despite these attempts, it is evident that we are

now in a mafia state which is run by gangsters. And gang lords and turning to the Western Cape Provincial Government, this Premier of the Province is now quiet about the level of crime in this province as he has realised a long time ago that his so-called Safety Plan was a failure from inception.

Deputy Speaker, the City of Cape Town law enforcement funded by this Provincial Government is nothing but an outright failure. Millions of taxpayers' money is wasted without justifiable cause. Deputy Speaker, we were told by the Premier of this Province that the sole aim of law enforcement was to curb and to halve the murder rate in this province. However, since law enforcement was introduced, the opposite happened. Murder in the Western Cape continued and is still continuing to increase to this day.

In conclusion, Deputy Speaker, the time has come for this Government of the Western Cape to accept that they have lost the war against gangsters and drug lords. The community of the Western Cape is now left to fend for itself.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I recognise the hon Dr Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Deputy Speaker, each time I speak on crime, safety and social ills, I feel a deep sense of shame, quoting some of the worst statistics in the world. South Africa ranks among the highest globally in gender-based violence, femicide, rape and human trafficking. Unemployment is alarmingly high, particularly among youth and Black African women, while

corruption remains rampant. Inequality persists, and what pains me most is that these statistics often worsen over time.

Member Windvogel's debate reminds us that these challenges are a direct result of the ANC's 30-year rule. In this House, the ANC emphasises that South Africa is not a federal state and that the Western Cape is part of the country. Yet, as a governing party, the ANC sets national policies and laws that provinces are expected to implement. The Western Cape is a microcosm of the national safety crisis. The crimes we face here mirror the broader challenges confronting South Africa.

Deputy Speaker, you must ask, which ANC policies and programmes have brought us to this state of shame? On paper, the ANC policies on crime and safety look good, but in practice they fail. Gangsterism, drug abuse and gender-based violence continue unabated, while inequality, poverty and unemployment remain unresolved. The ANC manifesto promises, I quote, "intensify the war on crime, tackle drugs, organised crime, gender-based violence, gangsterism and implement a national youth plan against substance abuse".

The reality tells a different story. Porous borders have facilitated drug trafficking. With Cape Town becoming a major transit route, drug use in Coloured communities rose from 1.5% to 10% between 2002 and 2017. The Substance Abuse Act of 2008, overseen by the National Department of Social Development, has failed in its core pillars. Pillar Supply Reduction: SAPS

faces allegations of stealing confiscated drugs and colluding with criminals.

The second pillar, Demand Reduction, they have reduced the funding to the NGOs to undermine the early intervention. The Harms Reduction, we have seen the master plan, where it has got a limitation to implement the prevention. The ANC also amended the Drug Trafficking and Misuse of Drugs Act to protect cannabis, despite evidence it is often the first substance abused, and youth experiment with after alcohol.

Promises on policing are equally unfulfilled. Despite the two Ministers, two Deputy Ministers of Police, there is still no delegated gang fighting strategy or resources of the Western Cape. Gender-based violence funding is limited and the National Gender-based Violence Femicide Council remains underfunded and non-functional. Corruption persists despite lifestyle audits, which is part of the ANC manifesto. Anti-corruption also persists with ministerial accountability as part of the promises that they even indicate.

Speaker, the growing tide of crime and social ills with the Western Cape as a microcosm reflects the ANC's failure. The ANC's legacy is one of false promises, where the vulnerable are left more vulnerable, the corrupt more corrupt, the criminals more free, and South Africa left behind. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mbombo. We proceed via the online platform. I recognise the hon Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, turning back the tide of violent crime requires an all-of-Government approach. A research document by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, published in 2019, found that inequality frustrated masculinity. Lack of social cohesion, and substance abuse are among the primary drivers of violent crime.

Violent crimes are, therefore, fruits of socioeconomic-rooted problems that policing alone cannot resolve but merely mitigate. We need a fully functional Government of National Unity that will foster greater cooperation between the Western Cape Provincial Government and our National Government. The ANC and the DA are currently South Africa's two largest political parties in the GNU and who must carry the heavier weight of responsibility of Government functions.

†Agb Speaker, daar is 'n gebrek aan 'n effektiewe veiligheidsplan vir die Wes-Kaap deur die Premier en die erkenning deur die Nasionale Minister van Polisie dat daar nie 'n plan in plek is om misdaad in die Wes-Kaap te bestry nie. Dit is teleurstellend en skandalig. [Hon Speaker, there is a lack of an effective safety plan for the Western Cape by the Premier and the acknowledgement by the National Minister of Police that there is no plan in place to counter crime in the Western Cape. It is disappointing and scandalous.] Actions to reverse violent crimes in our province must include limiting shebeens or removing them completely from high-crime areas, building more rehab centres for indigent persons, and bringing back prayer,

religious and moral guidance to our schools and education system.

In closing, Speaker, further to this, we call for a return to Christian conservative values and moral integrity and solutions from all political parties to address the violent crime issue. I thank you, Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim*. Hon Deputy Speaker, the growing tide of violent crime in the Western Cape is not just a statistic, it is a daily reality for our people. Families live in fear, children walk to school uncertain of their safety, patients and healthcare workers are threatened in clinics, and social workers abandon vital programmes because of gang violence.

The roots of this crisis lie in poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and broken social structures – conditions that criminals exploit. Yet the Provincial Government continues to approach this as only a policing issue, rather than addressing the deeper social and economic neglect. Al Jama-ah calls for a holistic response, investing in youth development, expanding rehabilitation and counselling services, empowering families and building stronger partnerships between communities, law enforcement and faith-based organisations who already do the work of restoring dignity and hope.

Hon Speaker, crime is strangling development and undermining our health and social programmes. Our people deserve more than fragmented and reactive strategies. We must act with urgency, compassion and coordination to address both immediate safety and the root causes of violence. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, today we discuss a crisis that affects every corner of this province. The rising tide of violent crime is not only a threat to our safety alone, but to every aspect when it comes to schools, health facilities and affects the very social fabric that holds us together. But Deputy Speaker, as the ACDP in the Western Cape, we want to salute and applaud and congratulate the Prayer March held in Mitchell's Plain Sunday past.

An initiative with combined power of churches in a peaceful march, there was estimated over 4,000 people that participated. This was an event seen by the people of Mitchell's Plain, marching and praying for peace and hope in our communities. The voices of hope and peace raised in united prayer and stood against gang violence, senseless killings, not only in Mitchell's Plain, but across the province. The message is clear – Mitchell's Plain is not without hope.

This was a church initiative, resulted in success when churches united with prayer and offered Almighty God, in the name of Jesus, prayer, the entire walk from the beginning to the end. But Deputy Speaker, let me say, communities are stronger when people stand together. Edmund Burke said the following, and I quote:

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

I close quote. People in communities will have to stand together, Government cannot do it alone, communities will have to come forward and say enough is enough. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. If this debate was so important to the ANC, it then raises the question, where is the Leader of the Opposition? Surely he should have been leading the debate, not absent from the debate and absent from this House. Now, Speaker, it is time to face the truth. The violence in our community is not a failure of the Provincial Government, it is a failure of a corrupt and crumbling ANC.

You do not have to take my word for it. Listen to the words of Western Cape

Premier contender Naledi Pandor, who has told her fellow ANC members, ‘we have lost our glory. Let us not pretend about it. The people are looking at us with disdain, with horror, and with shame’. The people are looking at us with disdain, with horror, and with shame. And it is no wonder that President Cyril Ramaphosa told these ANC councillors that they have two options, service delivery or death.

The theft of billions and billions of Rands through ANC state capture has left our country facing a fiscal emergency, and every day we learn of a new case of ANC corruption. The ANC's failure to prioritise economic growth has hurt residents the most, with provinces seeing their budgets slashed and service departments like Education, Health and Social Development bearing the brunt of cuts by National Treasury.

And the ANC's failure has had real consequences that are felt by provinces as unemployment rises, especially amongst young people, creating the perfect recruiting environment for gangs. But Deputy Speaker, there is poverty in all provinces, there is unemployment in all provinces, and there are social problems in all provinces. So why is Western Cape specifically in a grip of such severe and senseless violence at the hands of criminal gangs? Why is that?

Well, the answer is simple. The ANC has ensured that other provinces are allocated more policing resources than the Western Cape. Here are the facts. Nationally, the average number of residents to police is 429 residents to one

police officer ...[interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I see the Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 40. It is the very same member that remains transgressing. It is not about being a target, it is about the integrity of this House. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise you now. Hon members. [Interjections] Hon members, this particular debate and this subject of discussion is very important. I have noted the member that instead of running commentary, it borders on running shouting, because I was very close to actually calling out that member as well. I am okay if there is talk, because we are still able to hear the speaker, but it literally borders on shouting. And I would caution members again to please respect the decorum of the House. Political parties have submitted names of members to participate in this debate, and we are nearing the end with three additional speakers. Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP: Deputy Speaker, the Rules of this House allow heckling. I have not heard yourself as a speaker making a ruling on heckling forever since this debate has started. We cannot allow members from that side to use the Rules to abuse us and suffocate us in interacting. This is a political

debate. Let us be allowed to engage as far as we can. You are there on that position to make a determination whether we are right or wrong. We cannot be having many speakers here, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am very much able and capable to do this. Heckling, and like I have indicated, there is currently running shouting and I will not allow for shouting in this particular House, because we are hon members and this is the decorum that we would need to maintain. From this particular side, I am even able to see that when members shout, I am able to see a certain part of the body that I can literally see it is a shouting exercise going on. So, please hon members. Minister, you have four minutes and 10 seconds remaining.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I hope the hon members on that side of the House start to listen with their ears rather than their mouth. As I was saying, despite the Western Cape being the fastest growing province in the country, the total number of police personnel has in fact...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I recognise you. You may stand.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, I just request you that you are going to have to, as you had said earlier on, do your work to just teach the hon members. They do not have to demean the other members when they are engaging. They do not have to use insults, because when we stand here and you speak about things that we say in an honourable manner, I think that must be the maintenance of this House if there should be decorum, because we can defend ourselves.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Hon members, if I refer to the previous point of order ...[interjections] Hon members, I am speaking currently. If I am referencing the previous point of order that was raised, there was a clear call for this particular political debate to proceed. I will again apply my mind in that particular comment and revert back to the House if need be. But I will once again caution members not to rise on frivolous points of order and to allow the speaker to conclude, because each and every party has submitted their speakers list. Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, despite the Western Cape being the fastest growing province in this country, the total number of police personnel has in fact not increased, but decreased and we have just 16,000 actual police officers in our province. The Western Cape has a higher number of SAPS detective vacancies, than any other province in the country, with the Western Cape having 902 reported vacancies, while the Eastern Cape has 32 more detectives than posts.

It is no wonder that the acting Minister of Police, Firoz Cachalia, has admitted that they do not have a plan to stop the violence, saying, and I quote, “the Police Commissioner and the head of crime intelligence presented me with a plan. They must still implement the plan. They must still resource the plan. The truth is”, and I quote, “I do not believe the plan is yet in place”. And that from the National Minister of Police, I do not believe that the plan is yet in place.

Shocking, Deputy Speaker. It is time to face the facts. SAPS in our province has been deliberately underfunded and under-resourced by the ANC for decades. SAPS have been left fighting crime with both hands tied behind their backs and the message from the ANC to our residents is clear – you are on your own and your safety is your problem.

Our response, of course, in the Western Cape Government is exactly the opposite. Exactly three weeks ago, we debated measures that we have put in place to ensure the safety of our children at schools. We spoke about our School Resource Officers, about our Safe Schools Call Centre, about holiday security subsidies and high security fencing at over 150 schools. We spoke about our Behavioural Intervention Programmes, about our interventions to improve school attendance, to keep kids in school and off the streets.

We spoke about our district support teams who step in to provide support to our schools when violent incidents have occurred. We spoke about the close

coordination with the SAPS and several other measures which we have put in place. But of course, all these interventions cost money. Our Department is spending R23.6 million this year funding School Resource Officers from law enforcement because SAPS does not have the manpower to support our schools. If the Western Cape was not being short-changed in policing, we would have used this money to hire 47 more teachers.

So not only is the failure of the ANC to fully resource SAPS in our province costing lives, it is also costing children their futures. We will continue to invest in safety of our school communities because unlike the ANC, we put learners first. It is time to face the truth. When the ANC prioritises funding corrupt State-owned Enterprises, we prioritise service delivery and support to the people. When the ANC cuts SAPS resources in our province, we pick up the slack and fund safety interventions. When the ANC says you are on your own, the Western Cape Government says we have got your back. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape has been gripped by violent crime that tears through communities, destabilises families, overwhelms clinics and threatens schools. But crime does not fall from the sky. Let us begin with the roots. The blood in our streets is not about bad people making bad choices. It is about apartheid spatial planning.

Entire communities dumped on the margins of our city, overcrowded, stripped of opportunity, trapped in poverty. And this Government, they have not fixed it, they have made it worse, packing more people into broken townships while shielding wealthy suburbs. And this is not justice, this is the apartheid's legacy, alive and well. It is also youth unemployment at nearly 50%, leaving young people vulnerable to gang recruitment. It is broken families, underfunded schools and a lack of mental health and social support.

And yet, how has this Government responded? With a failing Safety Plan and fewer teachers in our schools. And every day we wake up to news of a new shooting. Why? Because policing treats the symptoms, not the disease. You cannot arrest away inequality and you cannot police away despair. Socio-economic interventions strike at the heart of the problem. When young people have education, training or work, gangs lose their grip.

But if families remain crammed into overcrowded townships, backyard shacks and informal settlements, without dignity or services, crime will keep feeding on that desperation. But here is the paradox. The more we spend on policing, the less we invest in the programmes that would prevent crime. The choices before us are stark. Do we keep pouring money into a Safety Plan that has failed? Or do we tackle the roots of crime with bold, sustained socio-economic and infrastructure investment?

We can police poverty or we can end it. Only one of those choices will break

the cycle of gang violence in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the debate today remains an indicator of a claim to civilisation, a claim of being a civilised people. As continued deprivation of the very people that were deliberately exploited, dispossessed and dehumanised by colonial and apartheid rule continue to bear the same brunt under a democratic order, most outstanding the much self-appropriated best-run province under the exceptionalist Democratic Alliance.

We have a crisis in this country and worse for citizens of this province, with a party that loud hails it is the best since the last Christmas. But what we are not seeing is any exceptionalism to lead and show the country as the biggest beneficiaries of the apartheid order, how they are turning the tide around the situation with the very speed that it postures with. DA pretends crime in this province exists in a vacuum, separate from the effects of structural racism and exclusionary economic policies that renders these communities invisible.

Structural racism, hon Deputy Speaker, please whisper to hon Wenger, because we are still waiting for Tandi, that she at the time chose not to speak about Lucy, not to speak about George, but to speak about Tandi because of a particular history. That is why her call in this House was saying she will resolve the problems of Tandi because there is a particular history of not a

John, not Elsie, but Tandi.

Hon Wenger creates and reinforces underdevelopment by creating a system of unequal access to resources, to power and opportunities, resulting to concentrated poverty in these areas we call the townships, and wealth for those that are racially classified as privileged, some of them sitting here in this House on the other side. The education outcomes in the country are no different in this province and shows and mirrors the legacy of the past where Africans and Coloureds were condemned to inferior education, meant to produce in them cheap labour.

30 years down the line, the very ANC, you deliberately distort its performance in this House, disrupted this trajectory and today we have Black and Coloured children accessing education for free and higher education, as a clear policy intervention. Interestingly in this province, the record of the ANC has been regressed by the DA, taking us back to apartheid machinations where the excellence of Black schools like Fezeka High deteriorated and the WCED failing to invest in mathematics, instead allowing our Black kids to flood in maths lit whilst little is done drastically to roll out STEM subjects as we saw during ANC times and Mandela to get private sector including the likes of Mark Shuttleworth, who were even able to adopt township schools and equip them with tools to increase their excellence in maths and science.

The current education outcomes in this province and generally responsible for the poor labour market participation of the African and Coloured

economically active individuals, the DA has made a claim that they prioritise merit than employment equity as a deliberate policy to correct this structurally racialised labour market distortions. The bias of the labour market in South Africa to White males is no accident of history but is an engineered legacy of Jan van Riebeeck, of the 1910 Union of South Africa Pact, of the 1948 Republic of South Africa of the Nationalist Party, that the once Democratic Party, now Democratic Alliance, has chosen in the democratic dispensation to relive and use, to drag the very voters that gave them power to rule further in the democratic project of 1994.

History will judge you harshly. Hon Speaker, crime is not randomly distributed across this province. It is concentrated in 11 police precincts, all of them working class townships and informal settlements where poverty, joblessness and inequality are rife. Speaker, many in the DA are denying a well-established fact that there is a direct link between poverty, inequality, joblessness and crime. This is not a slogan, it is evidence. As far back as 1950s, American criminologist Robert Martin argued that when people are denied the opportunity to achieve success through education, decent work and upward mobility, some may turn to crime as an alternative means of survival.

What Martin said in the 1950s is the daily reality in the Western Cape in 2025. The evidence is overwhelming. A Scottish study in 2022-23 found that 31% of people entering prison came from the 10% most deprived communities compared to just 1% from the wealthiest. In the Western Cape, this reigns true. It is even starker. Our prisons are filled almost exclusively with the

poor from Kraaifontein, from Mitchell's Plain, from Manenberg, from Khayelitsha, from Gugulethu. You will not find wealthy suburbs represented there.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me remind this House of what was said earlier. We have a crisis of over 360,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in this province that are not in education, employment or training. 360,000 lives trapped in hopelessness. Where are the programmes to bring them in? What is the Growth for Jobs doing? Where is the Safety Plan that was sold to our people as a panacea? It is not there. Every year, PERO and MERO reports out, point out these glaring failures, but there is no appetite to fix them.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if we are to reduce violent crime in this province, then the DA must abandon its politics of denial and invest seriously in tackling poverty and inequality. Until then, every statistic of murder, every prison cell filled with the poor and every community terrorised by gangs will stand as an indictment on the DA's rule. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise in this debate with a heavy heart and with a clear purpose to speak to the communities of the Western Cape who are being failed, not by chance, but by design. The Democratic Alliance has

committed itself to a whole-of-society approach, a model that unites Government, civil society, and communities to tackle the deep-rooted social ills that plague our province. It is a model built on partnerships, accountability, and innovation.

Hon Member Windvogel is correct that the whole-of-society approach is the only approach that can work. Hon. Member **Anroux Marais** is working tirelessly, day and night, every evening to make the Western Cape a safer place, not by speaking, but by acting - walking the streets every single night in this province. This vision is actively being sabotaged by the very institutions, hon Deputy Speaker, that are meant to support our plans.

Let us be frank, like Hon Minister of Education did here today. The ANC-led National Government and the South African Police are failing the people of the Western Cape. Minister Wenger and Minister David Maynier gave a detailed exposé of how the ANC is failing to protect the citizens of the Western Cape. The facts are even deeper. In 2023-2024, the IPID reports highlight these failures. Just this year, hon Deputy Speaker, two SAPS officers in Moorreesburg were arrested for allegedly raping a woman after offering her a lift in a state vehicle.

In Firgrove, Nathan Robertson was fatally shot by a so-called warning bullet during a chaotic police operation. And in Manenberg, Latifa Freeman, a 57-year-old woman, was shot in the head by police while walking to her sister's house. She died after weeks in hospital. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Minister

just informed me three minutes ago, in the House, that two police officers were arrested today in Tableview for selling affidavits for R100. This is the rot of the police in the Western Cape and in South Africa.

But these are not isolated incidents, hon Deputy Speaker. The latest IPID report reveals over 5,000 cases of police misconduct in the past year alone. Hon Deputy Speaker, 460 deaths due to police action, 273 cases of torture, and 110 cases of rape committed by the police, an absolute failure by the ANC National Government. Hon Deputy Speaker, how can we trust and build trust with people meant to protect, and the very same people are causing harm?

I agree with the members who took part in this debate. South Africa is now a mafia state, a criminal state, a failed state. Hon Deputy Speaker, what is the ANC governance model to deal with this? The Crime Intelligence Division of SAPS is in complete disarray, plagued by corruption, political interference, and leaders of instability. You have intelligence leaks, mismanagement of secret funds, and politically motivated appointments have rendered this unit ineffective.

It failed to prevent the July 2021 riots in South Africa, and it continues to fail in dismantling organised crime. In the admission, as Minister Wenger pointed out earlier today, the National Minister states that they have no plan for the Western Cape to deal with crime or gangsterism. What can we do? Well, this is why the Democratic Alliance, and this side of the House, are asking to

devolve powers and give them to a capable state. We will demonstrate how to run a capable government. We want that power!

And that is why I am calling on all members of this side of the House to support our plan to introduce a Western Cape Provincial Powers Bill, so that we can obtain the necessary powers. Once we have the powers, we will bring safety under the leadership of Minister **Anroux** Marais. There will be peaceful leadership in this province. And I say it is a betrayal of what is happening in South Africa under the ANC.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I recognise the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker. I was wondering whether the hon Minister is willing to take a question on your removal from Cabinet to be replaced by someone who cannot really handle it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, in moving forward, I would want to re-emphasise again, once the hon member rises and wishes to ask a question, you must first await the Chair to request from the Minister and not to ask your question. Hon Minister, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, this is such an important debate for the

safety of the citizens in this House. That is why one of my students was sitting in the gallery the other day. He came here with a specific purpose, to assess the quality and capacity, and I will not comment on the capacity because Hon. Gwede Mantashe has already spoken about it. I won't go in that direction.

But what I want to say, hon members, I think it is a betrayal of the mother in Hanover Park who buried her son because the ANC did not protect him. It is a betrayal of an entrepreneur in Khayelitsha whose business is closed because there is looting happening right in front of the police, and they are standing by. And I think hon Minister of Education and the Minister of Health are right. In this province, we are fighting back. We are not going to demand. We are going to fight back. We are demanding accountability. We are demanding justice from the ANC Minister of Police.

†Maar agbare lede, hier lê die hele uitdaging, die President van Suid-Afrika, die President van die ANC het die DA nie net geprys nie, hy het ook die waarheid gepraat. Die President van die ANC het gesê die DA is die beste, hulle moet kom leer. Ek vra nou vandag met trane in my oë, stem julle saam met die President? Stem julle saam met die President wat gesê het julle het nie kapasiteit nie?

[But hon members, here lies the challenge, the President of South Africa, the President of the ANC, not only commended the DA. He also spoke the truth. The President of the ANC said the DA is the best; they must come and learn. Now I ask you today with tears in my eyes, do you agree with the President?

Do you agree with the President who said that you don't have the capacity?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak to the Chair.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I ask with tears in my eyes whether the ANC members agree with their ANC President that there are problems and it can only be solved through the DA. Do you agree? I see disagreement. Thank you very much.

†Hon Deputy Speaker, wanneer 'n President, wanneer 'n President die boedel oorgee, my vriend van die Karoo sal dit verstaan, wanneer jy die boedel oorgee, en my vriend van George sal dit verstaan, die President het die boedel oorgegee. Wanneer jy die boedel oorgee, dan het jy net een taak ook, want jy kan nie net 'n toespraak hou en daar is nie 'n aksie nie, 'n toespraak moet opgevolg word met 'n aksie.

Die President het die boedel oorgegee, hier is die taak wat hy moet doen – hy moet voortgaan na die volgende aksie toe – die President het die boedel oorgegee, ek stel voor aan hierdie Huis vandag, wanneer jy die boedel oorgee in die politiek, dan ontbind jy die Parlement. Mnr die President, jy bedank en jy roep 'n vroeë verkiesing uit in terme van die voorsiening van die Grondwet, [Hon Deputy Speaker, when a President, when a President gives up hope, my friend from the Karoo wil understand that, and my friend from George will understand that, the President had given up hope. When you give

up hope, then you also have one task, because you cannot just make a speech and there is no action, a speech must be followed up by an action.

The President gave up hope, here is the task he has to undertake – he must proceed to the next action – the President gave up hope, I propose to this House today, when you give up hope in politics, then you dissolve the Parliament. Mr President, you resign and you call for an early election in terms of the provision of the Constitution,] *it* is called a snap election. It is happening around the world right now, people have snap elections.

†Wanneer jy jou boedel oorgee, dan roep jy 'n vroeë verkiesing uit. Ek vra die President, roep 'n vroeë verkiesing uit, ons is reg om dit te doen. Agbare Speaker, [When you give up hope, then you call for an early election. I ask the President, call for an early election, we are ready to do it. Hon Speaker,] the National Chairperson of the ANC said the ANC are good at singing. They are very good at singing. But when it comes to capacity, he says it is the *dilolo*. There is nothing. So the ANC councillors, are you in agreement with Gwede Mantashe that said the councillors can sing, but capacity is *dilolo*, there is agreement, Deputy Speaker, that they agree with Gwede Mantashe. They cannot afford not to agree.

I want to thank members who took part in this debate. I want to agree with hon member Christians that we need to stand together. People are suffering. People have pain. In German we say, “Die Leute hat mut verloren. The people have lost hope” people have pain. And we really ask that we stand

together. Thank you for bringing this debate. This is an important debate. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon members. Before we conclude the debate, I see the Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I did not want to interrupt my colleague, but I do rise on a point of order in terms of Rule 59(1)(a). The hon Nkondlo was attempting to impute improper motives on myself by saying that I create and reinforce underdevelopment. And I would like her to withdraw those remarks because I have worked every day of my political career to do exactly the opposite.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members, before I, there is probably only four members in this entire precinct that did not heckle once, no side comment, no shouting and I do want to appreciate those four members. They know who they are. Hon members, based on a point of order, what I will do at this particular stage, I have listened to the Minister. A point of order was raised. I will now look to member Nkondlo, to request from her if she's willing to withdraw.

If not, I will then study the Hansard and revert back to the House. Based on the comments that you have made during your speech ...[interjection]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): What comments?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...the Minister indicated ...[interjection]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): What comments specifically?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: With regards to inferring on her dignity ...[interjection]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I did not do that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...with the comments ...[interjection]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I did not do that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Member Nkondlo. So I will study the Hansard and I may revert back if necessary. Hon members, that concludes the debate. We now proceed in terms of Rule 197. And we will recognise the first Interpellation. I see the Minister. Minister Bredell.

INTERPELLATIONS

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

(a) What are the details of the measures that have been implemented to

ensure effective consequence management at Western Cape municipalities, particularly regarding accountability for officials found guilty of misconduct, and (b) how his Department is ensuring that repeated instances of governance failure are prevented in the future?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. And thank you to the hon Member for the interpellation. Hon Speaker, it should be noted that it is the primary responsibility of the municipalities itself to prevent corruption within its organisation.

Notwithstanding the above, in terms of and in accordance with the Provincial Government functions and responsibilities relating to the monitoring and support of Local Government, the following measures have been put in place to prevent corruption and ensure accountability. The Minister responsible for Local Government assesses the appointment of Senior Managers to ensure due diligence and compliance with the applicable legal framework governing such appointments. I must state that we will never tell a municipality who to appoint, but we follow the legal framework.

The Provincial Government and the Minister responsible for Local Government institutes litigation to challenge unlawful appointments made in respect of Senior Managers. And this is also something that I am worried about because so many municipalities are getting these appointments wrong on simple things like qualifications, like experience, etcetera. Thirdly,

allegations received within the mandate of the Provincial Government are assessed after following due process, to determine if there is reason to believe that maladministration, fraud or corruption or any other serious malpractice have occurred or are occurring in municipalities in this province.

Forensic investigators have been appointed in terms of Section 106 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act. Hon Speaker, depending on the nature of the allegations, these are either dealt with by myself, my Department of Local Government, Provincial Treasury, the municipality or are referred to other investigating bodies like the Director of Priority Crime Investigations, the Special Investigation Unit or the Public Protector, to investigate. The Provincial Government officials engage with and assist, where requested, other organs of state with measures to prevent corruption.

The Provincial Government officials sit on the Local Government Anti-Corruption Forum Steering Committee and participate in the forum itself. The Provincial Government assists municipalities with the development of bylaws, policies and standard operating procedures. The Provincial Government monitors and supports municipalities with the implementation of the disciplinary regulations and the formation of and establishment of Disciplinary Boards.

The upcoming training sessions and workshops are scheduled as outlined in the table below. So, I have got the table, but just to highlight Overberg District, 6 to 7 November, the Garden Route, Central Karoo, 13 to 14

October, Cape Winelands and West Coast, 21st and 22nd of October. And these training and topics in the training of councillors and municipalities are some ethical leadership and collaboration, strengthening Local Government for the future. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister. Good afternoon colleagues and good afternoon to the guests in the gallery. I recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, I wish to thank the Minister for his very comprehensive response to my question. What comes through very clearly is that the Western Cape Government takes its oversight role very seriously and is leading the way nationally when it comes to consequence management and support for municipalities. The measures that have been outlined by the Minister, from the vetting of senior appointments to the institution of forensic investigations under Section 106, demonstrates a proactive approach that sets our province apart from others in the country.

In fact, Speaker, where many provinces have allowed corruption to flourish unchecked, the Western Cape continues to build systems of accountability that inspire confidence in our residents. I particularly welcome the Minister's reference to the disciplinary regulations and the establishment of Disciplinary Boards. These measures are critical to ensuring that there are clear processes and that accountability is consistently enforced.

The people of the Western Cape deserve to know that when wrongdoing is identified, the system responds swiftly, fairly and transparently. From what the Minister has said, we can be proud that this Government is making that a reality. Can the Minister perhaps share a little bit about where Province's interventions have already yielded positive results in strengthening accountability within municipalities? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Bryant. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. As the African National Congress, we want to thank Hon Bryant for raising the crucial matter. The reality is that MEC Bredell and his Department have become the single greatest source of instability in the Western Cape municipalities. Its interventions are never about governance. They are political projects to shield DA councils while purging and destabilising non-DA-led councils. Knysna is a prime example.

Under ANC coalition leadership, Knysna has shown clear signs of improvement. Yet, instead of supporting this progress, the MEC has recklessly moved to dissolve the council. The decision undermines democracy, spits on the principle of co-operative governance, and it is precisely why the ANC has appealed to the NCOP to overturn it.

And while the MEC is obsessed with the ANC municipalities, he is extremely

silent on the rot in the DA stronghold. Take George Municipality, for instance. Under the Mayor Von Brandis, the municipality buried a damning investigation into the CFO R du Plessis over financial misconduct at the Craven Week dinner. A serious offence was deliberately downgraded, hidden in the confidential council item, and swept under the carpet. This is irregular procurement. Plain and simple.

Yet, instead of demanding accountability, and criminal charges, MEC Bredell looks the other way. Speaker, the hypocrisy is glaring. When it is an ANC municipality, the MEC deploys every weapon in his arsenal. When it is a DA corruption, he provides cover. This is not governance. It is political warfare, dressed up as oversight. And tomorrow, they will make noise about best run municipalities and clean ...[interjection]

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Why is it they hide corruption and protect DA thieves. Shame on you, MEC. [Indistinct – 1:21:26] ...[interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Stoffel. Thank you very much. Hon members, when I call you or advise you that your time has expired, please note that I give you an opportunity to conclude your sentence, not to start a new sentence and comma and provide you another opportunity to add more time. There is a reason why there is time allotted in terms of the Rules. I now recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, I must say I admire to an extent the bravery of member Stoffel in raising Knysna as an issue. We recently were up on an oversight visit in Knysna with our Infrastructure Committee and we heard some of the ongoing issues, the number of Municipal Managers that have been flown through in a very short space of time, the instability, the sewage that is flowing and popping out through the streets. We heard about the dead body, just two years ago, that was found in a municipal drinking water tank.

And how we found out recently that the security around that perimeter has still not even been fixed two years later. Now, to suggest that the ANC is on the right track and doing the right job is absurd. But furthermore, to suggest that the only reason that the Minister is intervening, is because the ANC is in charge, is even more absurd. The reason the Minister is intervening is because that municipality is collapsing and the fact that the ANC is in charge, unfortunately, is merely a coincidence.

Speaker, just on one brief point back to what the Minister has said. It is encouraging to see that the Provincial Government is not just responding to allegations of misconduct, but it is also actively investing in prevention through training, workshops and leadership development. It is also reassuring to note that the Province continues to play a supportive role by assisting our municipalities with bylaws, policies and procedures. These practical tools make it easier for our councils to act decisively and consistently when faced

with governance challenges.

The Western Cape has already distinguished itself as the best run province in South Africa and initiatives like these are part of the reason why. So, Minister, another follow-up question perhaps could be, how does your Department intend to build on these training initiatives in order to ensure that they have a lasting impact and that our councillors continue to apply these lessons throughout their term of office? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, to Hon Bryant, to be quick, Oudtshoorn, Cederberg Municipality, Prince Albert municipalities, Matzikama municipalities, where we work very closely to support them, to help them because of demarcation. It is poorer areas, so they do struggle. It is not that they are flagship municipalities, but they will keep on struggling. Knysna should be a flagship municipality. It was a flagship municipality.

The ANC managed it into the ground and I have got no gain to getting a well-run ANC municipality. I want DA-run municipalities to be fantastic. So, the discipline on DA-run municipalities is much stricter from my side than on ANC-run municipalities. You get, there is no obsession to Knysna, we have

got currently three engineers in Knysna. I cannot keep on putting resources into a municipality where there is no gain back to us, because we also work with taxpayers' money.

But let me tell them, the ANC, why they fail in a place like Knysna. We have done an investigation, an independent investigation. We found the then Mayor, the Speaker and the Deputy, guilty of fraud, maladministration, of illegal appointments, of breaching the Code of Conduct, failure to enforce legal obligations under the municipal law, persistence, dishonesty and misconduct in the court process. That is what the Judge said.

You know what the ANC did when that councillor, two days before the court case resigned, so that we could have found him guilty in court, because then he cannot be a councillor for the next three years? They put him back as their candidate. That is how they thanked the community. They put him back as a candidate. The ANC must go and listen to the President and the President must listen to the ANC, because the ANC will never act against their own corruption.

Here is prove of it. They will put them back because that is how they fund their party. That is how they fund their campaigns. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections] Order, members! Thank you very much to the hon Minister. Hon Members, that concludes Interpellation Number 1 as printed on the Question Paper.

We move on to Interpellation 2 and I recognise the Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Sileku.

Taxi violence: Ntsebeza Commission recommendations

2. Mr M B Ngqentsu asked Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

With regard to the taxi violence in the province:

Whether the recommendations made by the Ntsebeza Commission have been implemented?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you very much, †*Somlomo*, [Speaker] and firstly I just need to thank the hon member Duka [1:26:52] for sponsoring this interpellation.

In terms of the report there were six recommendations from the Commission, and the first one was the establishment of a semi-permanent dispute resolution body, and soon after the report the Dispute Resolution Unit was established under Adv Themba Madlalo supported by a call centre and a panel of mediators. As this structure was temporary in nature, it was later disestablished. However, the function itself did not disappear. Today the Assessment Unit within the Office of the Provincial Taxi Registrar, fulfils its role by handling disputes. In addition, hon Speaker, we are in the process of

appointing a new panel of mediations and conflict resolution specialist.

On the second resolution was the review of the operations of the Provincial Operating Licence Board. This body was disestablished in 2011 and replaced with the current Provincial Regulatory Entity, also known as PRE. The PRE is staffed by permanent professionals with specialised expertise in licencing and regulation. Its processes have been streamlined, tracked and integrated with eNaTIS and Enforce.

Today the PRE is widely regarded as one of the best regulatory bodies in the country, thanks to its excellent turnaround times, zero backlog and a regulatory system that has become a national benchmark.

Furthermore, we have extended our digital footprint to allow for alternatives to process an application for public transport operating licences. Applications can be sent through our online portal or via emails as well.

On the third one, ending practices like patrols by taxi association on major highways, your N1s, N2s and N7s, that are not legally sanctioned. While this was once common it is now far less prevalent. The Office of the Provincial Taxi Registrar has taken action against offending associations. Provincial Traffic Services continues to monitor hotspots such as the N1, N2 and N7, and the Department of Mobility is developing a provincial policy on the effective regulation on mother bodies to strengthen oversight.

On the fourth one was the setting up of a multi-disciplinary investigative team consisting of SAPS, SARS, NPA, NIA, to go after warlords ordering killings and investigating unresolved cases.

Hon Speaker, while this specific recommendation falls outside the direct mandate of the Department, I can confirm that a provincial joint committee has been established in the province. Chaired by the Police Commissioner, this is the highest inter-governmental structure dealing with safety issues, with all departments represented. This committee identifies and addresses key risk areas.

A sub-committee of PROVJOINTS, the Transport Priority Committee, co-chaired by the Department and SAPS, focuses specifically on public transport operational challenges. Both structures meet monthly to discuss matters related to the taxi industry, specifically killings and other related crimes. In addition, SAPS has established a Taxi Violence Unit to deal with taxi-related crimes.

Furthermore, the Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE) considers previous convictions for offences relevant to the operation of transport services as outlined in Regulation 18 of the National Land Transport Regulation 209. Applicants for operating licences are now also required to submit a taxi clearance certificate.

On the fifth recommendation, establishing a joint law enforcement task team

and early warning system with intelligence sharing.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: The implementation of these recommendations falls outside of the direct mandate of the Transport Regulating Unit. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Ngqentsu. [Interjections.] Do you need the podium?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes. [Interjections.]

Can I please ask that the podium please be provided? [Interjections.]

Order, hon members!

An HON MEMBER: Ja, the time of ornaments. Gwede Mantashe's ornaments. [Interjections.] Gwede Mantashe's ornaments. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members, there is a member on the floor. You may continue, hon member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. As I enter into this I think I must wish Mbali, the ANC staff, a happy birthday.

What I remember is the minibus taxi industry in the Western Cape has been soaked in blood for decades with the criminal network taking root. From Lagunya [Inaudible 1:32:16] in the early 90's to the flare-ups of 1998, 2012 [Inaudible 1:32:21] 2018, 2020 and now 2025. The story has been the same: violence, death and destruction. The roots of this violence are not [Inaudible 1:32:30], they are [Inaudible 1:32:31] competition for commuters, corruption that runs deep, the criminal network and regulations that only entrance chaos instead of resolving.

Even Tutuse said the prayer you are talking about, instead of resolving the problem it is worsening it.

An HON MEMBER: How so?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Adv Dumisa Ntsebeza gave this province a clear roadmap to end the carnage of criminality and senseless killing. His commission's findings were clear, specific, actionable and instructive. Yet decades later we are still asking the same question. I think Tutuse said you are selective, you must be told.

You are not talking about the City of Cape Town's abandonment or surrendering of taxi ranks to a taxi association. Yet that matter is part of the recommendation. You could not account as we are given a fictitious list or account. The truth is inescapable.

Since the instructive report was published Cape Town has endured three major waves of taxi violence: the 2018, 2020 and now 2025, and this occurred under the DA-led Government. The Government cannot wash its hands. The hon Premier had the responsibility, the tools and mandate. Instead, the DA has done nothing but tinker around edges and now blood is again on their hands.

Hon Speaker, the DA Government must leave today's Sitting knowing that to be elected to govern means taking responsibility, and thus you must answer to the families who buried their loved ones, to the commuters who live in fear and the working class who relies on this industry every single day.

Implement Ntsebeza Report, end violence now, show leadership who admits that you never had any to begin with. Surrender power. You are incapable of leading. Therefore, give it to those who are ready to govern, to govern this province.

Hon Speaker, the MEC comes here and reports that other recommendations are beyond, unable to account and tell this House as to what efforts the Provincial Government has done to ensuring that the multi-disciplinary task team is put in place and there are engagement with other [Inaudible 1:34:45]. It is because the elite here that side, do not relate with the challenges facing the working class. †Uyayazi uTutuse because kwayena uyahlupheka. [Tutuse knows because he is also suffering.] but the masters here do not care, under pressure and refusing to support the industry.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time ...[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): You [Inaudible 1:35:04]

The SPEAKER: ...has expired, please conclude.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...to confront the industry. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] I now recognise the hon Professor Mbombo. [Interjections.]

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Speaker, †*KuTutuse kunye Noduka andiyazi lento bayithethayo*. [Between Tutuse and Noduka, I do not know what they are talking about.] but what I want to say is that the DA welcomes the Tutuse. hon Minister's update on progress in implementing the Ntsebeza Commission recommendations to address taxi violence in our province.

Hon Speaker, we remain deeply concerned about recent incidents of taxi violence. These attacks endanger commuters, disrupt schooling and work, and undermine trust in the public transport system. This is totally unacceptable. One of the biggest ongoing challenges, the management of mother bodies, rivalries, overlapping authority and battles for control of routes, fuel much of the violence. Without firm, fair regulation, these conflicts will continue.

We must also recognise that taxi violence is a reflection of broader social challenges rooted in poverty and unemployment caused by the decades of the ANC failures.

The safety of our communities must come first. We condemn all acts of violence and call for urgent cooperation between all role-players. The people of the Western Cape deserve safe, reliable transport and a secure environment.

As we speak now, I just read that the Chairperson of the Gauteng Taxi Association has just also been murdered within an hour or so.

So, hon Speaker, to the hon Minister, can the hon Minister explain what is one of the biggest challenges in managing mother bodies in the minibus taxi industry? Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Mbombo. I now recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the recent taxi violence and this week's decision to shut down taxi routes, is part of the failure of Government, in particular the Western Cape and City of Cape Town, to address the systemic and outdated transport regulation regime.

The Commission recommended that the province and the City improve the regulation of taxi routes and permits since poorly managed licensing and route disputes were the direct driver of violence, but this has not happened.

Over the eight years that I had the privilege of serving as MMC for Transport, a lot of work was done on implementing a new public transport regulatory regime in line with the vision of the National Land Transport Act. A transport authority was established, a bylaw was enacted and an agreement was signed with the Western Cape Government for the devolution of the operating licence function to the City of Cape Town. This is where regulation of public transport routes and operating licences is best placed.

All of this work was cancelled because the DA regards the taxi industry as rogue [Interjections.] and the MMC who replaced me, called them criminals. [Interjections.] Amazingly while this Government continuously demands the devolution of functions from National Government, it is resistant to devolving any of its provincial functions [Interjections.], despite legislation providing for it. [Interjections.]

This Government is clinging on to the transport regulatory function, perpetuating red tape and bureaucratic barriers for taxi operators, and creating the opportunity for collusion. Does the Red Tape Reduction Unit only work for white collar businesses?

When e-hailing arrived we quickly implemented a new method for

determining supply and demand. There is no reason why that system should not be available to the minibus taxi industry, but instead the industry which is highly regulated and policed, is regarded as informal at best and criminal at worst. It is time to overhaul the system...

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

Ms B N HERRON (GOOD): Using the innovation this Government loves to talk about. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise hon member Lithakong. Hon member Lithakong?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you so much, hon Speaker. I just need to check what is the understanding of the hon Minister with the recommendation of Ntsebeza's Commission and also can he outline instances where he attempted to implement part of these recommendations? Lastly, what do they entail, in his own understanding? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Lithakong. I now recognise hon member Ngqentsu. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, hon members, typical of an organisation of buses and [Inaudible 1:40:31], an organisation will always

continue to use Black leadership as kitchen girls and garden boys.

Again, even in this debate today, the Black leadership is being used to [Inaudible 1:40:45] the Black industry because the buses do not have an interest in this industry. An industry that continues to commute more than 75% of the workers and the poor of this province.

Hon Chair, it is indeed why the DA neglects this Commission. Despite that you, hon MEC Sileku, you can better relate given the historic injustices you were subjected to by the barbaric apartheid your masters here and those who orchestrated the suffering of the majority people do not relate. The DA elite here in this House is insulated from the suffering of the working class.

For instance, when taxis burn and commuters are gunned down, they simply retreat behind the security gates of their suburbs. They do not need taxis. Their only concern is whether their domestic workers, [Interjections.] kitchen girls and garden boys can still arrive to clean their homes. [Interjections.]

That is why they do not act, that is why they run to the courts. They use you to run to the courts instead of supporting you to resolve the problem. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat.

Mr M B NGQENTSU: [Inaudible 1:41:56]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M B NGQENTSU: [Inaudible 1:41:58]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU: ...not [Inaudible 1:41:59]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Ngqentsu, please take your seat.
[Interjections.] Order! Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?
[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. I rise in terms of Rule 59 and perhaps I would ask that the hon member speaks through you before risking being in violation fully of Rule 59, because the hon member is verging on casting aspersions [Interjections.] on the holder of public office, which is the Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Sileku.

An HON MEMBER: You are talking nonsense...

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Order! Hon member, can I please ask that you speak to the Chair. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair.

That is why they do not act, because the violence in the taxi industry is not their violence, [Interjections.] it is the violence of the Black working class. That is why it must be Sileku, it must be Mbombo, it must be Black leadership who must resolve it.

An HON MEMBER: It is true ...

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, the working people of this province deserve leadership, not [Inaudible 1:42:56]. They deserve action, not excuses. They deserve a government that implement [Inaudible 1:43:01] resolution, not one that hides whilst communities bury their dead, and those who are buried are not from Constantia, are not where you live.

An HON MEMBER: No, it is true. †Dit is die waarheid. [That is the truth.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker [Interjections.] – hon Speaker, the current wave of violent conflict within the minibus taxi industry remains defined by the use of hit squads, and thus there are more than 10 senseless killings in this present wave, and here the hon MEC is unable to respond to these questions, because should he had have implemented the Ntsebeza recommendations, we are not going to be where we are, where the criminal network is taking root in the industry, because the industry is used by the majority Black working class.

Hon Speaker, the recommendation above were not optional ideas, they were urgent instructions to save lives, and yet the hon Premier sat on them. The hon Premier chose inaction and selective implementation, not to resolve the problem, but to further exacerbate it [Inaudible 1:44:03]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...regulations. Thank you very much.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Minister, [Interjections.] Minister – order! [Interjections.] I recognise – order. I now recognise the Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Sileku. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: No, thank you very much, †*Somlomo*. [Speaker.] Firstly, let me also echo the sentiments [Interjections.] of hon Professor Mbombo and convey my condolences on the Chairperson in Joburg, who was also shot just today on the highway.

So we just chose the element of violence within the taxi industry, but also, hon Speaker, I wish I had some pills to give to hon member Ngqentsu in terms of his anger, because the anger that is directed is directed at the wrong person, because the same commission or recommendations we are dealing with now, have started in 2005. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: In 2005 the then Premier started a commission, which is always – that is how the ANC operates, spend money on commissions, and then the commission concluded its work in August 2005.

Guess what, hon Speaker? The report was there, recommendations were there. Three years, they did not deal with the recommendations. The same organisation that is coming to us now, asking, “What have you done with the recommendation?” They sat with the recommendation for a period of three years. Then their Premier was recalled in 2008 and then he was replaced by another Cabinet member. She also did not deal with the recommendations, but also we came into power in 2009 and the recommendations that I dealt with and gave a report, have been implemented.

It is also difficult, hon Speaker, to come into the House, listen to a response and you cannot change your script because it has already been prepared in advance. You know, because that is where we are finding ourselves now.

Also, in terms of us as Government going to court. If I have to go to court more than once as the Minister of Mobility in this province, I will do that, for the safety of the residents of this province, for the commuters of this province. [Interjections.] It is not a Black issue, it is not a White issue, it is not a Coloured issue, it is about human beings. [Interjections.]

So if you look in terms of the industry. The industry is diverse. It is not because you have a Black face, you must face the industry. [Interjections.] Everybody that is in the industry – go to Mitchells Plain. The majority of people there are people of another colour.

So we must always – we must never try to bring race into a place where people are losing their lives, [Interjections.] because the same people that are making a lot of noise here are the same people when there are shootings they do not go. [Interjections.] Even [Inaudible 1:47:05]. Just an example. [Inaudible 1:47:08] who was shot, from CATA, was buried. They never went to his funeral, they only went to the memorial service. [Interjections.]

So those are the kinds of things ...

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...just make noise. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon member Ngqentsu, is that a point of order? [Interjections.] Order! There is a hon member on the floor. [Interjections.] Hon member Ngqentsu – order. Hon members, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections.] Order! Hon member Ngqentsu, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, the hon MEC is misleading the

House. I begged him to attend the funeral after he failed to attend the memorial service. [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: No, hon Speaker, I think what is important, we say it like it is and we act.

Also what is important is that I have heard hon members saying that we close the routes and close the lanes. It is because when you do not understand what is happening around you, you only get the report from the papers, you would come here with misinformation.

The decision that we have taken, we are going to take it again. We are going to take it again, and we are not going to listen to the noise. Up until – they had an opportunity to deal with the issues of the minibus taxi industry, and they never dealt with it.

So we are in power now, [Interjections.] we have the authority to deal with the minibus taxi industry. We are going to do to the best of our ability to correct the wrongs that you were not able to fix. [Interjections.]

Also the narrative that they are trying to bring to say that we, as the

Government of the Western Cape do not like the industry, it is wrong and it is dishonest. [Interjections.] We work with those that want peace and those who do not want peace, we deal with them like we have dealt with them in the last few years. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Interpellation 2. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order! We have done Interpellation 2, we now move on to Interpellation 3, and I recognise the Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Wenger.

*Mass shootings and violent killings: psychological and
mental health services*

3. Ms R Windvogel asked Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

With reference to the recent mass shootings and violent killings in the province:

What psychological and mental health services does her Department have available for communities affected by these crimes?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness provides a comprehensive range of psychological and mental health services that are accessible to communities affected by mass shootings and violent crime.

These services are offered across the health platform and include:

1. Hospital-based services. Acute psychiatric care is available at district, regional and tertiary hospitals. Dedicated specialist psychiatric hospitals, for example, Valkenburg, Alexandra, Stikland and Lenteguur, and new or upgraded acute psychiatric units at facilities such as Eerste River, Khayelitsha, Karl Bremer and New Somerset Hospitals, strengthen access to specialised services. Child and adolescent psychiatry inpatient and outpatient services are supported through dedicated programmes with investments in safer and adolescent friendly wards.
2. In respect of community-based mental healthcare. Mental health is integrated into the primary healthcare platform, allowing residents to access assessment, counselling, treatment and referral at local clinics and community health centres. Performance indicators show that PHC facilities provide treatment for developing and undiagnosed mental health disorders, ensuring early intervention.
3. Trauma and crisis support. Multisectoral partnerships, including with civil society and other provincial departments, such as Social Development, ensure post-trauma support for survivors and families. Services include counselling, psychosocial support and referral pathways for ongoing care. Forensic pathology services, which manage over 11 000 cases annually, also contribute to the broader trauma response

system by engaging in sensitive and caring ways with families and loved ones.

4. In respect of violence prevention and community partnerships. The Department participates in area-based teams in 18 high crime areas, coordinated through the Violence Prevention Unit. These ABTs connect residents to psychosocial services, support violence prevention initiatives and strengthen data-driven responses in affected communities. This whole of government and community-centred approach recognises that exposure to violence has long-term psychological impacts, including trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, and therefore requires both immediate support and systemic prevention.
5. In respect of system investments and challenges. Despite fiscal constraints the Department has expanded psychiatric capacity, introduced revolving outreach and in-reach models to strengthen district-level capacity and leveraged digital health and telehealth services to extend reach. Staffing pressures and high demand remain challenges, with mental health patients often requiring prolonged admission due to limited bed availability. To address this, investments in facility upgrades and service redesign continue.

In conclusion, the Department of Health and Wellness provides both immediate and long-term psychological and mental health services to communities impacted by violent crime.

These are supported through hospital-based care, primary healthcare integration, multi-sectoral trauma counselling, with systemic violence prevention efforts. The approach is aligned with our long-term strategic vision to ensure that Western Cape residents are supported to start well, live well, age well and to do so within a system that is run well. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Windvogel.

Hon member Windvogel, you may continue.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the communities of the Cape Flats are living under constant violence and crime. The gunfire in these neighbourhoods are not only claiming lives, but leaving deep invisible scars on survivors, families and especially our children.

The children who cannot play freely in their streets, mothers who grieve endlessly, fathers who struggle with trauma, an entire family who lives in a constant state of fear. When we examine the psychological impact of this cycle of violence, we must consider how children, toddlers even, are being caught in crossfires.

Young learners are being gunned down while simply walking to school. Classrooms are filled with pupils who have lost classmates, neighbours or

even family members to bullets. Beyond the grief of loss, these children live with a daily [Inaudible 1:54:12] and anxiety, the fear that they might be next, or that their parents may not return home safely.

Research has long shown us that children exposed to violence at a young age, face higher risks of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and long-term behavioural problems. On the Cape Flats children as young as 4 or 5 have been reported to draw pictures of guns and crime scenes in crayon, because that is the world they know.

The psychological toll extends beyond the children. Parents and caregivers, unable to shield their children from this violence, often turn to substance as a copy mechanism. The drug trade and substance abuse spiral is both a symptom and a driver of the ongoing violence, creating a cycle where families are torn apart both by crime and by its corrosive after effects.

Hon Speaker, when a mother loses her son to gang violence, the trauma spreads through the entire household and the entire streets. When a child sees his father shot in front of him, the trauma is not healed by time alone. These are deep wounds, unseen, unspoken and too often untreated.

Therefore, it is vital that the Department recognises that violence in this community is not just a matter of crime prevention and policing, it is equally, if not more, a matter of public health and social well-being. A psychological crisis on the Cape Flats is as devastating as the bullets themselves. Thank

you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Windvogel. I recognise the hon member Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker and hon members, in recent years we have seen a troubling rise in mass shootings and violent crime across the Cape Flats. Events that not only shatter the lives of those directly involved, but also leave long-lasting scars on communities as a whole.

The immediate impact on health services is undeniable: hospitals are overwhelmed, trauma centres are pushed beyond capacity and medical staff work tirelessly, often under extreme pressure, to save lives, but the toll does not stop there.

Beyond the physical injuries these incidents create a ripple effect that impacts the mental health of survivors, first responders and entire communities. Survivors may grapple with PTSD, anxiety and depression for years to come, while witnessing or hearing about such violence can leave many others feeling a deep sense of fear and insecurity.

This widespread trauma places enormous strain on mental health services, which are already under-resourced, but it is not just the direct victims who suffer. Families, neighbours and even those who live in communities where violence is common, these crimes create a cycle of fear, distrust and

isolation, further diminishing community cohesion and resilience.

As we continue to face these strategies, through you, hon Speaker, what strategies does the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness have in place to support the mental health of first responders and healthcare professionals who are often at the front line of these traumatic events?

†*Enkosi*. [Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon member Booysen. I now recognise the hon member Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, mine is very short.

Does the Department have the capacity to deal with the influx of patients as a result of this ongoing violence? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is linked to the previous speaker.

With all the massive shootings more and more families are affected, and the question is to the hon Minister, is there an uptake in the numbers now coming

for mental health issues, and can your Department deal with all of these cases? Because it seems to me every day families are traumatised.

Does your Department also, do people know exactly where to go when they need the help?

The last question, hon Minister, that I want to ask from you is, do you work in collaboration with other sectors, Social Development, Education, in order to also assist learners? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. I recognise the hon member Windvogel, your second opportunity.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, mental health remains heavily stigmatised.

In many communities people do not speak about trauma or depression, they speak about being strong or just coping. Those who seek professional help are often seen as weak, or worse, as unstable. This stigma creates a silence that isolates victims further and prevents healing.

How then does the Department plan to overcome this stigma, while ensuring that those who need treatment are reached where they are? We know that the victims are there and we know that they are in need of support and treatment.

So are there mobile trauma units going into neighbourhoods, particularly those prone to violent incidents, to provide counselling to children and families?

Hon Speaker, these communities are living in what can only be described as a war zone. In other parts of the world children in conflict zones receive trauma counselling, psychosocial support and safe spaces to process their pain. Do the children of Cape Flats not deserve the same recognition, care and intervention?

We must also ask how many mental health professionals are deployed to serve the Cape Flats? How many psychologists, counsellors and social workers are working in schools, clinics and shelters? What training is given to educators and community leaders to identify signs of trauma early, and refer children for help?

The Department must not only expand its service, but also confront the stigma that makes these services underutilised. Public awareness campaigns, community-based workshops and collaboration with local faith leaders and NGOs can all be part of dismantling this silence around mental health. If we continue to only treat the physical injuries while leaving the psychological injuries unattended, we condemn generations of children and families to cycles of trauma and despair.

Hon Minister, the psychological and mental health of our citizens are of

extreme importance. These services must be brought to our communities. Those affected by crime must be helped to end the cycle and that starts with us breaking the stigma. Mental health has affected Thandi so much that she becomes a drug addict, because you forgot about Thandi. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Before I recognise – hon member Bryant, before I recognise you. Hon members, we are – I am aware of the clock not displaying on the screens in front of you. We are managing it from the table and the IT office is dealing with the technical issue.

Hon member Bryant, is that a point of order?

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Chair, I am covered. Hon Speaker, I am covered.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you to the hon members for their inputs and questions.

The sad reality, hon Speaker, is that South Africa does have very high rates of violent crime, and every day our emergency centres fill with victims of shootings, stabbings, abuse and assault, and every day our health

professionals do what they can to hold the line. They are at the front line of responding to the consequences of violence, whether that is gang violence, domestic abuse or other forms of interpersonal violence.

We are running an Intimate Partner Violence Intervention through Groote Schuur and Mitchells Plain Hospitals, and nearly 30 000 women have been screened over the last two years. More than 1 200 women have chosen immediate counselling, and hundreds were referred to shelters, legal aid and social workers.

So it is not just about treating the injuries, it is about saving lives and breaking the cycle of abuse. We are expanding this programme to more hospitals, because survivors across the province deserve the same chance at safety. We also have roving teams from district hospitals that visit clinics to help provide support to the healthcare professionals there.

In terms of trauma and crisis support. We do have multi-sectoral partnerships, which include partnerships with civil society and other provincial departments, such as Social Development, to ensure post-trauma support for survivors and their families. The services include counselling, psychosocial support and referral pathways for ongoing care.

There is also a Victim Empowerment Programme through the Department of Social Development with a toll-free number that can be accessed, or alternatively by visiting one of our clinics.

We know that we cannot only treat harm after it happens, we have to stop it from happening in the first place, which is why, as I mentioned earlier in the debate, we have rolled out Planet Youth, which is an internationally recognised evidence-based model that empowers entire communities: parents, schools, municipalities, faith leaders and young people themselves, to work together to create safer, healthier environments for teenagers.

In April and May this year over 50 000 Grade 8 and 9 learners from 123 schools across Mitchells Plain, Atlantis, Athlone, Langa, Philippi, Gugulethu, Hanover Park, Kraaifontein, Nyanga and rural districts, like the West Coast and Garden Route, took part in this major Planet Youth survey. The data will inform local action plans designed with communities to reduce substance abuse, build resilience and give our young people positive alternatives.

We are also prioritising the mental and emotional well-being of children through the Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions, or the EASE programme. This was developed by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF. EASE is a seven session group programme for 10 to 15 year olds affected by internalising problems such as stress, anxiety or depression, in communities exposed to adversity. There are three complimentary sessions also for their caregivers.

It teaches young people practical skills for relaxation, emotional awareness, emotional regulation, acceptance, problem solving and cognitive reframing,

tools that help children to manage anxiety, stress and symptoms of depression. We have worked with the University of Cape Town to adapt EASE for selected schools, giving learners evidence-based techniques that strengthen their emotional resilience in the classroom and beyond.

We must be clear, the beds in psychiatric wards are for the most severe cases, for when a person's life or the lives of others are at risk, and what we must not do is separate people from their communities and support structures, but rather empower them. That means community-based support, counselling and intervention ...

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ...to take back control of their lives. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellation 3 and interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. We move on to questions in terms of rule 202.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

The SPEAKER: I wish to advise hon members that once the hon Minister has concluded the first submission to the oral question, you can then give me an indication that you would like to ask a follow-up question. Again, as I

indicated last week, the practice was that once the hon Minister started speaking you would give me an indication, but logic dictated that you must wait for the response before you can determine if you have a follow-up question.

So if you have a follow-up question you can do so after the submission of the hon Minister. After the first submission, as we have always allowed, the questioner will get the first opportunity and thereafter three additional follow-up questions would be allowed.

For hon members on the online platform, please use the hand raise functionality to indicate if you have a follow-up question, and to the hon members in the House, if you can raise your hand for the Table Staff to acknowledge you. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, arrangements and agreements have been made for Questions 1, 3, 4 and 7 to stand over until the respective hon Ministers and hon Premier is in the House to answer those questions.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to that? No objections, agreed to.

Just for the sake of the House. So Question 1 under New Questions will stand over and we will deal with Question 1 that stood over from Thursday, 11

September, as agreed by the House, in the name of the hon member Masipa, and I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

Question standing over from Thursday, 11 September 2025, as agreed to by the House:

South African Tourism Board

1. Mr N P Masipa asked Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

What financial or strategic support has the South African Tourism Board provided for the promotion and development of tourism in the province?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker. I will take the question online from the ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He is in Taiwan.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...hon member Masipa. Can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: We can hear you, hon Minister. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. In relation to the question from hon member Masipa, the response is as follows.

That the Department and Wesgro and the South African Tourism, we are collaborating in the following strategic areas, namely accessibility in terms of South African Tourism, it is a strategic partner of the Cruise Cape Town and Cape Town Air Access. This is an initiative powered by Wesgro.

In terms of business tourism, we are also partnering with both Cape Town and the Western Cape Convention Bureau. We collaborate also with the South African National Convention Bureau on event bidding and inbound and outbound trade missions and exhibitions.

Also, hon Speaker, in terms of leisure marketing. Wesgro Leisure Team works collaboratively with the South African Tourism on organising inbound and outbound trade missions, exhibitions and familiarisation tours for buyers and travel media.

Hon Speaker, we also do some market intelligence and research and data, and the Department and Wesgro have also access to South African Tourism market intelligence and research and data.

Hon Speaker, we also work together in terms of promotion of quality assurance, and therefore the Department collaborates with the Tourism

Grading Council of South Africa to promote quality assurance in the province. In addition, the South African Tourism has in the past also sponsored SA Welcome training for frontline workers at key points, such as the Cape Town Cruise Terminal and the Cape Town International Airport.

Hon Speaker, there is many other areas in terms of accessibility, business tourism, leisure marketing, all of these areas. We have extensive partnership and collaboration with SA Tourism, but also with Cape Town Tourism. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and, hon Minister, thank you very much for your answer.

Hon Speaker, the saga around the SA Tourism highlights a dangerous pattern in ANC good politics. Hon Minister, in light of the governance failures that led to the dissolution of the SA Tourism Board, how does this affect the work Wesgro is doing to grow tourism and investment in the province? I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker, for the follow-up question from hon member Noko Masipa.

This is certainly a matter of grave concern. I am watching this matter as it unfolds in the National Assembly. We know that the SA Tourism Board is currently experiencing major governance issues and tensions between the National Minister of Tourism and the SA Tourism Board. I have watched some of the hearings and the discussions within the Portfolio Committee nationally.

I also happen to know that SA Tourism has a budget of R1 billion and certainly if there are any tensions between a Minister and a statutory board or a public entity, it will play out in terms of tourism in all the nine provinces.

So I have a deep concern for the matters that are currently playing out, but I am not the judge, I am not going to say who is guilty, because these matters are currently before the Portfolio Committee and I am watching it very closely, but I have no doubt that the tensions between the Minister and the Board will affect and negatively impact tourism, not only in the Western Cape, but in the whole of South Africa.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Are there any further follow-up questions? There are no further follow-up questions. Can I just get an indication from the Table Staff? Any online – no, that brings us to the end of that question. Thank you very much to the hon Minister.

We move on to Question 5 as printed on the oral Question Paper and I recognise the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, hon Minister Marais.

New questions:

Implementing Anti-gangsterism Strategy

5. Ms B M van Minnen asked Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and community Safety:

- (a) Which specific (i) national and (ii) provincial departments are currently cooperating with the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety in implementing the Anti-gangsterism Strategy and
- (b) what role do the departments play in the strategy?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to hon member Van Minnen for the question.

At a national level the following departments and entities are engaged:

- South African Police Service – who are responsible for operational enforcement, intelligence and crime prevention;

- The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development – strengthening criminal justice processes;
- The Department of Correctional Services – interventions in correctional facilities, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;
- The National Prosecuting Authority – prosecuting gang-related cases, organised crime, focus on firearm-related matters; and
- State Security Agency.

The second part, at a provincial level Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety consulted with several departments who have identified priority interventions for inclusion in the Anti-Gang Intervention Programme. These include, among others:

- The Department of Social Development;
- The Department of Education;
- The Department of Economic Development and Tourism;
- The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport;
- The Department of Health and Wellness.

And other departments which are involved include:

- The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning;
- The Department of Agriculture;
- The Department of Local Government;
- The Department of Mobility.

And the roles of the respective departments are aligned to the four pillars of the National Anti-Gang Strategy:

- Human Development – addressing poverty, unemployment, social cohesion and inequality.
- Social partnerships – building resilience through partnerships with communities, civil society and NPOs.
- Spatial Design – promoting safe and inclusive spaces that limit gang control.
- Criminal Justice processes – enforcing law, prosecuting offenders and supporting rehabilitation.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. If I can, through you, hon Speaker, enquire from the hon Minister, how do the national and provincial departments collaborate with the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety in this regard? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon member Van Minnin, for the follow-up question.

I can say that the Provincial Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety works very well in collaboration with Education, with our Safer Schools Project, the [Inaudible 2:17:04] and school dropouts. We worked very well with the principals to look out specifically for the school dropouts.

With Department of Social Development (DSD) for bereavement, looking at the social ills, like child-headed households, alcohol, gender-based violence and the gender-based violence ambassadors, the children in safe homes, and then children that are in places of safety.

Then Economic Development, assisting with small businesses.

Agriculture is for gardens, assisting our communities to grow their own vegetable gardens.

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) for culture and sport after-school programmes, the MOD Centres, the Yeboneers.

Then Health with Violence Prevention Programme.

Then Planet Youth. As we know, Planet Youth is a data-driven community-led safety programme aimed at creating healthier, safer and supportive

environments for young people by strengthening protective factors and reducing harm.

As we have heard in the interpellation, also that Health provides psychological and mental healthcare.

Then for the National Department, it is the Department of Correctional Services. I must say they attend all our Imbizos and ensure that they give the parolees' names through to the station commanders. We are in collaboration with Minister Groenewald for a tracking system for our parolees

Then the rehab programmes with National Department of Social Development.

Unfortunately, we do have no evidence at the moment of the impact of the national programmes, but we do for the Provincial Department, DSD's programmes.

Then the NPA for prosecuting and firearm cases. Unfortunately, our conviction rate is minimal in this NPA Department. Thank you so much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

†Uyabonake, [You see now] MEC. I have no doubt that on this one [Inaudible

2:19:27] going to read from the script, because it was not forwarded to you as she has done.

Now given the rate of gang-related matters in the province, what immediate measures are being implemented and what have been the success, if any?
Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, before you proceed. Hon members, just a reminder that you are allowed one follow-up question. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate. There were two questions posed to the hon Minister. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you respond.

Hon members, you are allowed one follow-up question. Hon member, I am not going to get into a debate. There were two questions, as confirmed by the Table Staff. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you respond. Hon members, you are allowed one follow-up question in terms of the Rules. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you. That is a new question, hon member Ngqentsu ...[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, †*hayibo*, [wow,] that is not, that is
[Inaudible 2:24:13]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

...and I want you to put it down for me and [Interjections.] I will
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
And I will answer it next time. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you very much. Are there any further
follow-up questions?

An HON MEMBER: Running away from it.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is another follow-up question. Hon member
Ngqentsu. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Again the
question is based on the question posed about the strategy, [Inaudible
2:20:55] strategy, right?

Now what measures have you put in place to ensure that, given the rate of
gangsterism in this province [Interjections.] – it is not a wrong question.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon member, please speak to me.
[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): You are an MEC for Education
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...and allow learners to think out of the box.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: That is my job, I have to educate you.
[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...that is why there is a crisis
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: We want the Minister of Police now.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, [Interjections.] you can switch on your
microphone.

An HON MEMBER: Is she not [Inaudible 2:21:16] or she do not want

[Inaudible 2:21:17] that is why you must answer for her. [Interjections.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): [Inaudible 2:21:46] disrupted, hon Speaker, whilst I was posing the question.

The SPEAKER: No, I switched off your microphone from the Chair because you were engaging the Minister of Education and not speaking to me by posing your question to the hon Minister. [Interjections.]

So if you would like to pose a question to the hon Minister can you please speak to me and I will direct it to the hon Minister. Hon member Ngqentsu, please pose your question.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on this question and given the rate of gangsterism in the province, what is it that you can brief this House about on the role the Provincial Government and National Government have played?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you for the question, hon member Ngqentsu.

We are busy with the Safety Plan 2.0 and we will table it at our next Cabinet meeting and I will send you a copy of the draft as well. What we do at this moment, we have our Mitchells Plain Development Plan that we also will launch in October 2025. We went through to the communities to hear what the communities want from us, not what the politicians describe what they must do. We have asked the communities and we work from what they want to an integrated plan to combat crime in the communities. Thank you.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and the last opportunity to hon member Ngqentsu. I recognise – I saw the hand, hon member Van Minnen, of hon member Ngqentsu first. So, hon member Ngqentsu, that is the last opportunity. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I appreciate your response, MEC, and for being humble, but again, hon MEC, we are soaked in blood, people are dying as a result of gangsterism.

An HON MEMBER: Because there is no action plan.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Where is the provincial plan to respond to this

question ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: It is a national plan. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...and do not tell us about the future.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: The National Minister...

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): We want, as we leave this House
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon member, can you just pose the question.

An HON MEMBER: What is wrong with the MEC of Education?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The question shall relate to – I have a problem with the fact that the MEC is telling us about the future, [Interjections.] yet the people ...

The SPEAKER: What is the question, hon member?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Where is the national ...

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Where is the plan of this province

[Interjections.] and the City to ensure that gangsterism ends tomorrow and that our people are not dying? [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: As you have known, the acting Minister, Professor Cachalia, asked the National Commissioner if there is any anti-gang plan. National does not have a plan. However [Interjections.] – however, in the province we do [Interjections.] – we do deploy our LEAP officers ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Is that a plan?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...as well as with ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: [Inaudible 2:25:03] to the hotspot areas ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

[Inaudible 2:25:08]

The SPEAKER: ...please take your seat. Hon members, there was a question posed to the Minister. The Minister is now responding. Can I please ask that the running commentary across the floor please stop so that the Minister is given an opportunity to respond.

Hon Minister, my apologies. You may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you. So I conclude to say that we – that these operations had very much success to taking off illegal firearms and ammunition from the streets.
Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Question 5 as printed on the Question Paper. [Interjections.] Order!
We now move on to Question 6, and I recognise the hon Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, hon Minister Bredell.

CapeNature's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP):

work opportunities

6. Mr D W Bryant asked Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

How is CapeNature's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) creating meaningful work opportunities for local communities while simultaneously equipping participants with valuable conservation and management skills for future employment?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Bryant for the question.

CapeNature APP target for 2025/2026 financial year is to employ 450 EPWP participants. At the end of Quarter 1, CapeNature already required and signed up 453 employment contracts at the end of Quarter 1. Participants were recruited from 68 communities around CapeNature protected areas. CapeNature pioneered the approach to sign a three year employment contract with participants, which was endorsed and supported by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

The latest three year cycle commenced on 1 April 2025 and will conclude March 2028. The three year contract provides the EPWP participants with an opportunity to gain experience and to develop into a position within CapeNature. For many participants this is their first work experience and they are thoroughly inducted into the programme and work life.

With a high percentage of young people being employed, 85%, this

programme aims to set young people in communities on an upward trajectory to escape, in many cases, severe poverty.

Furthermore, during this three year period, the participants are exposed to various capacity building and skills development opportunities; functional training forms an integral part of the programme, while on the job and life skills training are offered to all participants.

When there are vacancies in the entity EPWP participants do apply and have been successful in securing permanent employment within CapeNature private sector and key partners in the organisation. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The hon Minister spoke about partnerships and, I mean, fantastic to hear all of the great things that are happening with CapeNature's EPWP projects.

Are there any partnerships with local municipalities or NGOs or the private sector to absorb these EPWP graduates into longer term employment once their contracts end?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, if I may, because this is something that I am very proud of and it is not anything to do with me, it is the leadership within CapeNature.

I had the privilege to launch the new recruits on the EPWP programme, and I realised that day that CapeNature has got the recipe right, and we will need to learn from that. First of all, they had the vision to enter into the space of a three year contract, but it is just [Inaudible 2:29:12] what they have accomplished over the last three year term.

There are really people that started with – there is a lady who started with a Grade 6. She matriculated and she is now permanently employed in CapeNature. There is a person who has done three degrees already, who started as an EPWP. You really get goose pimples if you see that, and there were four of those that day that just gave feedback to the people on the opportunities that they get.

I am going to hand this also in to the Chairperson on the kind of training programmes. It is a huge list, but they get from 4 x 4 off-road training, to human rights training, to housekeeping, to the contract management, it is a wide range, and as the participants explained that day to us, is that you can start there with nothing. You must just take the opportunities and they will run with you.

So the partnering with municipalities is something that they are definitely now going to. First of all, they started with organisations within the environmental sector to partner with them to also employ people and create opportunities, working very close with them, and the following step is now also to talk to municipalities.

What I am going to do is we are first going to take some of CapeNature's management team to the municipalities, invite them to one of our forums to explain to them, because I think we must do more than just partnering with the municipalities. Municipalities must get the concept. You must have a dedicated person that will walk the road with these people, with the EPWP people, to train them in the municipal space, to train them in the opportunities within that. Then I really think this programme will come to its right. Taking people with a matric and at the end of the three year cycle they can be permanently employed, or are employable for the private sector. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon MEC, for response, but my question is, what measures are in place to make sure this EPWP is used for its intended use and not as political tool for patronage?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, this is an ongoing debate. A lot of political parties are guilty of this. You do not play with employment. There must not be something like cadre deployment. We need to create opportunities for our communities. People must vote who they believe will give them a better service.

So we work very hard with municipalities. I think also with the new three year cycle, it must become part of the normal recruitment process. We politicians do not have any say in who to recruit.

I am really excited to see what CapeNature has done with this without any political interference, that is why I think it is so successful, but also to the hon member Stoffel. I think what we need to do is also connect the Community Work Programme (CWP) to this, because the CWP programme, you can take 15% of that money that is allocated to the programme to buy tools of trade, like pipes to train people for plumbing, etcetera, where you cannot do that with the EPWP programme.

So on a national level we are also busy negotiating and talking to the National Minister to see how we can dovetail these programmes so that we really – it must be an entry point, and then at the end of the three years you must be permanently employed, without any political interference. Thank you.

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

member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, thank you, hon Chair, and thank you, hon Minister, with the explanation of the EPWP.

I just want to check, hon Minister, with the good practice you are sharing of the CapeNature, is this particular practice extended in other programmes within Local Government at a provincial level and also in the municipalities, to deliver these desired results of EPWP?

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. No, the short answer is no. It is something new. CapeNature started it, it was their brainchild to – remember the EPWP programme was a 12-months kind of support programme.

We had long debates, how can we make it work so that we get the value from that programme, and CapeNature designed this three-year concept. National now agrees with that, National Public Works, and it is now the norm that municipalities can enter that space and give the EPWP workers also a three-year contract. Through that they can now start to train them within the municipal space to become permanently employed.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? No further follow-ups.

That brings us to the end of Question 6. We move on to Question 8 as printed on the Question Paper, and I recognise the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, hon Minister Meyer.

Tourism in the Western Cape

8. Ms N D Nkondlo asked Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

As the summer season, the peak period for tourism in the Western Cape, approaches:

(a) What targeted support is his Department providing to micro entrepreneurs and small tourism operators, particularly those in (i) townships and (ii) rural communities, to ensure that they benefit from the sector's growth, and (b) how does this differ from the large-scale support given to established industry players?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker, and I want to thank hon member Nkondlo for this question. Like her I fully support that we must create space specifically for micro, small and medium enterprises. So I value the question from hon member Nkondlo.

What we are currently doing through the current financial [Inaudible – connectivity] performance plan [Inaudible – connectivity] apply for funding for equipment and infrastructure. In the past this fund has assisted small ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...tour operators ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Yes?

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Yes?

The SPEAKER: You have lost connectivity in the first part of your submission of your answer. Can I please ask that you repeat it in the interest of the member that posed the question?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Okay, can you hear me now clearly?

The SPEAKER: We can hear you now.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker. I said I want to thank hon member Nkondlo for this question, because this is a very important question in terms of what support we provide to micro, small and medium enterprises, specifically as we move towards the peak tourism season.

So the Western Cape Government, through the Tourism Growth Fund, we are supporting micro, small and medium enterprises where they can apply for funding, for equipment and infrastructure. In the past, hon Speaker, this fund has assisted small tour operators with purchasing, for example, mountain bikes, e-bikes, kayaks, trailers and specialist training and marketing, and many more. The fund is currently also open for applications and funding requests are continuously screened and adjudicated, and I hope members of the Legislature will also inform their members and their constituencies that the applications are currently open, we welcome any application.

In addition to the Tourism Growth Fund the Department publishes also, and promote, a support guide for tourism, specifically for micro, small and medium enterprises. This guide lists then the public and private funding and other support programmes available to tourism enterprises.

The Department, hon Speaker, is currently developing also a toolkit and a masterclass series to guide community-based startups and early stage enterprises, in creating and marketing compelling visitor experience, so we are going to do that very soon.

Also, hon Speaker and hon member Nkondlo, the Department is also in collaboration with the Education Department, where we are procuring a service provider to fact-check and finalise tourism career and enterprise guides, as well as producing a pilot podcast series to promote career and enterprise opportunities for the youth.

The Department continues to support micro and small enterprises also with training of frontline staff in customer service. Customer service is very important in the tourism industry, and this year, hon members and hon member Nkondlo, this year the host towns are Prince Albert, Riversdal, Grabouw and Hout Bay.

Early in 2025 the Department piloted also a Community Tourism Awareness Training Programme to increase awareness of the importance of tourism, career and enterprise opportunities available in the industry, and empower frontline workers on how to assist tourists, how to advise tourists on things to do in their communities, and how to ensure that tourists are also safe and feel welcome.

Hon Speaker, the programme will be repeated in the 2025/2026 financial year. The Department in addition also supports women in tourism in the Western Cape by co-hosting regular member events, and the events have a strong focus on empowering women-owned tourism enterprises through networking, learning and development.

Hon Speaker, through these projects the Department makes also a concerted effort to support micro and small enterprises, particularly those from under-resourced community.

Hon Speaker, the Department also supports the training and existing of tourist guides. As you know in the tourism industry tourism guides are very important, and through our sub-programme we are also targeting that participants are 50% women and 30% youth. This year the Department will support the training of community guides from the Central Karoo, the West Coast and Stellenbosch. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): No, thank you, hon Speaker, to with the hon Minister with the response. Hon Minister, I just want to understand, with all the different initiatives you are referring to, as you indicate here, as the support.

From where we are now, 2025/2026, versus the previous year, where would we say these particular programmes, this number of programmes you are referring to, are actually making a dent in township and rural town tourism? This is a matter that, I think, as you would be aware of, that with Wesgro in the Standing Committee, this has been a consistent issue being raised about the fair distribution of the benefit of tourism in the province to also those marginalised communities.

So my interest, beyond just the number of programmes, what is the actual dent in delivering this benefit to those enterprises. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you to hon member Nkondlo for the question. I fully agree with her. We want to see the maximum impact in our marginalised communities and that is why we have targeted interventions.

I have attended a recent G20 tourism working group. I am currently right now at the G20 agriculture working group here in Stellenbosch, and both these working groups, both in the G20 agriculture and in the tourism G20, both these matters received top discussions.

The Cabinet has also appointed me to politically oversee the implementation of the [Inaudible – connectivity 2:42:18] here in the Western Cape, and we

are regularly discussing. Every Monday morning I have discussions about this, and particularly in terms of the events around the G20.

We are targeting specifically also small and medium enterprises, and after this financial year we will be able to give a detailed account of those activities and the impact. I am quite happy to also report back to the Standing Committee about this impact.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise hon member Masipa and then I will go back to you, hon member Nkondlo.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and, hon Minister, thank you. I think the initial question that I wanted to ask you, you covered on the types of trainings that you provide to this small operators.

I just want to know if in this training is red tape reduction and ease of doing business embedded in them, so that business owners are better equipped to grow and thrive? Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, I am not fully aware whether Red Tape Reduction is also part of the training course, but I am quite happy to come back to this

House, or back to the Committee, or back to the hon member, to answer it. For now I do not have that specific answer and I would not like to mislead the House.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): As my last one, hon Minister, I just want to check, the tourism agencies in the local municipalities, like Cape Tourism and others, are they aligned? Because they become the delivery mechanism and the ones that interact with these tourism enterprises in the different municipalities.

So my interest is if any tourism enterprise, we meet, I am able to direct them to their local tourism agencies. So is that available? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am very happy hon member Nkondlo asked that question, because during the last 12 months I have travelled extensively [Inaudible – connectivity 2:44:45], I have visited numerous local tourism offices and many of them, I have discovered, are not always aligned with the vision of this Government.

So, hon member Nkondlo, what I have done, I have called for a Municipal Economic Development and Tourism Summit where we discuss the Growth for Jobs Strategy, we discuss also the tourism strategy, we also [Inaudible – connectivity 2:45:18] the strategy [Inaudible – connectivity 2:45:21], and we have also asked them through participatory democracy to work in the various districts and compile key focus areas [Inaudible – connectivity] for every [Inaudible – connectivity] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your connectivity, we are not able to hear you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: [Inaudible 2:45:40]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Can you hear me now, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes, we can hear you now.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Okay. Hon [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: There we have lost you again.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I have [Inaudible - connectivity]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your connectivity. We are not able to hear you in the House.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, can you hear me now?

The SPEAKER: We can hear you now.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, I will be very brief. The question of hon member Nkondlo is very important, because I have discovered that many of these municipalities – in the last 12 months I have visited many local tourism offices, and I have discovered that there is a disconnect between the local tourism office, the municipality and the local tourism vision that we have here in the Western Cape.

For that reason I called a Municipal Economic Development and Tourism Summit where we workshop the strategy and came out with a sort of a declaration and the roles and the responsibilities of the various institutions.

I want to [Inaudible – connectivity] that after these discussions we have

received consensus that these [Inaudible – connectivity] to be aligned to the Growth for Jobs Strategy.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? No further follow-up questions.

That brings us to the end of Question 8 as printed on the Question Paper and we move on to Question 9, and I recognise the Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Sileku.

Free learner-transport-vehicle inspections

9. Mr F C Christians asked Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

With regard to the free learner-transport-vehicle inspections offered in January 2025:

Whether his Department has any plans to offer more such initiatives; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: †Mandibulele, Somlomo. [Thank you, Speaker.] and thank you very much, hon member Christians, for the question.

In January this year the Department offered free safety checks to learner-transport-vehicles. Building on this, between 22 and 27 July all our traffic centres across all districts conducted comprehensive checks, focussing

on both vehicle and driver fitness as part of our Back-to-School Readiness programme. Then we have got about 13 traffic centres from Bitou up to Beaufort-West in the Karoo. These efforts are complemented by vehicle inspections and interventions carried out collaboratively by Road Safety Management, Provincial Traffic and Municipal Traffic.

Looking ahead in October during Mobility Month, free safety checks will again be available from the 14th to the 16th, and from the 21st to the 23rd. These checks will take place at Gene Louw Traffic College, at traffic centres in George and across the West Coast, and in partnership with Swartland Municipality in Malmesbury and Moorreesburg, Saldana Bay Municipality in Langebaan, as well as through AVTs, private testing station, in Lansdowne, Belville, Table View, the Cape Town CBD, Kenilworth, Strand and Wingfield. The checks will focus on both scholar transport and other public transport vehicles.

Hon Speaker, let me use this opportunity to remind the House that road safety is a whole of society responsibility. Parents, teachers, community members and all role-players should look out for our children and protect them by ensuring that learner transport vehicles are roadworthy, that drivers are fit and licensed, and that children are safely seated and supervised at all times.

We also encourage members of the public to report any concerns, and where they wish for safety operations to be conducted at their schools, to raise this with the school management, local traffic chiefs or municipal officers. Such

requests will be attended to, because ultimately protecting commuters, no matter their age, remain a top priority. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. I think this is important. The question is how many transport users, drivers use the service? Did you make an indication and how do you promote this initiative?

It is a very important initiative, because we are always concerned about the safety of our learners, so this is a very good initiative. It just needs to be broadened, and I do not know how many vehicles are actually using this service. Thank you, hon Minister. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Speaker, as much as the question is about statistics and [Inaudible 2:50:20] usually it must be in a written question, but I would like to give context in terms of the process that we follow.

I must be honest here to the House that the uptake has not been that great. Why has it not been that great is because the users, the private owners or the users of public transport, would always perceive this initiative as an initiative that would want to punish them, but ultimately what we are trying to do is

actually to say come to us before you go on the long road, we would show you what is wrong in your vehicle, and ultimately what you need to do, you need to fix what is wrong before you go out on the road.

What we do from the side of making sure that we mobilise more people, we use social media, we issue media statements, but I must say there is still that element of mistrust, saying that maybe this initiative is used as a trap to punish people, whereas it is just a corrective measure, not a punitive measure. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any further follow-up questions?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair.

START OF DANA

The SPEAKER: I recognise you, hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I think I also welcome the response by the hon MEC. One is deeply interested, based on the reported work as to what has emerged out of the inspection of the vehicles which were inspected in the period under review, as per his report. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: †Okokuqala mandibulele kuDuka ngombuzo, mandithi kulenyanga – mandithi ngo January babesi – bendipha eGene Louw [?] xasizijoga ezimoto ufumanisa ukuthi isiqhoboshi zemoto azisebenzi then okwesibini uzowufumaniseka ukuthi izibane azisebenzi. [Firstly, I would like to thank Duka for the question, I should say this month – in January I was in Gene Louw when we looked into these cars, we found out that breaks are not working secondly. You will find out that lights are not working. †Then okwesithathu ngelinye ixesha ufumanisekise ukuthi i-engen number zezi moto ingakumbike ipublic transport azingqamelami ne vin number so xa kunjalo lonto ithetha ukuthi kufuneka thina singamagosa senze icase. [Then thirdly, sometimes you find out that the engine number of the cars especially public transport they do not go together as the vin number so when we have a situation like that, we as the traffic cops we need to create a case.] †So, xasijonga ezizinto zibakhona ingxaki ne wipers ngelinye ixesha azisebenzi so kodwa awufumani ne fine into esiyenzayo sikunika ilist yakho sithi jonga ezizinto siye sazikhankanya hamba uyozilungisa. [So, when we look into those, we do encounter problems sometimes wipers are not working, but we do not give out a fine, what we do is to create a list of the things that needs to be fixed that are mentioned. †Kodwa xa ikhona indima apho ubona ukuthi i-engine le ikulemoto ayo engine yalemoto ngelishwa kwafuneka kengoku sisebenzise umthetho, enkosi. [But when we notice that the engine in the car does to belong to a certain unfortunately in that case, we enforce law, thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The translation was still happening,

so I just needed to ensure that the hon Minister did not break any Rules in his response. Hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon MEC. †Ndinomdla mpathiswa intokuba zimoto ezisuka koluphi uhlanga mhlambi ezithe zathi ziyahlolwa, ingaba ezizaphene zikweliphi mhlambi icala kulomcimbi ke wokuthi umhlambi njengoko singabantu sohlulwa hlulwe ndinomdla uba kwenzale intokuthi ndiyazi ingxaki iphina and ithetha ukuthini nge phondo lethu enkosi. [I am interested in knowing which race of vehicles are being inspected, which race are the ones with the defects? In this matter of the race as we are humans, we are divided. I am interested in knowing what the problem is and what it means for our province. Thank you.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: No, firstly that is a very beautiful question, and I would want to answer it in English so that the sponsor of the question can also hear the answer.

Let me first say, and I think let me first make a commitment to hon Ngqentsu that during Mobility Month, when we actually do the first free scholar transport inspection, that I invite him to come to Gene Louw so that he can actually confirm my answer physically.

So, firstly, when we do this programme, we do not look at which race comes to check or which, you know, because that was his question. You know, what is the colour of people who come to the testing station to Gene Louw, what is

the majority? I must say, we are a diverse province. When you come to Gene Louw and you feel that the safety, your safety is your priority, you will come to Gene Louw. It is not about the colour. It is about if you feel that safety is everyone's responsibility then you would come.

I have witnessed people that come from different races. If you need to describe them by the different colours, you are more than welcome. So, every race, every creed, every, you know, †*Uhlanga lubakhona*. [Every race is there.] So, there is no specific race that is being challenged. Everyone has access because it is a free for all. So, even you as well, if you would want to come so that we can check your vehicle, you are more than welcome.

Even, the hon Leader of the Official Opposition is also welcome to come so that we can do it for free. So, it is the same with the sponsor of the question is more than welcome to come and check his car. I can also say the same to hon member Herron. He also more than welcome to come as it is free for all because ultimately, what we are trying to do is to save lives and to contribute to the decrease in terms of our fatalities in our province. This programme actually assists us in making sure that we actually bring down the numbers and there is more roadworthiness in terms of the cars that we find on our roads. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There is one more opportunity. Are there any further follow-up questions? I recognise the hon Ngqentsu. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is a dialogue going on here on

the floor. [Interjections.] Order.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The question, hon Speaker, was posed. The very last question I posed was posed simply because the scholar transport is a pilot sector for our economy and therefore, one is deeply interested in respect to its ...[Inaudible – 5:56:41] orientation as to who is in this sector. In respect of this problem the issue, which is very important, that breakdown was quite important. But finally, hon Speaker, the most important question is that given that his new deploy appointment, hon MEC †ude wangwevu ngoku entloko uyastressa, ndicela nimcede zinkosi sanumfaka phantsi koxinezelelo. [The MEC has even grey hair now, he is stressing, please I am asking that he be helped, do not put him under pressure.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that was not a question, but I am going to give you an opportunity to respond.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: No. Hon Speaker, I think it is a fair comment, and I would really want to respond to this. Why I am doing this response is because ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There was an opportunity for an hon member to pose a question. The hon member posed a comment ...[Interjections.] and I was going to get to tell the hon Minister he does not need to respond. I am not going to dictate how he responds because a comment is a comment and not a question, and the

Rules make provision for follow-up questions. The hon Minister is choosing to respond.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: I think, hon Speaker, the comment is ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: And he does not have to, ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: It is okay.

The SPEAKER: ...but the hon Minister chooses to. [Interjections.] He chose to respond. Hon Minister, I am on the floor.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: It is a very serious comment and I am also glad that he is concerned about my wellbeing. Also, why I am not cutting my hair, why I am not cutting my beard is because of what I am currently confronted in the province with, where there is no calm, there is no stability in the minibus taxi industry. So, the day we are able to find a solution is the day you will find me cutting my hair. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Oral Questions as printed on the Question Paper. [Interjections.] Order! Order.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: We move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145, and I recognise the DA for Members Statements. I recognise you.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Today, I wish to commend CapeNature for its extraordinary work and safeguarding the Western Cape's natural heritage. This year alone, we have seen a number of milestones that will leave a lasting legacy for both people and the environment.

In July, the Haarwegskloof Renosterveld Nature Reserve was formally declared a provincial reserve. This site, situated in the Overberg, contains the largest remaining connected stretch of renosterveld on earth, an ecosystem of which only around 5% remains. Its protection is a global achievement made possible by partnerships between CapeNature, WWF South Africa and the Overberg Renosterveld Trust.

Just weeks later, CapeNature facilitated the declaration of the Franco Three Fountains Nature Reserve, the first reserve in the country dedicated to safeguarding the rare and ecologically important Cape vernal pools. Though modest in size, it represents a massive leap forward for filling conservation gaps, protecting 22 threatened plant species and fragile seasonal wetlands in the Cape Flats.

In August, another milestone followed with the proclamation of the Wilderness Nature Reserve near Heidelberg. Spanning over 640 hectares, this

new reserve secures critical freshwater biodiversity, including the critically endangered Breede River redbfin and provides a breeding habitat for the Black Harrier, the rarest raptor in South Africa. Crucially, it also links directly with the Boesmansbos Wilderness Area, strengthening ecological corridors and protecting water catchments vital for local communities.

These achievements are matched by CapeNature's commitment to protecting our keystone species. Following the tragic loss of a young leopard to illegal gin traps earlier this year, CapeNature has also worked closely with law enforcement to ensure prosecutions proceed while also supporting farmers with non-lethal solutions to prevent livestock losses. On behalf of this House, I extend our thanks to CapeNature and its partners for continuing to deliver worldclass conservation outcomes for the Western Cape. Thank you.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ANC.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The DA-led west... Come again? The DA-led Western Cape continues to weaponize legislation to entrench its separatist agenda. In the process, it is eroding public participation and undermining democracy. This is not an abstract claim, but a lived reality that has become visible through the Provincial Powers Bill, the Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill and almost recently, the Land Use Planning Amendment Bill.

During the public hearing on the Land Use Planning Amendment Bill, including in Stellenbosch, communities ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, are you able to take your seat. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise on the Rule of Anticipation. The Bill that the hon member is referring to is of hearing on the Order Paper.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have received advice from the Table Staff that due to the fact that it is a statement, we will proceed. Hon Stoffel, you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. During the public hearing on the Land Use Planning Amendment Bill, including in Stellenbosch, communities exposed a deep crisis of transparency. Citizens complained that the process was poorly advertised ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, are you able to take your seat?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...right to participate fully.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, Rule 64 says:

“No member may anticipate the discussion of a matter appearing on the Order Paper.”

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Oh, what matter? What matter?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, just give me one minute. Yes. Hon members, after reverting back with the Table Staff, I am going to request that hon member Stoffel: the matter is on the Order Paper and that there will be an opportunity for hon members to make submissions during that particular time. Maybe I am confused here together with the Table Staff. Hon member Stoffel, are you referring to a different Bill? I see you, hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, as you see with your Table Staff, what is on the Order Paper is the Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill. Therefore, the motion or the statement of hon member Stoffel is about public participation as it referenced the Bill that is still under public hearing which is the Land Use. She is making reference in context of how Bills, including this one, are attended to. So, it is not about this particular Bill. We have got a declaration ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...as a party on the Bill itself.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we will proceed, and I will allow hon member Stoffel to continue. ...[Applause.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. More shocking were the allegations of systematic corruption made by the DA-led Stellenbosch Municipality. Business owners testified that access to land is controlled by a powerful cabal that behaves like extortion mafia, a phenomenon that has become normalised in the Western Cape. One businessman who employs 200 workers is about to close the company after refusing to submit to this criminality. This will lead to massive job losses.

The DA members were present when these allegations were raised. White collar crime, extortion linked to DA funders are destroying jobs whilst the DA continues to boast about clean governance. Criminality and corruption under the DA rule is slowly surfacing ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ...[Interjection.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...and this ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Okay. We reaffirm the importance of the public hearings as a constitutional imperative to ensure affective public participation. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Stoffel. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and good afternoon, everyone. Art has always been historical. It is not only an expression of beauty, but a mirror of society and the voice for communities that are too often overlooked. In 2017, in the heart of the Karoo, Beaufort West witnessed history when it's very first poetry production was staged. This was not backed by corporate sponsors or major funding. It was the vision and determination of the son of the soil, Mr Quinton Stuurman. He created a platform for poets beginning with just four local voices: Reinhardt Stander, Charl Paulse, Dylan Mack and himself.

For the first two years, Quinton personally funded the production. Even after he lost his employment in 2019, he did not allow this debt setback to stop him. Instead, he pushed forward through ticket sales and generosity of people in his community who believed in him and the vision. Because of that resilience, the platform grew from four poets to 12 artists attracting nationally recognised names like Rumacques Gelderbloem, Robin-Dean Fourie, Jerome Rex and Gracia Louw.

These productions under the titles *In the beginning was the Word* and later, *The Word becomes Flesh* have become far more than cultural events. They have become milestones of empowerment. They created workshops for young songwriters and performers. They opened doors for learners who never imagined that their talents could find an audience. They transformed Beaufort West into the meeting point of creativity where the language of poetry inspires hope in the Karoo. †Ek kan my tyd sien, agb *Deputy Speaker*.
[I can see my time, hon Deputy Speaker.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is the true power of arts and culture. It heals, it unites, it educates and provides opportunity where poverty ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable ...[Interjection.]

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): ...where poverty and neglect often close doors.
Thank you.

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

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, as we observe Heart Awareness Month this September, it is an important time to reflect on the state of heart health in South Africa. Heart disease is a leading cause of death in our country with over 200 000 South Africans dying from cardiovascular disease every year. In fact, heart disease counts for about one in four deaths in South Africa. These numbers represent fathers, mothers, siblings and friends who

could be with us if action were taken sooner.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the good news is that heart disease is largely preventable. Many of the factors that contribute to heart disease, such as poor diet, lack of physical activity, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. This can be managed simply by changing our lifestyles like eating a balanced diet, engaging in regular exercise, quitting smoking and managing stress can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease.

Furthermore, early detection is key. More than 50% of people with high blood pressure and high cholesterol are unaware of their condition. By regularly checking our blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and knowing our family history, we can catch warning signs before they lead to heart attacks or to strokes. But it is not just about individual responsibility. As we raise awareness this month, we must also encourage communities to take action, educating ourselves and those around us about the importance of heart health which is critical.

This September, let us take a moment to reflect on our own health and make a collective commitment to live healthier lives. Remember, taking care of our hearts today can ensure healthier people tomorrow. Love or the lack thereof, can also contribute to the conditions of your heart. †Masithandaneni, enkosi. [Let us love each other, thank you.]

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

recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The recent reports reveal that there is a looming bloodbath of retrenchments in the retail sector of our province. Pick n Pay is reported to close about approximately 44 Pick n Pay stores out of the 60 stores in the province. Stores at risk of closure include River Park Pick n Pay, Clanwilliam, Centre Point Milnerton, Bayside, Hypermarket Brackenfell, Somerset West and Belville Middestad amongst others.

This potential closure of these stores will not only affect workers but will also devastate communities as each worker supports between three and eight dependants, which means that the ripple effect of this potential retrenchment will reach tens of thousands of people. This is not simply a retail business decision, but a serious human crisis with enormous social and economic consequences. This comes at a time when the Western Cape has already lost about 117 000 jobs in the Second Quarter of this year, driving unemployment to 21%.

Against this background as the ANC, we call on this Government to intervene and save jobs, hon Deputy Speaker. Considering that the retail sector in particular, is one of the industries that is able to attract your low-skilled level workers and also, during peak times, this is one sector that has made exorbitant profits. We are calling on the Department of Economic Development to work with the National Department of Trade and Industry to

find mechanisms of business rescue to be able to ensure that jobs are not lost.

Furthermore, Pick n Pay is also known for being notorious because here in this province, it extorted working with the Department of Economic Development. Almost R20 million of State funds into some scam ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...at Pick n Pay stores. Therefore, we call on safeguarding the jobs, safeguarding livelihoods so that we stabilise ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon member. I recognise the DA.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to acknowledge the success of the NAMPO Cape 2025 agricultural expo hosted in Bredasdorp. Over 49 000 visitors attended the four-day event, underscoring the importance of agriculture to our economy, our food security and our communities. The theme for this year's expo "Smart Technology for Efficient Resource Management" highlighted the role of innovation in

ensuring that agriculture continues to grow sustainably.

Farmers, investors and industry leaders showcased modern solutions that not only enhanced productivity but also protects the natural resources. The Overberg District, often referred to as South Africa's 'breadbasket', demonstrated why it remains at the centre of national food production. Visitors enjoyed a wide range of activities from livestock shows and equipment demonstrations, to interactive workshops and exhibitions.

What made this year especially notable was the ease of access. Thousands, including Deputy President of the ANC, could travel to the event without having to dodge potholes. A credit to the Western Cape's commitment to safe and reliable road infrastructure. The Western Cape works!

Hon Deputy Speaker, events such as NAMPO Cape do more than celebrate agriculture. They bring together communities, attract investment and showcase the resilience of our farmers. The partnerships and ideas formed during these four days will strengthen the agricultural economy, create opportunities for rural communities and ensure that the Overberg continues to feed the nation. I extend our thanks to all who made this event a resounding success. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus calls on all municipalities in the Western Cape to show an interest when the public participation processes are running in their municipal jurisdictions, especially when provincial legislation that affects municipalities are open for public inputs and when they are invited by the Department or the Provincial Government committees.

Last night, the DA-led Stellenbosch Municipality did not arrive at the public participation process, despite being invited to the Land Use Planning Amendment Bill which was opened for public inputs. Not even a representative was present. Many local issues were raised at the public engagement meeting by the general public which could have benefited the municipality in gaining insights into the frustrations of the residents there, but alas, they decided not to take up the opportunity.

Local Government is government closest to the people, but last night it felt as if it was a government furthest from the people and the residents, the ordinary residents of Stellenbosch. The Freedom Front Plus believes in a government closest to the people and devolution of powers so that Government can be responsive to the needs of the electorate, not just in words, but also in actions. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy

Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Prophet Muhammad said: seek knowledge even if you have to learn from the Chinese. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. ...[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, a hero has fallen. A voice for pro-marriage. A voice for pro-religious freedom. A voice promoting strong Christian family values. A voice promoting pro-life and a voice that promoted Israel. The co-founder of Turning Point succumbed to a lunatic with a leftist agenda. The assassination of Charlie Kirk silences a voice that was raised against issues that would have gone unchallenged if he did not raise them.

His death came in the prime of his life. This tragedy of his assassination is that the world is left all the poorer by this cruel death. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! You are shouting. Hon Christians, please proceed.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, differences of opinion must be addressed through the discourse and dialogue of common purpose. Resulted understanding is achieved through the power of non-violence and a peaceful resolution.

Hon Deputy Speaker, they killed him, but he is greater than ever before. He is greater than ever before because his social media accounts have grown with 3,5 million followers. Since his death, fundraising efforts have amassed to more than \$2,8 million. Long live the legacy of Charlie Kirk. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): No statement, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Leader of the Official Opposition. Are you rising on a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes. Hon Deputy Speaker, I mean, I am just astonished. The hon Christians praising a racist and somebody who supported genocide and who referred to people in this House as animals. Black people are considered animals by this man whom he is praising. But thank you, I announced it ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You can deem me out of order now ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was not a point of order. I recognise the DA.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, addressing the plight of residents in informal settlements across the Western Cape is a serious concern and a top priority for the DA-led Western Cape Government. We are committed to upgrading settlements, delivering services and restoring dignity to the most vulnerable communities.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, this work is being deliberately undermined. Hon Deputy Speaker, as long as the ANC controls key national financial portfolios the Western Cape will never receive its fair share of funding. The ANC punishes this province for good governance. It starves our people of the resources that they deserve, merely to play politics like we can see now.

Let us talk about facts. For the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, the approximate allocations are as follows: R325 million for the 2025/2026 financial year. A staggering drop of 66% to equate to R109 million for the 2026/2027 financial year. Then, another 65% decrease to R114 million for the 2027/2028 financial year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, even President Ramaphosa said, ‘where the DA governs, we govern well.’ This is true. So, why does the ANC not increase our allocation? The DA-led Western Cape Government wants to restore the dignity to those residents in the province who currently reside in informal settlements. The DA always does more with less, but we can even do better if the ANC allocates enough finances to this province. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): We can improve the conditions for those still waiting for homes. This is what the DA governance looks like, and it is what the DA Government will fight for. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. The clock is on. Do I see any hon Executive members? I see hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Stoffel must bring the proof of corruption and land corruption claims. Then we can act. Otherwise, they are just stories. But maybe the hon Stoffels must consider to ...[Interjection.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): A point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: But maybe the honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Ja?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais?

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I could not hear a word that the hon Minister was saying. I am wondering if he could start from the beginning, please, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, with your indulgence, we will restart the clock. I would not want any hon member to miss out. It is under 30 seconds. Hon Minister, if you are able to speak into the mic.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Ja, sorry. The mic was off. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is very simple. If there are any allegations of corruption or land claims, and, and, then the hon Stoffel must bring the proof. There is no use to take these very serious matters and use them for grandstanding, but she must listen to her President who then on the one side, commends Stellenbosch out of one of the best run municipalities.

Now, the ANC must make up their minds. She is actually against the President so maybe he has got different proof of something that is going on in

Stellenbosch. So, they must stop grandstanding and bring the proof because definitely, the President does not agree with her.

Then also, hon Deputy Speaker, where the courts rule on public participation or the lack of public participation, the two court rulings are against the ANC Government with the Khoisan Bill, et cetera, et cetera. It was never against the DA. We believe in public participation. We understand we need to be better.

It is sad what has happened in Stellenbosch, and I will take it up with the Stellenbosch Municipality. But I can tell you, my experience in local government is when you go to public meetings and there is nobody there, then normally it is a well-run municipality. Where there are big problems, everybody will come out to come and complain. But the Municipality must participate within these very important pieces of legislation, and I will take it up with them. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Nkondlo! Hon Nkondlo, you

cannot speak over to that side. Please, continue.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Charlie Kirk was not a person that everybody agreed with. In fact, he was a person who many people strongly disagreed with, but he was also a father to two children who were present at his brutal assassination. I think it is shameful for an hon member of this House to respond to his brutal assassination by calling out and saying, ‘good riddance’. Surely, in this House, there should be more respect, more empathy, and more humanity, especially for his surviving family. And this, surely, is not who we are in this House and in South Africa. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do I see any additional hon members of the Executive? Hon members, that concludes Members Statements.

MOTIONS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now proceed in terms ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ...voted by anyone.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker! [Interjections.] Hon Lekker! [Interjections.] I know at this time of the day we potentially need coffee, but hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members, we must still maintain the decorum of the House.

In terms of Rule 151, all notices of motions by hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

We now proceed in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform hon members that in terms of the Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 16 September 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Rules that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed, hon members, that in the Programming Authority meeting of 16 September 2025, political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Rules of the House. I will therefore, just for noting purposes, read out the names of the hon members who have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon Constable, hon Masipa, hon Johnson, hon Wessels, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Ngqentsu, hon Ngqentsu, hon Stoffel, hon Kampfer, and hon Bans.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the recent success of the South African national cricket team that secured their second consecutive victory at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground in England; further acknowledges the discipline, teamwork and determination shown by the players, which not only brought glory to the team, but also inspired millions of South Africans back home; recognises that such achievements contribute to strengthening our nation's spirit and unity and serve as a reminder of the talent and resilience in our sporting fraternity; extends heartfelt congratulations to the players, coaching staff and management of the South African cricket team; and wishes them continued success for the remainder of their tour abroad.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Mr Ivan Saul Klaasen, Senior Immigration Officer at the Bellville Office, on being recognised by Interpol for his outstanding contribution in fighting cross-border crime; notes that Mr Klaasen has dedicated more than two decades to safeguarding South

Africa's borders, investigating fraudulent marriages, visas and contracts, and providing critical evidence that has supported both local and international law enforcement agencies; further acknowledges that his expertise has earned him recognition from global institutions, including the FBI, the CIA and the United States Secret Service, while also mentoring and training the next generation of immigration officers; celebrates this achievement as a proud moment for the Western Cape and South Africa; and affirms the importance of public servants such as Mr Klaasen whose work protects communities and upholds the integrity of our immigration system.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Manzomthombo Secondary School in Mfuleni whose under-15 netball team was crowned national champions after winning the Ubuntu section of the Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Championship held in the North West; notes that perseverance paid off after years of hard work, with the school previously placed second and third in the competition; further notes that their victory secured them the honour of representing South Africa at the International Youth Netball Challenge in Singapore in November; acknowledges the commitment of their coach, Mr Frank Xaba, and the ongoing support from sponsors Sanlam and the Motsepe Foundation, as well as the Western Cape

Education Department and the school community; and further congratulates the other Western Cape schools – ID Mkhize High School, Stellenberg High School and Parel Vallei High School – for their commendable performances at the national tournament.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure on the successful three-day housing handover blitz at Metro Grounds and Syferfontein where 112 houses were handed over in just three days; notes that this achievement brings dignity, stability and a sense of ownership to the many families who received the keys to their new homes; and commends the Department of Infrastructure in the province and all partners involved for their dedication to accelerating housing delivery and improving the lives of our residents.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Public Order Police for their swift and effective action in apprehending a suspected abalone trader in Strand on the morning of Friday 5 September 2025; commends their

professionalism and commitment to combating the illegal trade in marine resources, following the arrest of a 44-year-old man and the seizure of 206 units of illegally stored abalone at a residential property; further acknowledge the value of intelligence-led policing in protecting our coastal resources and upholding the rule of law; and expresses its appreciation to the Public Order Police for their dedication to safeguarding both the environment and the economy of the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Roger Sedres, a distinguished visual journalist from Gordon's Bay, on being awarded the Sport Visual Journalist of the Year at the 2025 South African Sport Awards held on Sunday 24 August 2025; acknowledges his exceptional career spanning over three decades during which he has captured some of the most iconic moments in South African sport history; commends Mr Sedres not only for his outstanding contribution to sports journalism, but also for his humility and dedication to documenting the lives and achievements of others rather than seeking personal glory; and further celebrates this well-deserved recognition of his talent and service to our nation's sporting heritage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Zaid Railoun, a 34-year-old resident of Rusthof in Strand, who was recognised on Friday 8 August 2025 by the *Mail & Guardian* as one of South Africa's top 200 young South Africans; commends his outstanding work in the energy sector, where he has been acknowledged for his innovative efforts at the intersection of finance and conservation – a field vital to sustainable development; further acknowledges the powerful personal motivation behind his success – a desire to make his parents proud – and recognises the inspiration he offers to young people across our communities; applauds Mr Railoun for this exceptional achievement; and wishes him continued success as he contributes meaningfully to South Africa's future.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House acknowledges and commends the new management of the Helderberg Omgee Halfway House for their compassionate and visionary approach to supporting men in recovery from substance abuse; recognises the powerful symbolism and practical value of the facility's newly established "Garden of Hope", where residents plant and nurture

vegetables – cultivating not only food, but also patience, purpose and resilience; notes that this garden stands as a living metaphor for recovery and renewal, reminding us all that growth takes time, care and commitment; further commends the implementation of the structured 16-week Eagle programme, which, despite initial resistance, is now providing the stability and guidance essential for successful reintegration into family and community life; and expresses its appreciation to Helderberg Omgee for creating an environment where second chances are not only possible, but nurtured daily with dignity and hope.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Raithby Methodist Church, part of the Stellenbosch Circuit 127, under the leadership of Reverend Loyiso Molosi, on the occasion of its 180th anniversary of faithful ministry to the community; commends the church for its unwavering spiritual and social contributions over nearly two centuries, and for its commitment to building strong values, unity and hope in the Raithby community; further honours the legacy of the elders and pioneers whose dedication laid the foundation for this ministry, recognising that today's leaders stand on their shoulders, learning from their example and continuing their work with gratitude and humility; celebrates the heritage of the Raithby

Methodist Church; and expresses appreciation for all those, past and present, who have laboured in service to both the church and the wider community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep sorrow the tragic passing away of Mr Mnikeli Mgope, First Deputy Chairperson of the Cape Amalgamated Taxi Association (CATA), who was shot and killed at the Nyanga taxi rank; condemns the ongoing taxi violence that continues to claim lives in the Western Cape; calls on law enforcement to bring perpetrators to justice urgently; and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues and loved ones.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep regret the tragic killing of Constable Desmond Mandlevu, a police officer and member of the Cape Amalgamated Taxi Association, who was gunned down in Lwandle amid the ongoing taxi violence; and conveys heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues during this painful time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing away of Mr Samuel Wagenaar, the father of Comrade Mary Goliath, from Oudtshoorn; and extends heartfelt condolences to Comrade Goliath, her family and the broader community of Oudtshoorn who mourn his loss.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with joy the birthday of the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition, member Ayanda Bans, who celebrated her special day on 25 August 2025; extends its warmest wishes to member Bans for good health, strength and success in both her personal life and her continued service to the people of the Western Cape; further acknowledges her commitment to public service and leadership in the legislature; and wishes her many more years filled with happiness, prosperity and fulfilment.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with joy the birthday of member François Kamfer, celebrated on 12 September 2025; extends warmest wishes to him for good health, happiness and continued success in both his personal life and his work as a dedicated member of the Legislature; further acknowledges his commitment to public service, leadership and the meaningful contributions he continues to make to the people of the Western Cape; and wishes him many more years of prosperity, fulfilment and achievement.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections to these motions being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

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

I will now afford the opportunity to hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could include Motions

without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d), will start now. I recognise now recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise to move without notice:

That this House notes with grave concern the recent suspension of SASSA grants, which include pensions and disability benefits, leaving many of the vulnerable beneficiaries across the Western Cape without their only source of income. Hon Deputy Speaker, these grants are not luxuries, they are lifelines to the elderly, people with disabilities and impoverished families who are entirely dependent on these funds for food, medication and basic survival; yet, instead of receiving care and dignity, beneficiaries are now forced to camp outside SASSA offices overnight in desperation, hoping to be assisted the following day; even more disturbing, disability beneficiaries have allegedly been informed that they will only be able to reapply after three months. This is not only unacceptable, but it is inhumane to deny people living with disabilities their rightful support and to subject them to such indignity and uncertainty is a violation of their basic human rights. Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, I move that this House expresses its outrage at the inhumane treatment of beneficiaries; calls on SASSA to urgently reinstate all suspended grants; and demands immediate intervention to ensure that no vulnerable citizen in the Western Cape is left destitute

because of bureaucratic failure and disregard for their well-being. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Hon MEMBERS: No. No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Sayed.

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

That this House welcomes the delivery of toilets to residents of the Freedom Park informal settlement in Greyton, under the Theewaterskloof Municipality, following the intervention of SANCO, the ANC in Council, and the ANC in this House; the House notes that residents of Freedom Park had long been denied access to basic sanitation by the DA-led Theewaterskloof Municipality, forcing men, women, and children to relieve themselves in bushes in violation of their constitutional right to dignity; further notes that Freedom Park is situated on municipal-owned land, Erf 595, which had previously been approved by council for the relocation of Madiba Park residents, but that the DA-led municipality

had failed to implement this decision, leaving residents without security and basic services; that the House commends the residents of Freedom Park for raising their voices sharply; that this House resolves to call on the DA-led Theewaterskloof Municipality to go further by providing clean water, more toilets, and ensuring the full implementation of the relocation plan to restore dignity to the residents of Freedom Park while we await formal response of the South African Human Rights Commission, following our complaint. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): There is an objection to the motion being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection to the motion. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise again, the hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Thank you very much. I am not surprised by that objection. Let me stop. I move without notice, hon Deputy Speaker:

That this House notes with concern the events that transpired in Tuesday's meeting of the Standing Committee on Education, where the

ANC informed the Chairperson, the hon Peter Johnson in advance, that five members of the public had indicated their wish to pose questions to make brief inputs on school safety, the subject matter before the committee and the hon MEC agreed; the House notes further that despite this process being followed, the Chairperson, a DA member of this Legislature, denied the public the opportunity to participate, citing the Standing Rules, even though those Rules do not explicitly prohibit public participation. By invoking Rule 82(4)(a), the Chairperson confirmed that it is ultimately at the discretion of the Chair whether to allow participation in non-public hearing meetings; that the House also notes that this discretion has been applied inconsistently across Standing Committees. For example, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters, the hon Thomas Walters, had indicated that when members engage with him in advance regarding the participation of the public, such requests would be considered and accommodated. This demonstrates that other Chairpersons, also DA members, have been willing to facilitate participation as they have done throughout the Sixth Administration, while others have taken the opposite approach; that the House expresses concern that this inconsistency by DA Chairpersons undermines fairness, transparency, and predictability in the conduct of parliamentary business, and risks sending the message that public participation depends not on principle, but on the individual preference of the Chairperson; the House further emphasises that relying solely on the Standing Rules, without due regard to the constitutional obligation in Section 118 to facilitate public

involvement, risks narrowing participation and stifling the voices of residents who seek to engage with this Legislature; that this House therefore calls on the Rules Committee to ensure that clear and consistent guidelines are developed and applied across all Standing Committees, so that members of the public who follow due process are encouraged and enabled to participate, thereby strengthening accountability, accessibility, and democracy in the Western Cape Provincial Legislature. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order as this motion that was just read into the record, is procedurally out of order.

Rule 59 makes it clear that: No hon member may impute improper motives or reflect upon the integrity of another hon member, except by way of a substantive motion.

Rule 62: Extend this protection to holders of office, including Chairpersons of committees.

What the hon member has done is to single out DA Chairpersons, accuse

them of acting inconsistently and therefore, implying misconduct. This is not just a reflection on their integrity, but also their competence. If the ANC genuinely believes that the hon member acted wrongly, the Rules provide for a correct remedy because we are, after all, a Parliament of Rules and law and order. We are not a circus.

I would encourage the hon Leader of the Opposition in his capacity as a senior member of the African National Congress, to follow those Rules and put together a substantive motion and also, perhaps, hon Deputy Speaker, to engage through the Rules Committee, which is a mechanism set up by this House, to discuss the Rules of Order that we all comply with. So, hon Deputy Speaker, I would ask you, hon Deputy Speaker, to not allow for a precedent to be set where hon members abuse the motions process to make political statements that cast aspersions on the character of hon members of this House and holders of office, and I will ask that you rule the hon member out of order in terms of Rule 59, as well as Rule 62. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before ...[Interjections.] Hon members, I have allowed the motion to be read. I had it in front of me. I have also listened to the Chief Whip now. I will apply my mind further and revert back to the House on this particular point of order. It will be vital for us to carve the way moving forward. We will now proceed. [Interjections.] We will now proceed. I have already ruled, hon Sayed ...[Interjections.] on his point of order. But I have already ruled on that point of order. I

recognise you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But that was not a point of order, that was a speech, unfortunately. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu. [Interjections.]

Are there any objections to motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections to the motion being moved. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the hon Ngqentsu. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House, employing a Marxist lens, notes that a municipality which is effectively managed cannot simultaneously have the highest rate of murders resulting from violent crimes and gang-related activities, and have over 950 squatter camps where residents lack access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; further, this House acknowledges that these conditions reflect a chronic crisis of underdevelopment,

disproportionately affecting the working-class and township communities; I therefore move that this House urgently prioritises and adopts measures aimed at addressing the deep-rooted structural inequalities and underdevelopment in these areas, in pursuit of genuine social and economic justice for all. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): There is an objection to the motion being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection that the motion be moved without notice. Therefore, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. I see the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party because he has now shown how you object to a motion. Not by coming with a long speech, so thank you and I hope he follows that line ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. That is not a point of order. Hon members, we will swiftly proceed. I again recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with appreciation the success of an integrated operation conducted by the Maitland Flying Squad and the Cape Town K9 Unit in Brown's Farm on Friday, 12 September 2025, which led to the arrest of a 31-year-old suspect in possession of two AK-47 assault rifles, a .38 Special revolver, ammunition, and a signal jammer; further notes that in a separate intervention on Saturday, 13 September 2025, members of the Maitland Flying Squad seized large quantities of mandrax tablets, crystal meth, cocaine, and cash from a residence in Summer Greens, resulting in the arrest of a 49-year-old female for drug dealing; acknowledges that both matters are now before the courts, with the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (HAWKS) handling the firearm case; resolves that the House commends the South African Police Service for these decisive interventions as part of the ongoing fight against gang violence, organised crime, and the proliferation of illegal firearms and drugs in the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I again note the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Once again, I move without notice whilst the Chief Whip of the DA is not here:

That the House notes and welcomes the landmark ruling of the Labour Court in Cape Town on 11 September 2025, which ordered the reinstatement of 23 members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) Western Cape Region who had been unfairly dismissed by Baseline Civil Contractors, a company based in Cape Town; that the House further notes that the Court found the dismissals substantively unfair and ordered the company to reinstate the workers with 16 months' back pay, marking an important victory for workers' rights and fair labour practices in the Western Cape; that the House acknowledges the tireless efforts of the mighty NUM in defending its members, and commends this judgment as a reaffirmation of the principle that employers must bear responsibility for actions that undermine the hard won rights and livelihoods of workers; that the House therefore congratulates NUM and the affected workers on this significant victory, which strengthens the struggle for justice, dignity and fairness in the workplace. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved

without notice? There are no objections, agreed to.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): They objected not yet.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Bans.

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

That the House notes the findings of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry which concluded that Israel is responsible for committing genocide against the people of Gaza; further notes that these findings highlight the systematic killing of civilians, destruction of infrastructure, and the deliberate creation of unliveable conditions for the Palestinian people; that the House expresses its solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice, and condemns in the strongest terms Israel's ongoing violations of international law and human rights. The House therefore calls on the international community, including the South African Government, to intensify diplomatic, legal, and political action to hold Israel accountable and to support efforts to end the genocide in Gaza. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Object!

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. I again recognise the hon Bans.

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

That the House notes the planned mass protest against the genocide in Gaza by the Al-Quds Foundation South Africa, the Muslim Judicial Council, and the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, in collaboration with civil society and faith-based organisations, to take place on Saturday, 27 September 2025, from Muir Street Mosque in District Six to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa; that the House acknowledges South Africa's moral and legal responsibility, shaped by its own struggle against apartheid, to take decisive action against Israel's violations of international law, including calls for divestment, closure of the Israeli Embassy, and the enactment of the Apartheid Bill; that the House expresses solidarity with the people of Palestine in their efforts and struggle for justice and liberation, and commends the efforts of South African civil society for mobilising one of the largest demonstrations for Palestine in the country's history. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the proposed sale by the City of Cape Town of the public land including the Camps Bay Library and adjacent parking, which has sparked strong opposition from ratepayers and community groups; that the House further notes that the City claims these properties are not required for basic municipal services and seeks to optimise them for retail and commercial development, while promising to relocate the library nearby; that the House expresses serious alarm at the lack of traffic, heritage, parking and community impact assessments, and at the absence of a clearly defined alternative site for the library; the House therefore calls for a comprehensive, transparent planning process, including full public participation; for

proper heritage, traffic, and environmental studies; and for the City to preserve the character of the sensitive Camps Bay village by exploring alternatives to selling off public land. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. I again recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): On behalf of the African National Congress, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern that the DA-led Western Cape Provincial Government has threatened to place Knysna Municipality under administration in terms of Section 139(1)(c) of the Constitution, dissolving the elected council despite progress being made to stabilise service delivery; that the House further notes that this drastic decision comes after years of governance instability, largely caused by DA political interference, which left residents of Knysna facing chronic

water shortages, sewage spills, waste management failures and environmental hazards; that the House condemns the DA for using the plight of Knysna residents as a political tool rather than working with the legitimately elected representatives to find sustainable solutions; that the House expresses its solidarity with the people of Knysna, who continue to suffer from the failures of the Provincial Government, and calls on the National Government to urgently intervene to protect service delivery, restore stability, and ensure that democracy and accountability are upheld in Knysna. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker. You can ...[Interjection.]

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. I recognise the hon Lekker.

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

That the House notes with grave concern the protest action by residents

of Gate 7, 18th Avenue and Olympic informal settlements in Cape Town, who blocked Voortrekker Road and caused serious traffic disruption due to lack of water, sanitation, electricity, and other basic services; that the House further notes that efforts by residents to engage with the City and ward councillors have thus far failed to produce meaningful outcomes; that the House expresses its solidarity with the residents' right to dignity and decent living conditions, and calls on the City of Cape Town to urgently address the service delivery backlog in these communities; further, that the House also urges the provincial government and relevant municipal departments to launch an immediate investigation into the failures of municipal service provision to Gate 7 and similar informal settlements, and to implement remedial measures to ensure these basic needs are met without further delay. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern that since 1 April 2024 to date, a total of 54 incidents of attacks on social workers have been reported;

further notes that, despite threats to their safety, social workers have continued to demonstrate bravery, professionalism and dedication in serving vulnerable and high-risk communities across the country; acknowledges the vital role that social workers play as frontline service providers who ensure that critical support services reach those most in need; expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all social workers who put their lives at risk in the line of duty; and calls on the Office of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development to urgently consider classifying attacks on social workers as crimes against the State, given their essential role in upholding constitutional rights and social justice. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance without notice:

That the House notes that September marks Tourism Month 2025, celebrated under the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation”; further notes that tourism is a key economic driver, contributing billions of rands and sustaining hundreds of thousands of jobs, while serving as

the lifeblood of communities across our province, from rural homestays to city hotels; recognises that the Western Cape is blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, heritage sites and cultural treasures that draw visitors from across the globe, and that protecting these for future generations must remain a shared responsibility; affirms that in celebrating Tourism Month, we also honour the resilience, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of our people, whose stories and traditions make the Western Cape a place of wonder, pride and opportunity for all; and calls on the Minister of Tourism to act decisively against corruption, safeguard the R500 million in support of the sector, and ensure that the Tourism Board can continue driving growth free from political interference or sabotage. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I see the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern the recent defunding of iconic cultural festivals and events, including the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, Suidoosterfees and the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival

(KKNK), as well as cuts to funding for various sporting associations; further notes the devastating impact these cuts will have on local economies, job opportunities and the cultural fabric of our nation, particularly as communities continue to recover from the socio-economic effects of COVID-19; condemns the actions of the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, who has shown disregard for the value of these internationally renowned cultural events that foster pride, identity, cultural exchange and employment opportunities for thousands of South Africans; acknowledges with concern the National Minister's prioritisation of political gain over cultural and social well-being, including the redirection of funds towards headline events that boost personal image rather than serving the needs of communities and the preservation of heritage; and calls on the National Minister to immediately reinstate funding for these critical arts, culture and sporting events and to end this 'content-creator style' approach of governing by likes and comments, which undermines the sector's sustainability. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): There is an objection, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection ...[Interjection.]

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): There is an objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. ...[Interjection.]

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): The right objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now, again, recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes with serious concern the ongoing violent confrontations linked to taxi association conflicts in areas including Mfuleni, Khayelitsha, Somerset West and Hermanus; further notes the presence of 13 high-crime police station hotspots across the province, such as Mitchells Plain, Delft, Manenberg and Atlantis, where communities continue to suffer under relentless crime and violence; acknowledges the escalation of gang warfare, driven by drug-trade rivalries, leadership disputes and cycles of retaliation, which place residents, particularly the youth, at grave risk; notes that, in response to these crises, the Democratic Alliance last week submitted a memorandum, signed by all DA Mayors in the Western Cape, to the Ministers of Police and Justice; calls on the House to support the urgent

demands contained in that memorandum, namely: that SAPS immediately table and implement a dedicated resourcing plan for the Western Cape; and that municipalities which have pioneered effective safety and crime-prevention models be granted the powers and resources necessary to expand their role in law enforcement; and affirms the need for a whole-of-society approach to restore safety, dignity and justice in affected communities. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Booyesen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the DA I move without notice:

That the House notes that September is recognised globally as Suicide Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about mental health challenges and the devastating impact of suicide on individuals, families and communities; further notes that South Africa faces alarmingly high rates of suicide, particularly among young people, men and those living in vulnerable and underserved communities; acknowledges the urgent need to reduce stigma around mental illness, expand access to quality mental healthcare and promote early

intervention and community-based support services; commends the efforts of civil society organisations, health professionals, educators and community leaders who work tirelessly to support mental wellness and provide hope to those in crisis; and calls on all spheres of government to strengthen suicide-prevention strategies, increase mental health funding and prioritise mental health education as a core part of building a more resilient and compassionate society. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Chief Whip.

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

That the House notes and welcomes the comments made by President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledging the Auditor-General's findings and often reports that those municipalities that do best are not ANC-controlled municipalities but are often DA-controlled municipalities; that the House notes that the President encouraged public representatives to go and see what the DA-led governments are doing; and further notes these comments reflect positively on the level of governance enjoyed by the majority of residents in the Western Cape, as 22 out of 30 municipalities in the province are led by the Democratic Alliance; and

further move that, in line with the President's encouragement to share best practices, the House debate examples of good governance in the Western Cape; and, if the House so agrees, that such debate be led by the Leader of the Official Opposition, who was present in the audience when the President made these comments. I so move. ...[Applause.]

[Motion as moved by Member.]

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Order! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We object!

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, can I in terms of procedure ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: ...I need to table the motion to the House. Can I please do that. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: We object! Government of ICACA? [4:01:54]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I was looking at the clock. I am not, I mean, we have already objected. That is the ... on a point of order, I noticed, and you can consult your Hansard. I noticed that the hon Chief Whip went over the 30, what is it, 30-minute allocation. So, he did go a little bit over the time. So, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have been, hon Chief Whip, I can rule on that. [Interjections.] Order! Order. I have been informed by the Table Staff that the Chief Whip started speaking at 29 minutes. So, that was within the 30 minutes. The Table Staff have confirmed that.

With that being said, that brings us to the end of Motions without Notice. We will now move on to the Order of the Day, and the Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration and finalisation of Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill [B 8B–2023].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, I table the Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill. With that, I propose that we finalise the Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. As there is no list of speakers, I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration for a maximum of three minutes each, if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. On behalf of the African National Congress, we rise up to declare our unequivocal and principled opposition to this ...[Interjection.] Can you give me a chance, please ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Can you give me a chance?

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Yes. The African National Congress rises to declare our unequivocal and principled opposition to this draconian Amendment Bill. This Bill has nothing to do with support and everything to

do with a blatant constitutional overreach. It is directly an assault on the local government spheres, a sovereign and independent tier of governments elected by the people.

This Legislation concentrates dictatorial powers in the office of the hon MEC, sanctioning political interference, dismantling cooperative governance and shamelessly violating the autonomy guaranteed by Section 151 of our Constitution. This Bill seeks to legitimise a pattern of behaviour by the hon MEC that has already been condemned by the Public Protector who found him guilty of improper interference and unlawful conduct. It is an attempt to reward misconduct, institutionalise abuse setting a dangerous precedent for the entire nation.

The widespread rejection of this Bill speaks volumes. During the April public hearings, scores of our people saw through this [Inaudible - 4:05:43] and rejected this Bill for what it is: a tool designed to strip municipalities of their autonomy. Even municipalities led by the DA recognised this constitutional betrayal and opposed it. We must also condemn the stifling of this democracy in this Legislature. The so-called public hearings were a sham, limited to only three locations. It excluded vast regions of our province. This process was designed to avoid scrutiny.

Given these grave injustices, the ANC rejects this Bill in its entirety. We will not stand idle while this Legislature is used to sabotage municipalities for narrow partisan gain. We are prepared to escalate this fight. We will report

this unconstitutional power grab to the National Council of Provinces for urgent intervention. We will engage the Minister of COGTA and National Treasury to halt this attack on cooperative governance and we are prepared to pursue all legal opinions, including constitutional challenges ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): This Bill is an affront to our people of the Western Cape and the values of the Constitution. The ANC rejects it completely.

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Patriotic Alliance supports the principle of the Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill. However, we must raise serious concerns about some of the proposed amendments.

Hon Speaker, the very title of this Bill promises support for municipalities, yet when one examines the amendments, the reality seems less about support and more about control. Instead of empowering municipalities to govern effectively, it risks stripping them of their autonomy and centralising power in the hands of the Province. If enacted in this way, the Province could effectively walk into any municipality and take over operations under vague and undefined circumstances.

This is not support. This is intrusion. It comes across more as an investigative tool and a supportive framework. The written comments from municipalities reinforce these concerns. Mossel Bay Municipality has highlighted that proactive monitoring must be justified in its case as it carries significant cost implications and reputational risk for municipalities.

George Municipality has gone further, stating that the Bill appears to facilitate investigations, rather than genuine support. They argue that it compromises the municipality's ability to exercise its constitutional powers under Section 151(4) and even circumvents Section 106 of the Municipal Systems Act. These concerns are not only valid, but they are constitutional red flags. †Ek kyk net gou my tyd. [I'm just looking at my time quickly.]

Hon Speaker, we must also be mindful of history. The Municipal Systems Act sets out a 90-day timeframe for an investigation to be concluded and a report to be tabled. Yet, we have seen processes in municipalities, like Beaufort West, Theewaterskloof and I can name others, drag on for years. Maybe even five years. During that time, multiple stakeholders are appointed leading to fruitless and wasteful expenditure, and who pays the price? The taxpayer. These delays not only undermine accountability but also render the process unlawful after 90 days.

Hon Speaker, the essence of this Bill must be supported. Municipalities must be strengthened, not weakened. They must be empowered to serve their communities, not left vulnerable to provincial overreach. Right now, these

Amendments tilt the balance in the wrong direction, away from cooperative governance and towards provincial control.

In conclusion, we call for clarity ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): We call for clarity, accountability and true support. We, therefore, reject for now this Bill. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus I wish to state that every municipality, irrespective of which political party governs it, must be monitored, supported and strengthened in order to meet its statutory obligation as stipulated under Chapter 7 of the National Constitution.

Coalitions have become a standard feature of our municipalities, but currently in the Western Cape, they are all under a DA-led Provincial Government. Amending and in this context, amending Section 6(2) paragraph (a) of the Act, allows for more discretion to be given to the DA Provincial Minister to selectively exercise his will when determining appropriate steps in cooperation with municipalities to develop their capacity or to address their incapacity.

In our view, this Amendment opens the door to potential political manoeuvring for political expediency and simply put, to allow for a situation in which the DA could sabotage and destabilise cooperative governance at local level, especially as we approach the 2026 Local Government Elections. This will possibly allow for a tit for tat situation, spilling over to other provinces.

The principle of equality in treatment is not observed, allowing this particular Amendment. Prior to this Amendment, the Provincial Minister was under a statutory obligation to do so, irrespective of which municipality is involved. Further to this, hon Speaker, the insertion of Section 4(2) requires the Provincial Minister to take certain factors into account if he has reason to believe that the record will be destroyed or concealed if not secured as a matter of priority.

These factors mentioned include the identity of a whistleblower which is a matter of concern to the Freedom Front Plus. Why should a politically appointed Provincial Minister have access to such sensitive information? This, despite the current national outcry for greater protection given to whistleblowers, as echoed by the South African Human Rights Commission following the findings of the Zondo Commission.

Hon Speaker, Section 106 of the Municipal Systems Act already sets a clear legislative guideline for MECs in instances of investigations and those that

have to be undertaken. While we support ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. While we support the call for proactive measures to cater for early detection of corruption, we do not support the Bill ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): ...in its current form ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): ...based on these factors. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Ngqentsu, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): As a member of the Police Oversight Committee, I am concerned that the person responsible for Police Oversight and Community Safety is sleeping in the House whilst this province

...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...is in crisis of violent crimes.

The SPEAKER: This not a ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): She is sleeping! She is sleeping!

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! That is not a ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes, there is a crisis of violent crime in the province.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not a point of order. Please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order! That is not a point of order, and I have ruled. [Interjections.] Order! Thank you very much, hon members. I now recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we do not support the Bill ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members in the House, there is an hon member on the floor.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Yes, I have stated, hon Speaker, that Al Jama-ah does not support this Bill. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports the Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill for the following reasons.

Hon Speaker, what happened in Knysna must never happen again because the Municipality of Knysna failed to execute their constitutional responsibilities. If this Bill was in place, that would have never happened in Knysna. That is a fact. We know that Local Government is a government closest to the people: closest to the people! So, when people refer to government, they look at National, Provincial and Local Government and they blame government as a whole.

So, hon Speaker, the Amendments will, amongst others, strengthen the role of the Provincial Government by monitoring municipal performance and also, there will be timeous intervention and support when municipalities are in difficulties. What is wrong about that? It will also ensure accountability and transparency. This Bill, hon Speaker, is definitely a service delivery Bill. People on the ground will have better services because of this monitoring. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD. [Interjections.]
Order!

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

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today to support the Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill, a Bill that in many ways reflects the very best of what we, as policy makers and public servants, should strive for: accountability, efficiency, and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the residents of the Western Cape.

At its heart, it is a Bill about strengthening the foundation for good governance across all municipalities of this great province. It is about ensuring that our local governments are not just functioning, but that they are functioning at their absolute best. Good governance cannot exist in isolation, it cannot thrive if local authorities are left to navigate the complexities of administration, service delivery and fiscal management alone. The truth is, municipalities, like every public institution, need the support and oversight that enable them to perform their roles to maximum effectiveness.

The Bill before us today recognises this fact and it puts in place a framework that ensures that municipalities have the tools, the guidance and the support they need to succeed. We all know the challenges our local governments face, from budget constraints, capacity issues to the intricate demands of service delivery that impacts the daily lives of our citizens. But let us also acknowledge the potential that exists within these municipalities, the potential to deliver better roads, better healthcare, better schools and better communities. The Bill is a commitment to unlocking that potential.

As we look into the future, we must recognise that the very idea of governance is changing. It is no longer for Government to simply be reactive, responding to crises as they arise. We need to be more proactive in our approach, one that identifies the challenges before they become insurmountable. This Bill empowers us to do exactly that. Through monitoring, we can anticipate the issues and address them early. Through support, we can build up the capacity of municipalities, ensuring that they are not only equipped to deal with today's problems, but that they are ready for the challenges of tomorrow.

Accountability is the bedrock of any democracy. It ensures that governments remain true to the promises that people make. Through this, the Amendment Bill, we create a system that demands transparency from every municipality, from every leader, from every department. We must strive to create a culture of excellence in every municipality in this province, a culture where public servants are held to the highest standards, where resources are used

effectively and where citizens can be assured that their taxes are being spent wisely.

So, hon Speaker, let us pass this Bill with confidence with the knowledge that we are making a tangible difference in the lives of every citizen in the Western Cape and in doing so, we are reaffirming our commitment to the highest ideals of public service. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Wessels. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, with that, I propose that we finalise the Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That concludes the debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill. I have to announce that there are currently 33 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. Are there any objections to the approval of the Principle and the Finalisation of the Bill? No objections, agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: The Western Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill.

The SPEAKER: The Bill will be sent to the hon Premier for assent.

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

The House adjourned at 18:35.