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THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be seated. At this time I would like to welcome all the guests in the gallery as well as those that are following on the online platform.

Hon members, you are all familiar with the proceedings of this House and the Standing Rules. I will now recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much and good morning, hon Deputy

Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), that the House resolves that the Sitting on Thursday, 19 March 2026, shall commence at 10:00.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. Hon members, we will proceed and I will recognise the Secretary.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Principle of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 1-2026.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Executive, hon Leader of the Opposition, hon members, special guests and residents of the Western Cape. Today we return to this House to debate the 2026 Western Cape Budget.

The Bill tabled last week sets out how the Western Cape Government will confront fiscal pressure, protect frontline services and sustain economic momentum. This debate gives us the space to test whether those choices meet the needs of our residents.

This R285,8 billion Budget, of which R93,538 billion will be appropriated in 2026/27, focuses on growth supported by discipline and care. Growth ensures

opportunity, discipline ensures every rand is directed toward impact, and care ensures that services remain accessible and kind.

Our apex priority, Growth for Jobs, receives R36,651 billion for initiatives that strengthen water security, energy resilience, agriculture, tourism, entrepreneurship and critical infrastructure.

Our Safety priority is allocated R8,595 billion for violence-prevention programmes, expanding parenting and family-strengthening work, substance-abuse prevention and treatment, and law enforcement.

Our Educated, Healthy and Caring Society priority remains the largest share of the Budget, receiving R208,643 billion, including funding for new educator posts, education and health infrastructure, child protection, disability support and older persons.

Our Innovation, Culture and Governance priority receives R31,924 billion to build an agile, innovative government that improves service delivery, including implementation of our AI framework.

We have also established a new Alternative and Blended Financing Reserve, totalling R518,814 million, aimed at servicing future borrowing for acceleration for infrastructure, and financing parts of our R34,626 billion ABF portfolio across our province.

Our Infrastructure budget will receive R31,1 billion over the MTEF, consisting of:

- R11,109 billion for Roads Construction and Maintenance;
- R5,557 billion for Human Settlements;
- R2,691 billion for Public Works;
- R5,199 billion for Health Infrastructure and Non-Infrastructure Related Interventions such as health technology;
- R6,437 billion for Education Infrastructure; and
- R136,73 million for Ecological Infrastructure.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Budget further reflects the growing reality that climate-related shocks are now annual events that require sustained funding.

The 2026 Budget directs R949,8 million to unforeseen and unavoidable events, including:

- R177,942 million for drought and water resilience;
- R452,529 million for energy security;
- R139,7 million to combat foot-and-mouth disease response, for vaccines and scaling our veterinary services;
- R67 million for the fire damage to the Paarl Hospital;
- R65,530 million for integrated fire management, firefighting and aerial support, and
- R47 million for gender-based violence interventions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the 2026 Budget provides a clear and responsible path forward. It accelerates growth without weakening core services. It protects the vulnerable while maintaining fiscal discipline, and it strengthens the systems that keep this province stable and capable in a time of national fiscal constraints, and I urge the House to support this Bill. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Sayed. So let me be proper and rephrase that as well. The Leader of the Official Opposition, hon member Sayed. The clock will commence on your first word.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, the budget ambition of delivering growth with discipline and care begs the question growth, discipline and care for whom?

From Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain to Matzikama and Langeberg, millions in our province live a different reality. High unemployment, crime and families struggling to survive are amplified for young people still affected by race.

During the SOPA debate we raised the paradox of two Western Capes. One that benefits from growth and opportunity, and the other suffering from overcrowded schools, housing backlogs and unsafe communities. In reply, the hon Premier acknowledged this divide, yet this Budget reinforces inequity and does not close the divide.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA-led Provincial Government highlights fiscal discipline, but it is discipline without justice, equity, inclusion and transformation of structural inequalities defining our province.

Allocating R36,6 billion to the Growth for Jobs Strategy over the medium-term cannot concentrate growth in already prosperous sectors and areas. Economic growth must be inclusive, labour-absorbing and geographically transformative of historically skewed patterns of economic participation, ownership and production.

A Gini coefficient of around 0,625 means our province is extremely unequal by global standards, a legacy of apartheid which the DA is not transforming. The DA presides simultaneously over the wealthiest and most unequal province with large economic and social disparities. Equity demands resources to flow to communities that need them most.

Hon Deputy Speaker, despite the severe housing crisis the Human Settlements Development Grant decreases by R397 million over the medium-term as a result of the DA's failure to spend housing budget allocations. Informal settlements mushroom while communities face devastating fires in Hout Bay and other vulnerable settlements. The DA cannot claim to eliminate inequality while they do not spend what National Government gives them.

Education, Health and Social Services make up 77% of provincial spending.

Addressing structural inequalities in education requires more than 15 schools to solve inward learner migration, overcrowded classrooms, infrastructure gaps, unequal digital access, under-resourced townships and rural schools, skills for job market and protecting teacher positions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as our province grows health systems face increased strain. We need clarity how allocating R2,4 billion for Health Infrastructure over three years will meet rising population demand, clinic overcrowding, long waits, staff shortages and emergency service strain.

The provincial economy is linked, hon Deputy Speaker, to global markets through trade, shipping, exports and tourism. Geopolitical instability and supply chain disruptions impact livelihoods and businesses in our province. The escalating US-Israeli war on Iran threatens the Western Cape economy. Western Cape agricultural exports to the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf contribute significantly to South Africa's total agricultural exports to the region, valued at approximately R24 to R25 billion. Trade route disruptions and rising fuel costs increase business expenses, reduces profitability and decreases competitiveness. This afflicts provincial agricultural value chains, equipment, chemicals, transport and logistics and aviation. 30% of provincial economic output is linked to foreign trade in agriculture, agro-processing and exports. Jobs in farming, logistics, food production, small producers and export industries carry the burden.

Our tourism economy is vulnerable to global instability across travel corridors

and connection hubs. This reduces discretionary spending, translating into lost income, job insecurity and an inability to put food on the table. The DA-led Provincial Government prides itself on trade ties with the US. We need to know how it is mitigating the adverse impact of the unprovoked US-Israeli attack on Iran on our provincial economy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Provincial Strategic Plan speaks of building a trustworthy government, but trust requires accountability. The Conduct Committee finding that the hon Premier breached the Members' Code of Conduct by failing to declare a sponsored flight to the US, is a lapse both in his trust and accountability. We cannot trust the DA-led Government with this Budget when the hon Premier cannot comply with routine financial disclosure and goes further to undermine hon members of his own party, like the hon member Van Minnen. Our people expect accountability and transparency to apply equally to everyone, including the hon Premier. The hon Premier lacks the integrity to resign and the DA lacks the leadership to recall him. He cannot be trusted to lead Government ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to implement the Budget and the Provincial Strategic Plan ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and eliminate the divide of two Western Capes. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, I did not want to interrupt the hon Sayed from delivering his input and I want to say from the very onset that holding up placards will not be allowed in the Chamber. I have consulted with the Table Staff, so the holding up of placards will not be allowed.

There is a speakers list and any particular member wishing, that is on the speakers list, are able to make their inputs at that particular time. I see the hon Chief Whip of the Official Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Respectfully, hon Deputy Speaker, if the hon Deputy Speaker can just quote for us the Rules that does not allow us to have any placards we would obey duly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I have already ruled in that regard. I have engaged with the Table Staff. Placards will not be allowed. Placards will not be allowed in this regard. If you give me two seconds – if you give me two – we have not set precedent as far as I am aware, but what I will rule now is that placards will not be allowed. I have now made my ruling.

An HON MEMBER: It cannot be precedent.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have now made my ruling, hon members. We will proceed. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are breaking the Rules, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Hon members, you are aware in terms of the Standing Rules, that a decision by the Presiding Officer will be final. [Interjections.] You will have other recourse, [Interjections.] you will have other recourse in this regard. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We cannot allow that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whose hand went up first? [Interjections.] I see the hon Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think we respect the Rule that allows you a ruling and a ruling is on the basis of Rules.

So you cannot jump the Rules and just utilise your ruling to weaponize such ruling so that you silence us. All we are asking is that, one, precedence has happened here in this House many a times. I am sure that could be produced as evidence for you.

Secondly, hon Deputy Speaker, we are asking for a Rule in the current Rules that prohibits us to have placards. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I currently already indicated that I have ruled in this matter and that ruling will be final, [Interjections.] in that the placards, there will be other recourse in this regard. There is a speaker's list. It is not to silence any particular person.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You are silencing us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a speaker's list and hon members will have the opportunity [Interjections.] to give their inputs during the debate. I would not want to prolong ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not want to prolong this particular point of order.

An HON MEMBER: Is that the advice from Table Staff?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have consulted, yes. [Interjections.] We will proceed, hon members.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, firstly let me thank you for your indulgence in allowing me to complete the speech before ruling, but I think – and within that spirit, I am concerned that you have made a ruling not based on Rules of this particular House.

I just want to put on the record. I know you have made your ruling and I would have suggested that instead of making a haphazard ruling on the spot for the sake of progress and for the sake of healthy engagement, that you would have rather then asked the Tabling Staff to say, “Look, we will come back to it, we will consult, we will engage and come back,” but you have made your ruling and I think we do not agree with that particular ruling, it must be noted, and that this particular ruling is a ruling that is made in a politically driven environment and atmosphere, because we have seen a change. Previously, you have not ruled like this.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed, I take your point.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: We know that the DA Provincial Congress is coming in November and the Congress is coming in April, so you have got to show that you are more hard-lined [Interjections.] so that you can protect your position. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] hon members, I have already ruled and that ruling will be final. [Interjections.] Hon members are fully aware that if they have any particular feeling or sentiment around a ruling they are able to follow the proper procedures in that regard.

I will not entertain further points of orders in this regard as I have already ruled. [Interjections.] I have already ruled, hon members.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Order, hon Deputy Speaker, order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a new point of order? [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): There is no point of order, we are calling you to order.

An HON MEMBER: We want your point of reference.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have already ruled. There is recourse for you. [Interjections.] There is – all hon members will have an opportunity on the speaker's list. [Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You do not just use common use in Parliament. [Interjections.] You must be guided by the Rules. [Interjections.] Where is that Standing Rule that you are referring to? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take guidance from the Secretary at this stage.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You are using your common sense.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, no, hon Deputy Speaker. It cannot be.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Be careful not to be on the wrong side of the DA Caucus. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): And also on the wrong side of the law. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Because we will take you on that one.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You want to please your masters now. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He has to pacify ...[Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You want to please your masters at our expense. [Interjections.] This is Parliament, you must allow us a freedom. [Interjections.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Why should we be silenced?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member [Interjections.] – order, hon members, I have the floor now. [Interjections.]

Hon members, I have consulted with the Table Staff. I have already ruled in this regard and that ruling is final. [Interjections.] There is recourse for any hon members [Interjections.] should they be unhappy with the ruling of a Presiding Officer. [Interjections.] We will now proceed. [Interjections.] We will now proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker. On a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call hon members to order. If not ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bans, I have not recognised you yet. [Interjections.]

Hon members, [Interjections.] hon members, [Interjections.] speaking directly to the Table Staff [Interjections.] in that particular manner will not be

tolerated. [Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Give us the Rule.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, any hon member who is unhappy with a ruling ...[Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Give us the Rule!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me state it clearly for you. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today's Sitting, as you are all aware, as always is governed by the Standing Rules and in an instance where the Rules cannot be applied, [Interjections.] and where the Rules cannot be applied the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final. [Interjections.] That will now be final and we will proceed. [Interjections.]

I now recognise the hon member Van Wyk. [Interjections.]

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in the 2026 MTEF Budget ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Van Wyk, [Interjections.] can you take your seat? [Interjections.] Hon member Van Wyk, can you – hon member Bans?

An HON MEMBER: Why are you jumping the Standing Rules?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the House is guided by Rules as you would always weaponize it on us when we are standing up here. We expect you as a Speaker, when you make a ruling it must be not on some summary because it is in one line. Tell us, “Because of this Rule therefore.” It has been a precedent. We have been keeping up placards. Now today it is not – it is because you are feeling it cannot be kept up, it is not allowed.

We cannot be guided by feelings here, we cannot be guided by a party here. This is not the DA's House, this House belong to the people of the Western Cape and it must be treated in that fashion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for confirming ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): And we will step down only if we get the Rule.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for confirming our sentiment that this is the people's House ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, so they must benefit from it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...and as such there are Rules in this House.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): But which Rule? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where Rules, [Interjections.] where Rules cannot be applied – where Rules cannot be applied the ruling of the Presiding Officer is final. [Interjections.] Any hon member who is unhappy with that ruling has recourse. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we know the tactics at play. The Opposition has brunch plans and they were planning to walk out anyway, so this is the tactic to get that, [Interjections.] but just to help the hon members on the other side. [Interjections.] Although there is not a specific Rule that prohibits placards and protests, [Interjections.] Rule 42, in terms of maintaining order, Rule 43, as well as Rule 40 [Interjections.] – as well as Rule 40, cover this.

So although it is not one specific rule, there are multiple Rules that are being violated, [Interjections.] and as you have already stated you have ruled and I think, hon Deputy Speaker, you need to start naming hon members, because they are not respecting the [Interjections.] Rules of Order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] hon members, I will not entertain further points of orders. [Interjections.] Hon member Lekker,

[Interjections.] hon member Nkondlo, hon member Stoffels, I will not entertain further points of orders based on this point. [Interjections.]

I have already ruled. If any hon member [Interjections.] – if the Rules cannot be applied, [Interjections.] as hon members are aware, the ruling of the Presiding Officer is final. [Interjections.] This is not a debate between the Presiding Officer [Interjections.] – then you have recourse to follow.

We will proceed with the debate now. [Interjections.] We will proceed [Interjections.] – hon member Nkondlo, [Interjections.] hon member Nkondlo.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): They are not going to get [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now proceed with hon member Van Wyk.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): How do you Chair the House like that? How did you arrive at that [Inaudible.]

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in the 2026 MTEF ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What happened to your conscience? [Interjections.]

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): ...Budget there has been a clear message that the Western Cape is the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have [Interjections.] – hon member Van Wyk, can you please take your seat? I am going to say the following and that will be the end of this particular... I have received input and advice from the Table Staff. I have made a ruling. That ruling is final. [Interjections.] If any person, hon member, is unhappy they are able to follow the procedures. [Interjections.] Hon member Van Wyk, you may proceed.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Please adjust my time.

In the 2026 MTEF Budget there has been a clear message that the Western Cape is determined to build discipline and sustainable economic growth momentum. Even though we currently live in a world experiencing volatility, ranging from war conditions to tariff uncertainties, and climate conditions, ranging from drought to floods, we have stepped up because we want better lives for our 7,6 million citizens.

We want economic activity growing faster than inflation and population growth so that employment opportunities increase. We recognise that to achieve this we, as the public sector, need to ensure an enabling environment with functioning infrastructure.

When governments are proactive in decision-making and execution it sends a positive signal to the private sector that they can confidently make decisions

to invest. This is how successful states flourish.

Our approach in the Western Cape to strive for employment and better lives for citizens, represents a clear difference from provinces where the ANC governs and does not bother about failing water infrastructure, about corruption and education or health departments not offering top services.

Our Budget is designed to enable growth and investment if we can fix three of the ANC's messes. There are indications that the debt service costs on our national debt are starting to stabilise at the equivalent of 18% of our Main Budget expenditure. This means that out of every R100 of revenue we only have R82 left for expenditure. This happens when wasteful projects are funded by debt, delivering no value to citizens who now carry that cost.

We have an economy that has limped along at below 1% GDP growth for a decade and longer, while our population has grown at 1,3 to 1,4% per annum. In simple per capita terms, we are growing poorer every year while the leaders of our peer nations have ensured better lives for their citizens.

This mess arose because of legislation, disincentivised investment and regulation that stifled growth. The DA has consistently argued for structural reform to up the economy. We are fortunate that the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Van Wyk ...[Interjections.]

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): ...that the President ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order. I think the hon MEC for Finance, both last week and now, had quite a focus on the Western Cape. Are we here to discuss the Western Cape Budget or are we here to discuss other provinces? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, it is a political debate. I cannot dictate to hon members on their input. Hon member Van Wyk, please proceed.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): We are fortunate that the President introduced Operation Vulindlela to shepherd in much needed reforms.

The recent Impu melelo Growth Lab report emphasises that while policy frameworks are being established, the window for translating them into visible improvements is narrowing.

In logistics, the cost is already being accounted in lost export revenue, for example at the Port of Cape Town.

In water and municipalities the decay threatens basic living standards and economic activity.

In electricity, due to the loadshedding crisis, private sector investment brought about the addition of 18 gigawatts of renewable energy projects, amounting to R361 billion in the seven years since 2018. This is at 40% of the cost of Medupi and Kusile's 9,6 gigawatts. To solve the electricity reform crisis, the public sector's grid and institutional logjam needs to be resolved.

For the Western Cape and South Africa to succeed, these reforms need to be implemented with urgency for translation into sustained investment, improved infrastructure and faster growth.

The Western Cape received an additional R3,01 billion or 3,58% in Equitable Share and Conditional Grants for 2026/27, that will fund 94,8% of this Budget. We have also added R4,737 billion from Provincial Own Receipts, or the balance of 5,2%.

For Education WCED will receive R35,108 billion or 37,5% of the Province's total budget, being 7,24% more than was spent in 25/26.

For Health the Budget amounts to R34,47 billion or 36,8% of the total budget. The increases in these two budgets take account of the additional funding provided in the National Budget to cover Compensation of Employees in education and health, and the employment of doctors.

Education will be able to employ 701 teachers with R799 million and spend

R330 million on maintenance and refurbishment of ageing infrastructure.

Over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework R6,437 billion will be spent on the construction of new schools through the Rapid School Build Programme.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is important to note the work that our provincial departments are continuing to do to support economic activity and growth by focusing on the G4J strategy to become a R1 trillion economy in real terms by 2035.

This Budget has highlighted earmarked allocations to promote and activate a wide range of projects across municipalities and sectors of society.

R523 million will be spent across departments in 26/27, with more funding to follow over the MTEF as we deal with promoting energy and water resilience, promote economic development, tourism, agriculture, the township economy, put in place measures to deal with effects of climate incidents, work on freight rail revitalisation and move the Alternative and Blended Financing Programme into the phase of practical implementation.

By implementing structural reforms we encourage investment that drives economic activity to counter debt service costs, makes more funding available to spend on education, health, social services and safety, while absorbing labour into the ranks ...[Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Wyk.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in supporting this Budget ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): ...we are [Inaudible.] investors that we welcome investment. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Wyk. I recognise the hon member Petrus.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, all guests in the gallery and people of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, today we are not merely debating numbers on a page. We are debating the realities of our people, the mother who goes to bed hungry so her children can eat, a young person who wakes up every day with no job to go to, and the elderly who feel forgotten in a system that should protect them.

†Vandag debatteer ons nie net syfers nie, ons debatteer oor die werklikheid van ons mense, mense wat sukkel om te oorleef, mense wat moed verloor en gemeenskappe wat voel hulle word agtergelaat.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, die omstandighede van ons mense in die Wes-Kaap is tans op sy ergste. Werkloosheid bly een van die grootste vyande van ons mense. Jong mense sit by die huis, gekwalifiseerd, maar sonder geleentheid.

[Today we not only debate figures, we debate about the reality of our people, people who struggle to survive, people who have lost courage and communities who feel they have been left behind.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the circumstances of our people in the Western Cape are currently at its worst. Unemployment remains one of the main enemies of our people, young people are sitting at home qualified but without opportunities.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, unemployment is not just a statistic, it is a crisis. It strips our people of dignity, it fuels crime and it destroys hope. If this Budget does not speak directly to job creation and economic inclusion then it fails the very people we are elected to serve.

The hon MEC for Finance in her address last week spoke about fiscal discipline, economic growth and sustainability. These are important, but growth that does not reach the means nothing, growth that does not create jobs is empty, growth that does not empower the poor is unjust.

†Die vraag wat ons moet vra is eenvoudig, wie trek werklik voordeel uit hierdie Begroting? Is dit die gewone man en vrou op straat, of dit is net 'n dokument wat goed klink op papier?

[The question we have to ask is simple, who really gets advantage from this

budget? Is it the ordinary man and woman on the street, or is it just a document that sounds good on paper?]

How can we justify selling land that could be used for development while our people are crying out for housing? How do we explain to communities living in overcrowded conditions that there is no land available, yet land is being sold? †Ons mense het nie nog beloftes nodig nie, hulle het aksies nodig van hierdie regering. [Our people do not need more promises, they need actions from this Government.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the housing crisis in our province cannot be ignored any longer. We are urging all parties in this House to support the allocation of funds of the Urban Settlements Development Grant, or the USDG, which is mainly allocated to Metros, to be allocated to rural areas as well, to ensure that our people, especially backyard dwellers, are assisted with dignity, †en hier gaan ons, as die PA, al ons steun gee, ons doen 'n beroep op alle partye om dit moontlik te maak vir die agb *MEC* van Infrastruktuur van die Wes-Kaap, om 'n voorlegging te maak aan die Nasionale Regering sodat dit gewysig word, die *grant* gewysig word, sodat alle mense ingesluit word. [and here we, as the PA, we'll give all our support, we call on all parties to make it possible for the hon MEC of Infrastructure of the Western Cape to make a submission to the National Government so that it can be amended, the grant be amended, so that all people are included.]

†Agb *MEC*, ons sal, as die PA, na afloop van hierdie Sitting die voorlegging

aan u voorsien, en ons sal waardeer as u daarna sal kyk. Baie dankie.

[Hon MEC, we will ask the PA after the conclusion of this Sitting to provide you with the submission and we will appreciate it if you can look at that. Thank you.]

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Budget allocation for this financial year once again does not speak to the lived realities of those communities that need it the most.

When it comes to education, whilst the EFIF supports the funding for the 701 new educator posts in the province at a cost of R799 million for this financial year, we do call for permanent posts for teachers and not mere contractual temporary posts, as the number of learners will continue to grow in this province and if this is so, so should the number of permanent teachers.

As the EFF we are not convinced that R6,4 billion allocated for rapid infrastructure build programmes will be enough to see the province having better school infrastructure and more classrooms in the medium-term.

When it comes to the Safety Plan of this province, hon Deputy Speaker, just over R8,5 billion is said to be allocated for safety in the medium-term. However, the operational budget to fight crime directly appears to be extremely

low, with R169,3 million intended to be allocated to Neighbourhood Watches and Policing Forums, R20,9 million to street coaches and R1,4 million towards LEAP, and whilst it is not clear what exactly these amounts are spent on when it comes to Neighbourhood Watches and Policing Forums, it is very clear that the Province has already lost millions, if not billions of rands, on money spent on the so-called Safety Plan through the LEAP Programme, because the Safety Plan, hon Deputy Speaker, has not yet yielded any results as money is spent, but the crime and murder rate in this province continues to increase, more especially in our townships.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I find it sad that there is nothing mentioned about building more shelters for homeless people in this province. Lack of adequate shelters for homeless people in this province is an issue of ongoing concern and must be adequately addressed, as these are the most vulnerable people in our communities, alongside the elderly people and children, of whom many to date, from forgotten communities across the province, have been excluded in budget allocations under this Democratic Alliance Government. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Ministers, hon

members of this House.

For the last 30 brutal corrupt years under ANC rule, three harsh undeniable realities have crushed the hopes of our people in Khayelitsha, Guguletu, Langa, DuNoon, Manenberg, Joe Slovo, GaMatlala, Johannesburg, Tshwane, Knysna and communities across our country.

The ANC Government has taxed them relentlessly, squeezing every last rand from their pockets, their businesses, and their futures. Unless they march in the streets or dragged the State to court just to be heard. Then, after bleeding our people dry, they steal what they have taken through corruption, cadre deployment, State capture and shameless looting, leaving hospitals without beds or medicines, schools without scholar transport and millions jobless and without hope.

Hon Deputy Speaker, but there is one exceptional certainty at the tip of Africa. While ANC governments have taken taxpayers' money and destroyed livelihoods, DA governments deliver. In the municipalities where we govern people's taxes return as real value: clean water that flows, roads that do not swallow your car, electricity that stays on, jobs created and services delivered.

The Democratic Alliance welcomes the decisive injection of over R139 million allocated to the Department of Agriculture for procurement of vital vaccines, plus additional support for veterinary services to combat the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, and safeguard our province's livestock industry, farmers,

jobs and food security. Unlike under ANC governments, this money will be well spent.

For over 30 years the failed, corrupt ANC-led system has dominated eight provinces and national governance, delivering nothing but collapse, mismanagement, and betrayal:

- Billions looted through cadre deployment and State capture.
- Essential infrastructure, from vaccine production facilities, like Onderstepoort Biological Products, to water systems, deliberately neglected, corrupted and left to rot.
- Crisis met with denial, delays, finger-pointing and zero accountability.

What were the results, hon members? A national foot-and-mouth disease outbreak that has ravaged livestock across all provinces, crippling rural economies and threatening exports, because the ANC's broken systems could not act swiftly, coordinate effectively or even produce vaccines domestically for decades due to institutional decay and corruption. Yet at the southern tip of Africa the Western Cape stands as a beacon of hope and proof that clean, collaborative governance works.

Under DA leadership we have built a resilient, high-functioning intergovernmental ecosystem that delivers results, not excuses.

Now facing the foot-and-mouth disease crisis, a provincial "War Room" has

been established, uniting departments, municipalities, private veterinarians, farmers, Agri Western Cape and even private partners, like Shoprite, for urgent vaccine transport. Strict 24/7 border controls, movement permits, rapid surveillance and a comprehensive 21-point response plan have been rolled out, with thousands of vaccines delivered and administered.

This is what clean governance looks like: swift, transparent, collaborative and focused on outcomes.

Contrast this with the broken, corrupt ANC-run local and provincial governments that dither and fail. In Johannesburg, Tshwane and other ANC strongholds, residents endure chronic water crises, leaking pipes, potholes, sinkholes and no basic service delivery at all.

Instead of fixing the mess they created, ANC leaders, like Lesufi, shamelessly brag about booking hotel rooms to shower, as if ordinary people from Soweto and Tembisa can afford R6 000 a night to bath. This is while millions suffer without water in their taps.

They deflect blame, deploy proxies to attack our hon Premier and hon Ministers, who actually do work, hoping to cling to power through non-issues rather than solutions.

The DA rejects this failed system in this House. We lead with integrity, accountability and real delivery, turning taxpayers' money into tangible value

that protects communities, economies and futures.

The Western Cape proves when governance is clean and collaborative, South Africa thrives. We will keep fighting to expand this model nationwide because our people deserve leaders from DA who serve, not steal.

To the residents of the Western Cape, and in particular the EFF, it was the ANC that inherited functioning institutions like OBP and ARC, then systematically broke them over 30 years:

- Billions in annual allocations siphoned off through shameless corruption.
- Capacity gutted.
- Infrastructure left to rot.

When relief funds finally arrived to fix the mess, the ANC stole those too. Then had the audacity to complain about the very problems they created. They loot the money and whine about the wreckage. This is not governance, this is betrayal. As Nelson Mandela once said:

*“Success will require an acceptance that in many aspects we are a sick society.”*

The ANC has made us that sick society. They do not deserve to co-govern with the DA, not even close. Even SACP is distancing itself from ANC.  
[Interjections.]

Our mission, starting in 2026, vote ANC out, [Interjections.] purge corrupt ANC politicians from power. Ensure they never claw their way back ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...into the City of Cape Town. [Interjections.] It is totally unacceptable for a party, elected by the people, to then ignore them completely, while stealing from them and leaving them in crisis. As Winston Churchill puts it:

*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.”*

We in the Democratic Alliance have that courage. We deliver clean, accountable governance, [Interjections.] we fix what they broke [Interjections.] and we will keep fighting, until every resident gets the leadership they deserve, not the theft they have endured. No more excuses, no more looting, time to end the ANC’s failure is now. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA backs hon Minister Baartman’s growth focused Budget. ANC noise in the House is shameful and rejected. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Masipa. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Before we proceed, [Interjections.] during the input of the previous speaker the running commentary bordered on disrupting the speaker. I would want to caution hon members against running commentary. There is a speakers' list. [Interjections.] There is a speakers' list. We now see the hon member Michaels.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Die NCC verwerp die 2026 Provinsiale Begroting. Hierdie is nie 'n begroting van sorg nie, hierdie is 'n begroting van berekende verwaarlosing.

Wanneer 'n mens die aanbieding van die Provinsiale Tesourie ontleed word dit duidelik dat die Wes-Kaapse Regering steeds ekonomiese groei prioritiseer vir beleggers, korporasies en goedgeplaaste elite, terwyl die werkersklas en armes vasgevang bly in armoede en uitsluiting.

Die aanbieding verklaar trots dat die Provinsie R285,8 miljard oor die Mediumtermyn Uitgawe Raamwerk sal bestee, met R36,6 miljard aan die portefeulje Growth for Jobs toegeken word, met die fokus op ekonomiese uitbreiding en besigheidsontwikkeling, maar, agb lede, groei vir wie, want vir die gemeenskappe van die Kaapse Vlakte, die Overberg, die Weskus en die landelike dorpe waar die meerderheid werkersklas Bruinmense woon, het daardie groei nog nie vertaal na waardigheid, geleentheid of ekonomiese geregtigheid nie.

In eenvoudige taal beteken dit dat die Regering toenemend ontwikkeling uitkontraakteer aan die privaatsektor, wat nuwe winsgeleenthede skep vir groot korporasies en beleggers, terwyl gewone mense afhanklik bly van krimpende openbare dienste.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, tog vuur hierdie Begroting sogenaamde fiskale konsolidasie en dissipline, terwyl dit terselfdertyd erken dat bevolkingsgroei vinniger toeneem as die riële per kapita provinsiale finansiering, wat beteken dat die hulpbronne wat vir elke inwoner beskikbaar is in werklikheid afneem.

Dit is nie dissipline nie, dit is soberheidsbeleid wat op armes afgedwing word, en die gevolge daarvan is sigbaar reg oor die Wes-Kaap.

Terwyl die Provinsie ekonomiese prestasies uitlig, is die werklikheid van baie werkersklasgemeenskappe werkloosheid, benedegeweld en diep sosiale ongelykheid.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, die Wes-Kaapse Regering hou daarvan om homself voor te stel as 'n model van goeie regering, maar hierdie Begroting ontbloom 'n diepe strukturele ongeregtigheid.

Beleggings vloei steeds na sektore soos finansies, toerisme, handel en eiendom, nywerhede wat oorwegend deur groot korporatiewe belange oorheers word, terwyl die ruimtelike nalatenskap van apartheid grootliks onaangeraak bly.

Die gemeenskappe wat die swaarste deur armoede, werkloosheid en sosiale marginalisering geraak word, is steeds dieselfde gemeenskappe wat histories uitgesluit was, die Bruin werkersklas en die Swart werkersklas.

Die NCC vra dus die eenvoudige vraag: waar is die grondhervorming vir werkersklasgemeenskappe? Waar is die grootskaalse behuising en stedelike heropbouprogramme vir die Kaapse Vlakte? Waar is die doelgerigte ekonomiese ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The NCC rejects the 2026 Provincial Budget. This is not a budget of care, this is a budget of calculated neglect.

When one analyses the submission of the Provincial Treasury it becomes clear that the Western Cape Government still prioritises economic growth for investors, corporations and well-placed elite, while the workers class and poor are remaining gripped in poverty and exclusion.

The submission proudly declares that the Province will spend R285,8 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework with R36,6 billion allocated to the portfolio Growth for Jobs, with the focus on economic expansion and business development, but hon members, growth for whom, because for the communities of the Cape Flats, the Overberg, the West Coast and rural towns where most of the workers class live, that growth has not yet translated to dignity, opportunities or economic justice.

In plain language it means that the Government increasingly subcontracts development to the private sector that creates new profit opportunities for large corporations and investors, while ordinary people are remaining dependent on shrinking public services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, yet this Budget fires so called fiscal consolidation and discipline, while at the same time acknowledges that population growth is increasing faster than the real per capita provincial financing, which means that the resources available to each citizen are actually decreasing.

It is not discipline, it is austerity policy forced upon the poor, and of which the consequences thereof are visible all over the Western Cape.

While the Province is highlighting economic achievements, the reality of many working class communities is unemployment, gang violence and deep social inequality.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government likes to portray itself as a model of good government, but this budget exposes a deep structural injustice.

Investments still flow to sectors such as tourism, trade and property, industries that are predominantly dominated by large corporate interests, while the spatial heritage of apartheid mainly remains unchanged.

Their communities affected the worst by poverty, employment and social marginalization are still the same communities that have historically been excluded, the Brown workers class and the Black workers class.

The NCC therefore asks the simple question: where is the land reform for working class communities? Where is the large-scale Housing and Urban redevelopment programmes for the Cape Flats? Where is the purposeful economic... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Michels.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): ...bemagtiging van Bruin gemeenskappe wat steeds ekonomies gemarginaliseer word ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): ... empowerment of Brown communities that are still being marginalized economically ...[Interjections.]]

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

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): ...[Onhoorbaar.] Provinsie.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): ...[Inaudible.] Province.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...has expired, thank you. I recognise the hon G Marais.

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Agb

Adjunkspeaker, die Vryheidsfront Plus ondersteun die beginsel van die Wes-Kaapse Begrotingswetsontwerp.

Die prioriteite wat geïdentifiseer is, is belangrik en dit is ook 'n nuwe gefokusde ideaal wat ons nou op fokus, maar ek wil ook begin om te sê wat Barack Obama, die voormalige VSA-president, gesê het oor 'n begroting, en ek gaan dit in Engels aanhaal. Hy het gesê:

[Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus supports the principle of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The priorities that have been identified, are important and it is also a new focused ideal that we are now focusing upon, but I also want to begin to say what Barack Obama, the former United States president had said about a budget and I am going to quote it in English. He said:]

*“A budget is not merely a set of numbers, it is an embodiment of our values.”*

Now in South Africa and within our context, these values are entrenched in our Constitution, hon Deputy Speaker, as rights. Rights to dignity, life, equality and freedom from violence, but the reality is that many of our people do not experience these rights in their daily lives. We are focused, we are still struggling, hon Deputy Speaker, with deep poverty, inequality and increasing pressure on provincial resources.

The continued migration to the Western Cape, driven by economic decline and job losses elsewhere in the other provinces, places further strain on our services, our infrastructure and our people's opportunities, and at the same time, hon Deputy Speaker, national economic conditions and policy choices, such as Black Economic Empowerment and other legislation, continue to limit economic growth, particularly in sectors like the automobile, which is a large component of our manufacturing sector and critical for job creation in the Eastern Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are pleased for the renewed focus on the clothing and textile sector and sub-sectors, but we want to also call upon the strengthening of our skills development amongst young people, especially, hon Deputy Speaker, when it comes to poverty. I want to just quote, poverty figures for children living in poverty in 2019 was 27%. In 2024 it increased to 41% in the Western Cape.

Now when my father was still a Minister in the previous Administration, I think in 2001, he was – prior to that, hon Deputy Speaker, there was a Poverty Eradication Programme and a portfolio. That is not a focus, and I would like the hon Minister to address that. Is poverty eradication a focus of this Budget? That is my question. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. I now recognise the Minister, hon Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Deputy Speaker, the safety of our residents remains one of the most pressing and urgent challenges facing the Western Cape today.

Across our province, but particularly on the Cape Flats, communities continue to live under the shadow of violent crime. Gangsterism, extortion and organised criminal activity have entrenched themselves in several areas, leaving residents to endure daily threats to their lives, their livelihoods and their dignity, but we must be honest about what lies behind this violence.

The killings we witness are not random acts of criminality, they are in large part the product of a thriving criminal economy. The trafficking of drugs, firearms and other illicit goods has created a lucrative underground economy that gangs and organised criminal networks are fighting to control.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the impunity with which many of these criminal groups operate today did not arise overnight, it is the direct consequence of a decade and more of the systematic weakening of the South African Police Service. For years instability within Crime Intelligence structures has undermined the ability of the police to gather and act on critical intelligence. Key specialised units have been hollowed out, police stations in high crime areas remain under-resourced, detective capacity has declined while case backlogs continue to grow.

The National Government has failed to prioritise the resourcing and capacitation of the SAPs in proportion to the scale of violent and organised crime in the country. The result is that the very communities suffering the highest levels of violent crime are often served by police stations operating below the staff levels required to perform their duties effectively. We are now living with the consequences of those failures.

The long-term solution requires the urgent capacitation of the South African Police Service. National Government must prioritise rebuilding the investigative and intelligence capacity of SAPS so that it can effectively confront organised crime and gangsterism, but while policing remains primarily a national competency, the Western Cape Government has never stood back.

Within the limits of our constitutional mandate we have consistently stepped forward to support policing efforts, to strengthen community resilience and to soften the devastating impact of crime on our residents.

Over the past several years we have made substantial investments to support law enforcement through initiatives such as the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, which demonstrated measurable impact in targeted areas. Beyond LEAP we are continuously investing in specialised canine units to assist in the detection of firearms, drugs and explosives. We have expanded our Peace Officer Programme to ensure that trained personnel can assist with public safety functions and community-based interventions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our commitment to accountability and oversight remains equally strong. Through the Western Cape Police Ombudsman residents have access to an independent platform to lodge complaints regarding policing inefficiencies or misconduct. This office plays a crucial role in ensuring that policing services remain responsive and accountable to the communities they serve.

Our Court Watching Brief Programme continues to monitor the progress of serious criminal cases, particularly those involving murder and gender-based violence, ensuring that justice is not only pursued, but also seen to be pursued.

We have also worked tirelessly to build strategic partnerships that strengthen our collective response to crime. Our collaboration with organisations such as the Institute for Security Studies, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, has brought international expertise and research capacity into our efforts to better understand organised criminal networks and support efforts in disrupting their operations.

We continue to work closely with Business Against Crime and civil society organisations, recognising that addressing the issue of crime requires a whole of government and a whole of society approach. I must, however, stress that the Acting Minister of Police, Professor Cachalia, started off on a right trajectory by acknowledging policing failures in our province and its inability to effectively deal with gangsterism.

He was still on the right path when he met with us and made his intention known to work with us. He undertook to prioritise addressing the gangsterism problem in the Western Cape, and he was still making the right moves when he agreed with our argument that certain policing powers ought to be expanded to governments where capacity exists, but, hon Deputy Speaker, it unfortunately seems as though the Acting Police Minister is finding it hard to keep his rhythm.

It seems as if his intentions lacked urgency as I cannot point to a single action by him taking us forward in the province. This is concerning to me. I would like to reach out to Professor Cachalia again: Please be more present in the efforts to fight gangsterism in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, safety is not created in isolation, it is built through cooperation, trust and shared responsibility across government and society.

Through the Department of Social Development, the Western Cape Government continues to invest in strengthening care and services for families. Initiatives that help families build safer and more stable environments for children and young people.

We are also strengthening substance abuse prevention and treatment, with a focus on early intervention and rehabilitation. Support is also being expanded for adults and children in conflict with the law. Diversion and rehabilitation

programmes play an important role in helping individuals reintegrate into society, break the cycle of crime and build a future beyond offending.

Prevention remains central to our approach. Innovative initiatives by the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, such as the Planet Youth model, apply a public-health approach to violence prevention by identifying risk factors affecting young people and guiding evidence-based interventions that steer them away from pathways that lead to crime. This work is strengthened through our area-based teams and the Violence Prevention Unit.

Community participation remains a cornerstone of our safety strategy. We continue to support Neighbourhood Watches and Community Policing Forums, ensuring that residents remain empowered partners in building safer communities. That is why we are extensively consulting with our citizens and other stakeholders to finalise our new Safety Plan. We are a government that listens to our people.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as to be expected, some in this House will by all means attempt to discredit the good work done by this Government. They will question the value of our programmes and interventions, they will suggest that the Province is failing to improve safety. Let us be clear: Although policing power is vested at National Government level, this Government has continually stepped in where National Government is failing.

As our province continues to grow its economy and create employment

opportunities, we are pushing hard to ensure that residents feel safe enough to take up those opportunities. We will continue to stand with our communities, support law enforcement and invest in the safety and dignity of every resident. I thank you.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Despite its self-made reputation as a well-run province, service delivery failures are increasing due to severe infrastructure, financial management and capacity constraints, especially in Knysna and Kannaland Municipalities, as well as in several overpopulated residential areas and informal settlements in and around the City.

Sewage mismanagement, water crisis, housing delivery failures and high unproductive spending are not unfamiliar trends in the DA-run Western Cape Province. Al Jama-ah is calling for an investigation into allegations that budgets meant for infrastructure, housing, education and for projects to support HIV and TB care centres, are sometimes underutilised or directed to other areas. Poor communities, the backyarders and those in informal settlements, continue to be negatively impacted by the lack of essential services, such as trash, water, power and toilets.

The City of Cape Town has acknowledged the challenges posed by ageing infrastructure and inadequate sewage systems. Just recently 350 residents in Khayelitsha were displaced in the Kanana informal settlement after a burst sewage pipe that caused several flooding in their homes.

The sewage spillage in the informal settlement of Imizamo Yethu in Hout Bay, where there are consistent sewage spills into surrounding areas as well. The basketball court in Imizamo Yethu was turned into a lagoon of human waste, and this problem has been persisting for the past 10 years.

The Province is not prioritising the needs of the poor communities, it prefers to waste the budget meant for education on court cases, such as the continuous harassment of Mr Wesley Neumann, principal of Heathfield High School.

The crisis of crime in the province is not only a policing issue but lacks the political will of a DA-led Province as it fails to address the root causes of crime, such as spatial injustice, to create a safe and equitable environments, unemployment and poverty. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): As one takes podium to participate in this debate, one must remind all of us that we are 48 hours away from the Human Rights Day, recognised and commemorated by our country under a democratic rule.

In line with the point made by the hon Premier in his State of the Province Address about recalling the history of the people of our country and province, this history is the main feature and stand truth as to who we are, as where we have been, marks the personality that is who we are, more so than what we say, we wish or tell others we are.

What history lies in the human rights character of this country and this province that is embellished in its economy and its architecture, that a R91,721 billion as a total provincial receipts, should respond to.

Today I wish to bring to this House the part of history that our Provincial Government, from the State of the Province Address to this current budget, refuses to acknowledge, and if it does it opts to be oblivious to it by putting a plaster on a gaping wound, using an undue and unheard of rules, even in this House, to silence this part of history, just because they have privilege of excuse of National Government as a scapegoat.

A party of double standards, [Interjections.] they speak with a different mouth for the elite that is predominantly White and globally networked, and another language with the poor that is predominantly Black, with little generational wealth and economic prospects, and indeed [Inaudible 1:31:26] are going to be [Inaudible.].

The economy of this province continues to grow away from its citizens that

built this province, that built the cities, that built the economy, yet the very economy they helped build is an oyster to be enjoyed by high flyers in our province, those at the highest LSMs and those with pounds, dollars and stronger currencies that land in the Cape International Airport and connects either to George to play golf, or excursions in the beautiful landscapes of our province. [Interjections.] Yet the very locals in the very areas are found mainly cleaners, gardeners, at most not able to afford even the zip line in Ceres by the farm workers in the area outside of a charity gesture of the rich.

Tourism in this province is more elitist than a point of showcasing and telling tourists the truth about our history, a personality of a complex and painful past. Some stories must be hidden so to present a whitewashed view of a Western Cape that is un-African, but more European and appealing to the dominant establishment.

The hon MEC of Finance yesterday told us that G4J is budgeted for at R1,49 billion through a grocery list of projects she enlisted in the Standing Committee. This huge Budget in billions excludes an entire informal economy of this province [Interjections.] with a township economy only mentioned by name in page 621 of this Blue Book, with only R1 million allocated to some long-winded study of the Economic Development Department in page 643, dedicated to the township economy.

This is clear demonstration of the apartheid budgeting this DA is invoking to show how little they regard Black people, [Interjections.] [Inaudible 1:33:16]

since the HOD [Inaudible 1:33:18] to the other HOD, to this one, we have been told of a number of studies that are being done on townships. When we called for a township development strategy, even then we were told that a study is being done. The very hon Premier was then a Minister of Economic Development, and had a failed experiment of Pick n Pay stores, which he spent more than R20 million of taxpayers' monies that were lost in that experiment with no consequences, but those women he tricked into that programme are lying in debt and shame after the false hope.

As if that was not enough, as we speak Mr Fezile Farmer, who has occupied an open unused land in [Inaudible 1:33:59] for 11 years and farmed there, further enquiring to the City about this piece of land [Interjections.] with intention to buy it, sent from pillar to post by the City of Cape Town, and last year the very DA-led City sold this piece of land which, while he is there, without even alerting him. The new owner of this farm now, which is staying around the area, has closed him off his own livestock of 400 goats, sheep and cattle.

Hon Minister Meyer, without a sufficient notice for him to find alternative accommodation for his livestock, he is given until the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month to vacate, whilst his belongings and the flock are closed in by the new owner. Here are pictures of about 100 of his stock that has died of hunger. No water and the water is closed for water pipes. They have not died of foot-and-mouth disease, they have died of hunger, and yesterday he had to bury these animals, which is a hard-earned investment. *Sies*, the DA is evil.

This is clear repeat of human rights violations of the 1960 shebeen massacre [Interjections.] as history repeats itself here under this DA rule.

While we are on agriculture, hon Deputy Speaker, food insecurity remains a lived reality in many parts of the Western Cape. Low quality of life defined rural areas and yet Rural Development, in page 578 of this book, only gets R23,9 million of a R1,149 billion budget, with farm workers support only R12,4 million, and why the Standing – and that is why the Standing Committee Chairperson, who is standing here, boasting, was eagerly silencing the representative of farm workers in the committee when they wanted to present their issues, whilst a White male of the DA-aligned Institute of Race Relations was allowed a 10 minute [Interjections.] full PowerPoint presentation during the Budget Committee, with hon MEC given to answer in full the issues that he was raising, because he was against BBBEE, which was not even in the Budget, but he was allowed.

This is the double standards of this DA. These are the issues that we bring. This we thought we buried. We thought we buried apartheid, but clearly Hendrik Verwoerd has to be reincarnated in the men and women in blue, who had consciously chosen to reintroduce apartheid style way of governing the affairs of the Western Cape. [Interjections.] Shame on you, the traitors, the Mangopes, the Matanzimas. [Interjections.]

Actually it is interesting that we were killed in this particular province in Crossroads by a group called ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ... that were sponsored by the National [Inaudible  
1:36:47]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...there is a point of order.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am just rising on your earlier ruling around the signs. I note that signs are up again. [Interjections.] So just checking if that ruling is still standing. Thank you. [Interjections.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Let us know the Rule.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] hon members. I did not want to interrupt the hon member Nkondlo from delivering her inputs. I have noted that each and every hon member seated, that is representing the ANC, ultimately disregarded the ruling.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would have made the – I would have given a

warning directly after hon member Nkondlo, that if the placards are not going to be removed I will have to then, in terms of you being in contempt of my ruling, ask the Table Staff and for you to then leave.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, we will leave on our own. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then that can happen now if you are already making that decision. [Interjections.] You are disregarding the Rule ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...that I have already made ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, you cannot [Inaudible 1:38:07] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...and showing blatant disregard. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, you cannot tell us if we want to leave the House we can leave the House. You must preside here. This is the House of the people of the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So here I am presiding.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Last week – this hon Premier was here last week.

The hon Premier, when he walked in with his cycling shorts, he was allowed.

An HON MEMBER: In this House.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): In this House. We cannot have different sets of Rules for certain people and different people. [Interjections.] No, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...and we will not allow ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...this weaponizing to be continuing.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): It cannot [Inaudible 1:38:38]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We will not allow – it is our House, we will stay here and you must see how you sort us out. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I am ruling now that if any hon member, that if any hon member list and hold up the placard, [Interjections.] which is in contempt of the order [Interjections.] – have you not seen to your left and to your right? [Interjections.] But I am not wanting to have an engagement. [Interjections.] I have already ruled [Interjections.], I have already ruled. [Interjections.] The Table Staff will then help and assist. [Interjections.]

Hon members ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We are in contempt of what? What is it that [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made a ruling. If any person is unhappy with the ruling they are more than happy to follow the procedure. [Interjections.] Please take your seat, hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.] I see the hon member Sayed. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am glad that the time is still, that you have stopped the clock, because the hon Deputy Chief Whip still has to conclude.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think the reason as to why it seems as if the House is descending into chaos is not because of the hon members who are holding up placards, it is because of the manner in which you ruled. Reflect on that. You

cannot rule based on no Rule, and we understand also you are under pressure because of Congresses. We do understand ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...but it is not justifiable.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon Premier was protected last week for coming in half naked into a Sitting ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...disrespecting his position, [Interjections.] but – and we have seen speakers consistently ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...MECs hold up placards when they speak, but they are allowed to.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: This is completely unacceptable, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon member Sayed, [Interjections.] hon member Sayed, before I recognise the hon member Michels, [Interjections.] I have made a ruling. The Presiding Officer is that where the Rule is not explicit, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final. I have made a ruling based on the placards. [Interjections.] I have made a ruling based on the placards, that it will not be entertained and you will not be allowed to display that placards.

You have deliberately ignored the ruling, you have blatantly showed disregard and this is now a warning, that if there is any further placard [Interjections.] then I will ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to help and assist in that regard, and that will be final. [Interjections.] If any person is unhappy they are more than welcome to follow the process. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order. [Interjections.]

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...Michels?

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek dink ek raak nou baie bekommerd as ons begin *Rules* gaan maak wat nie deel is van die *Rules* nie,

want ons is besig nou om dan 'n lelike presedent te skep, want u, agb Adjunkspeaker, u kan nou enige tyd dan kom en u eie *rules* mos nou maak.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I think I am now getting very worried if we are going to begin to make rules that are not part of the Rules, because we are then busy to create an ugly precedent, because you, hon Deputy Speaker, you can then come at any time and make your own rules.]

†'n AGB LID: Ja!

[An HON MEMBER: Yes!]

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Dit is wat u nou eintlik vandag hier vir ons sê, en dit is 'n – ek wil van die NCC se kant af wil ek hê dit moet *ge-note* word, dat ons is nie *happy* met dit wat u nou doen as *Deputy Speaker* nie.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): That is now what you are actually saying to us here today, and that is a... from the NCC's side I want to say that it must be noted, that we are not happy with what you are now doing as Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Your comments are noted. It is not to come here and make Rules as I see fit. There is recourse, that if any member is unhappy [Interjections.] they are able to follow that process. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are the one who started, because you, you are abusing the Serjeant-at-Arms.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the Serjeant-at-Arms to make sure that the placards... [Incomplete.]

An HON MEMBER: You are abusing the Serjeant-at-Arms, because what you are doing is illegal. [Interjections.] What you are doing is illegal and you are abusing the Serjeant-at-Arms. Who are you going to abuse? [Interjections.] [Inaudible]... on illegal instructions.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member who is indicating [Interjections.] that you are abusing the Serjeant-at-Arms, is in violation of Rule 62. [Interjections.] She is seriously reflecting on your integrity as the Presiding Officer and I ask that you rule on that, please.

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order! On a point of order! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is your problem! [Interjections.]

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): And if you think you are going to remove me here, you can do it, but I am not going to be silent because you intimidate me.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, it does not work like that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): This is illegal, I am saying so.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.  
[Interjections.]

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

An HON MEMBERS: You allowed the hon Premier with cycling shorts in this House. [Interjections.]

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

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]... we must be treated differently because we are Black?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members [Interjections.] – can I adjourn the House for 15 minutes? [Inaudible 1:44:10] for 15 minutes. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You do not have respect [Inaudible.] woman.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] I am going to suspend the proceedings for 15 minutes. [Interjections.] I will then engage the Chief Whips of the political parties [Interjections.] at the back and the House is now suspended for 15 minutes. [Interjections.]

*[The House is suspended at 11:44.]*

*The House resumes at 11:46.*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be seated. Hon members, I have consulted with the Chief Whips and the leaders of political parties represented in this House on my earlier ruling. On my earlier ruling and the blatant disregard of my ruling and in the interest of preserving the decorum of this House, and ultimately, to continue with the Business of the Day.

Hon members, we have agreed that the hon member speaking, as per the Speakers' List, will be allowed to display the Blue Book or a relevant poster as part of their speech. This is an interim arrangement as it is being referred to the Rules Committee for furtherance. We have that agreement among all political parties.

I trust that we will now be able to proceed with the Business of the Day. There are two minutes and two seconds, and I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): This very DA prides itself of what it claims are structural reforms. Yes, the very new liberal and right-wing agenda of Trump, as they are mini-Trumps with their Boswell taking the clown in the circus. They have relegated our democracy, too.

They bully anything not blue and this House is a typical toothless institution that its Budget is only R232,5 million, as the smallest of all the 14 Votes. How can a parliament mandated to allocate Budget be reduced into a †'ja baas' [yes boss] with its tail in between its legs, over the very department it is authorised in law and the Constitution to oversee.

More than R323,5 million of Compensation of Employees were not spent in the 2025/2026 financial year. This is the de-staffing policy as austerity aligned to DA new liberal policy, to weaken and hollow out State capacity as affirmed in the manifesto of the DA about lean governments. A decoy to build a case and justify private sector direct involvement in public affairs.

DA hypocrisy to fight for increase in the Equitable Share due to population growth, whilst not matching that with boots on the ground to service the very population and show the culprits and effects of the poor communities neglected while they are bait, using the loudmouth and demand increased share of the fiscus.

The House is reduced to pleasantries with the Chairpersons of Standing Committees only about applauses, you know, to the hon MECs and the departments, with little if any scrutiny, many keeping quiet on the Standing Committee only waiting to vote.

We, as the ANC, would reject this type of Budget because ours is about an equitable distribution of the available resources which this particular Budget is silent on and continues every year to actually ignore the plight of poor communities. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): [2:15:30] Baie dankie, agb Adjunk-speaker, agb lede en mense van die Wes-Kaap.

Die DA ondersteun hierdie begroting omdat dit meer doen as om net boeke te balanseer; dit verdedig menswaardigheid. Dit is 'n begroting wat, bo enige twyfel, bewys dat ons in die Wes-Kaap regeer nie vir koerantopskrifte nie, maar vir mense.

Maar voordat ek ons verbintenis tot maatskaplike ontwikkeling uiteensit, moet ek 'n saak van geweldige nasionale belang aanspreek. Adjunk Speaker, dit laat 'n skaduwee oor ons land en dit handel oor die verdwyning van klein Joslin

Smith.

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members and people of the Western Cape.

The DA supports this Budget because it does more than just balancing books, it defends human dignity. It is a budget that proves above all doubt that we in the Western Cape govern not for newspaper headlines, but for people.

But before I set out our commitment to Social Development, I have to address a matter of huge national interest. Deputy Speaker, it leaves a shadow over our country and it deals with the disappearance of little Joslin Smith.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, this weekend, Minister Gayton McKenzie claimed to possess compelling new information regarding Joslin. Yet he stated he would only hand it to the acting Police Minister apparently yesterday, but we have not seen any Facebook life to that effect. Let me be clear: this is not just poor politics; it is potentially unlawful.

The Children's Act makes it mandatory to report any reasonable suspicion that a child is in need of care and protection. Failure to do so can constitute a criminal offense. Furthermore, the common law on kidnapping is clear: anyone who knowingly withholds information that could assist in an investigation risks being treated as an accessory after the fact. This is about the principle of obstructing justice.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if this information is credible, there is a legal, ethical, and constitutional duty, rooted in the best interest of the child, to act immediately. Not days after. Not when the cameras are rolling.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while some play games with the lives of children for political gain, here in the Western Cape, where the DA governs, we are focused on action.

†Ons wag nie vir nasionale chaos om te bedaar nie. Deur die ad hoc-komitee vir die hervorming van kinderbeskerming, waarvan ek die eer het om van voorsitter te wees, gaan ons poog om die stelsel reg te maak. Ons gaan die gapings in wetgewing hersien, koördinerings tussende regeringsdepartemente verbeter, en die misbruik, verwaarlosing en mensehandel aanspreek. Ons doen die werk, agb Adjunkspeker.

[We do not wait for the national chaos to subside. Through the ad hoc committee for the reform of child protection, of which I have the honour of being Chairman, we are going to attempt to correct the system. We are going to revise the gaps in legislation, improve the coordination between Government departments, and address the abuse, neglect and human trafficking. We do the work, hon Deputy Speaker.]

This Budget proves it. Over the 2026 MTEF, the Department of Social Development receives an additional R285 million. To protect our most vulnerable, we are injecting R31,2 million into designated child protection organisations and a further R94,9 million into non-designated NPOs.

We are creating R15,5 million in additional bedspaces for children with disabilities and allocating R9,5 million to support young adults leaving alternative care.

In total, hon Deputy Speaker, over R1,3 billion is directed specifically towards Child Care and Protection and Child and Youth Care Centres. We are tightening oversight and expanding support where it is needed most. And this is the DA difference.

†Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ons bejaardes verdien soortgelyke beskerming. Dit spreek die behoeftes van ons oues aan. Om bejaardes te ondersteun word 'n bykomende R36 miljoen bewillig, wat sal verseker dat hulle meer waardige lewens kan lei, deur 'n onafhanklike lewe, siekteverpleging en gemeenskapsgebaseerde dienste.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, our elderly deserve similar protection. It addresses the needs of our elderly. To support the aged, an additional R36 million are allocated, that will ensure that they can lead more dignified lives, through independent living, sickness care and community based services.]

The DA understands that we cannot address poverty and crime without addressing the root causes of social decay. As such, we are investing R396 million in Substance Abuse Disorder treatment, hon Deputy Speaker, helping thousands of service users annually.

We are scaling the Planet Youth model, using hard data from nearly 50 000 learners to guide our interventions. Hon Deputy Speaker, and to combat the national disaster of Gender-Based Violence, R47 million has been allocated to restore dignity to survivors and build safer communities.

†Agb *Deputy Speaker*, dit bring my by die deurslaggewende aandeel van ons rolspelers. Die Regering kan dit nie alleen doen nie. Ons ondersteun diegene aan die voorpunt van dienslewering, want hulle is diegene wat die werklike verskil maak.

R22,8 miljoen word toegeken om 32 bykomende maatskaplike werkers te finansier, want ons weet dat maatskaplike werkers die ruggraat van ons sorgstelsel is.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, that brings me to the decisive contribution of our role players. The Government cannot do it alone. We support those at the forefront of service delivery, because they are the people who make the real difference.

R22,8 million is allocated to finance 32 additional social workers, because we know that social workers are the backbone of our care system.]

We also know that you cannot develop on an empty stomach. This Budget, hon Deputy Speaker, prioritises nutrition. We have set aside over R12 million for nutritious meals, nearly R57 million for food distribution centres, and over R81 million for food relief during social distress.

However, hon Deputy Speaker, this Budget is not a fantasy, like we saw in Beaufort West where the PA was governing, claiming to turn Beaufort West into Dubai. This was simply tales.

They rejected the politics of fantasy, hon Deputy Speaker, because they know the difference between a promise and delivery, which they see in a DA governed national department, province and municipality.

At the same time, hon Deputy Speaker, when we look at the rest of South Africa, under ANC administration, we see a collapsing welfare system, an overstretched SAPS, and a social safety net ripped apart by corruption.

Hon Deputy Speaker, however, there is hope. Within the DA in the GNU, we are seeing change, like at Home Affairs, where you can now get your ID from a bank. We are simply waiting for the National Department of Social Development to follow our lead, because people are dying while waiting in queues for their SASSA grants.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA-led Western Cape Government proves that you do not have to choose between fiscal responsibility and social duty because the one enables the other. This Budget is responsible. It is caring. It invests over R1,2 billion to support adults and children in conflict with the law, ensuring rehabilitation over ruination.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are delivering growth with discipline, and we are

delivering care with compassion.

†Agb Adjunk-speaker, met volle oortuiging kan ek verklaar ek is ten gunste van hierdie begroting. [Hon Deputy Speaker, with full conviction I can declare that I'm in favour of this Budget.] The DA supports this Budget, because it puts people first. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. I recognise the hon Christians. The hon Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you very much.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on Infrastructure, the R5 billion allocated to Human Settlements over the Medium-Term is not enough to even make a dent to the ever-increasing housing backlog in the province, which now sits at almost 7 000 according to the so-called housing waiting list.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the rate in which this province makes housing opportunities available to our people is extremely low and mired by unkept promises and unspent funds which end up being returned to National Treasury, while our people continue to live in unhabitual shacks and uncondusive environments.

On employment, hon Deputy Speaker, not all people in the province want conventual employment opportunities where they report to an employer on a

daily basis, where the majority of our poor people earn peanuts in any event. Our people need funding opportunities so that they can start businesses and become self-employed, self-reliant and self-sustainable.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I was shocked to hear the hon Minister of Finance telling this House during the Budget Speech, that a mere R3 million will be allocated over the Medium-Term to support enterprise development through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our people deserve better and it is no longer viable to leave the issue of employment on the private sector to create jobs. We need an intervention state which will empower our people to be entrepreneurs themselves. While it is true that not everyone can be an entrepreneur ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): ...however, that should be ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): ...an endeavour we are all venturing into and certainly promoting. Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired. Thank you. I recognise the

hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ACDP in response to the Budget tabled by hon Minister Deidré Baartman on 12 March.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we acknowledge the strategy for Growth for Jobs, yet we are dutybound to emphasise economic growth must translate into tangible opportunities for the people of the Western Cape. Growth without inclusion risks deepening inequality, particularly in communities already burdened by poverty and unemployment.

The target of reducing unemployment from 18,1% to 10% is commendable, but the ACDP cautions that such an ambitious task requires bold, measurable interventions. More small businesses must be empowered. Red tape must be reduced. Without reliable electricity and safer communities, job creation will remain constrained. We must prioritise the informal sector where many residents find their only means of survival.

Hon Deputy Speaker, turning to Education. We recognise the ongoing investments when it comes to Education, but we have major challenges. I have spoken in the Standing Committee for Education, and I did make this plea to the Committee.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what pains me are the amount of drugs being used and

sold in our schools during school hours. Although the Western Cape Education Department has deployed school resource officers at our schools to ensure safety, drugs are derailing our learners from a prosperous future.

At one school I said, at one school where there are 1 000 learners, 102 learners were caught with drugs and selling drugs. Now, I am not saying, hon Deputy Speaker, that these children must be expelled. Something must be done to save that child. So, more money must be given to get social workers to attend to these problems because they are social problems. Speaking to the Education Department, they said to us that seven- and eight-year-olds are also using drugs in primary schools.

We have a major crisis! This cycle will repeat, repeat, gangs, gangs, alcohol, drugs, if we do not remedy this situation in our schools. I am pleading with the Western Cape Government to do something at our schools where learners are on drugs. Others are intimidated. Others are bullied. And I am asking for an intervention in our schools. They know the schools and I will name those schools where young girls, young boys are using drugs. I have furnished it to the hon Minister. I will furnish it again. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today, I rise with a deep sense of pride to indicate the support of the Democratic Alliance for this Budget.

Before I say why we support this Budget, allow me to reflect on a political disease that South Africans have become used to.

It is performative politics.

Hon MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): The politics of virtue signalling over substantive action. The politics of empty symbolic gestures rather than follow-through. The politics of distraction and division over the politics of who can best deliver.

This Budget is a cure for that disease. In fact, it is a monument to strategic cohesion; carefully built with the judicious use of scarce funding; with strong, sensible strategic objectives as foundations and it symbolises something deeply important to all South Africans. It is a monument that says: if the Western Cape can succeed, then South Africa can succeed.

Hon MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Let me highlight some of the foundations of this monument.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, die Wes-Kaap is tans nie net die leier in Suid-Afrika met digitale konnektiwiteit nie, maar verskaf ook 'n bloudruk vir ander lande van

hoe daar aangepas kan word vir die ekonomie van die toekoms.

Wat die Wes-Kaap se fokus op konnektiwiteit veral merkwaardig maak is die geleentheid wat dit skep vir ons armste inwoners om deel te word van daardie ekonomie van die toekoms.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape currently is not only the leader in South Africa with digital connectivity but also provides a blueprint to other countries as to how it can be adapted for the economy of the future.

What is making the Western Cape's focus on connectivity especially remarkable is the opportunities that it creates for our poorest citizens to become part of that economy of the future.]

We therefore welcome the planned expansion of the Centre for e-Innovation programme in the province. This will see the number of eCentres in the province grow to 86, along with the establishment of eKiosks where residents can access Government services. We further welcome the Broadband 2.0 initiative, which will upgrade connection speed and quality at more than 2 000 sites.

In this regard, we acknowledge the prudent and forward-looking investment in AI and cybersecurity measures. This allows real-time collection of empirical data; better usage of resources, and time; quicker and more effective decision-making and truly transversal, responsive systems, directly transforming outdated bureaucratic models.

Again, this makes us leaders in service delivery, especially for those in need.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Energy Resilience Programme of this province represents something where we actually need to pause for a moment. South Africa, not too long ago, saw the worst of a full-blown energy crisis, the end of which is still uncertain.

The Western Cape could have been carriers of the aforementioned disease of performative politics, or it could have tackled the problem as hard as a Pieter-Steph du Toit tackle in a World Cup final. Well, the Cup is ours.

The Western Cape's transversal approach in assisting municipalities in building capacity and changing its models, the involvement of the private sector and the active facilitation of investment, capacity provision and also usage of Western Cape Government sites, will likely make the Western Cape loadshedding free and a net exporter of electricity by 2032.

No economy can create jobs without energy, and this model is a game changer, that will open up opportunities for inclusive growth that are unheard of in other provinces.

Lastly, this Government, despite its habitual clean audits and clear record of dealing with dishonesty and waste, is not resting on its laurels. We welcome, both in terms of its value in this province, as well as the example it sets for

the bastions of corruption we see littering the rest of South Africa, the ongoing drive against fraud and corruption.

We welcome the strengthening of the Provincial Forensic Services and the way this Government is directly enlisting the help of the public through its Public Anti-Fraud and Corruption Engagements. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not circle back to the disease I mentioned earlier, the disease of performative politics masquerading as care.

The Western Cape, sadly, is not perfect. In this regard, I refer to the Opposition. Hon Deputy Speaker, an opposition is very important for a democracy. In this regard, one of the huge contributions the DA and its forebears made to South African democracy, dating from the days of Alan Paton, Helen Suzman to Tony Leon, was the concept of a vigorous opposition keeping government accountable.

As a politician I spent most of my career in Opposition, and with this history I understand the importance of opposition well. Our Opposition unfortunately, seems to be deeply suffering from the disease of performative politics. Especially when they try to misrepresent a donation declared to the Government in the Annual Report, ...[Interjections.] actually saving money for taxpayers, as somehow the equivalent of ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): That was my punchline.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order. ...[Laughter.] I recognise hon Sayed.

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

An HON MEMBER: You are the worst of this ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chairperson of this session ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: One day they will move you from one community to another.

An HON MEMBER: This would have kept you there in National Parliament.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon Sayed is on the floor. [Interjections.] Hon members, we have an hon speaker on the floor. [Interjections.] Honourable ...[Interjections.] Now I do not feel so bad. They are doing it to you even.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...[Laughter.] Hon Deputy Speaker, I think there is excitement. Hon Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order. I want to call a point of order on hon member Walters, our experienced

Opposition public rep. I think he needs to bring a substantive motion. He is casting aspersions on the hon Van Minnen, on the hon Johnson and on esteemed hon members of the DA who are really passionate about their oversight. He is casting aspersions on them by rubbishing the Conduct Committee rulings. So, can you please rule or encourage him to bring a substantive motion ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...against his hon colleagues. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...or raise it in the morning before this Sitting, in the DA caucus, please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Sayed. I will listen to the Hansard and if need be, I will revert back. There is one minute and 52 seconds. [Interjections.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): That was a weak attempt at sowing division. Amateur, amateur, absolutely! [Interjections.] But let me come to the punchline. They are trying to misrepresent that sequence of events that is still in the process, to the equivalent of cash in sofas and diamonds gifted to their

next party leader. [Interjections.]

We know our Opposition is weak when they grasp at straws to essentially weakly and desperately try to suggest that the DA is as bad as them. You are in deep trouble if that is your only message.

You are in even deeper trouble if the corrupt, derelict, in-debt Luthuli House puts your entire provincial structure under administration and also comes to this House to keep an eye on these otherwise very hon members.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there is one thing that the Western Cape is terrible at, and that is having a credible official Opposition that can actually stand on its own feet. Where the ANC builds Nkandlas to corruption and State Capture, we build monuments to excellence and inclusion.

And as a last line, but I am plagiarising this from Jack Bloom in the Gauteng Legislature:

"Aluta continua does not meant the looting should continue."

[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Walters. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as the African National Congress we rise in this debate to return to a simple, but fundamental question: does this Budget close the gap between the Western Cape that is presented by its DA speeches and the Western Cape that our people live in every day.

Yes, hon member Khalid, you are right. There are two Western Capes. There is a Western Cape of glossy presentation of growth, investment and discipline and then, there is a Western Cape ...[Interjections.] of Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain ...[Interjections.], of rural towns where inequality persists, where service delivery collapses and where our people are excluded from the very prosperity that is being celebrated here.

This Budget does not breach the gap. [Interjections.] It deepens it. Hon Deputy Speaker, let us start with the question of Social Development, particularly substance abuse.

We are told by this Government, it is serious about faulting substance abuse disorder, but the reality tells a different story. Out of 25 municipalities, only 16 have local Drug Action Committees and of those, only ten are fully functional. What does this mean? This means that in more than half of our municipalities there is no coordinated response to one of the most devastating social crises facing our communities.

Because if we were serious about prevention, every municipality would have a

fully functional Local Drug Action Committee which is properly funded, properly staffed and properly monitored.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the contradictions are even more glaring on the issue of Safety. Hon MEC Marais spoke for eight minutes telling us about strategies, programmes and investment to combat crime, but she omitted to mention the death of 345 people in a single month in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] No one is talking about accountability ...[Interjections.] for those murders: 345 lives lost!

Hon Deputy Speaker, at what point does this DA-led Government stop blaming others and take accountability? Yes, policing is a national competency, but governance is a provincial responsibility. Leadership is a provincial responsibility and therefore, we say without hesitation that the hon Premier and the hon MEC for Police Oversight and Community Safety must take political responsibility for this failure. They must resign!

Hon Deputy Speaker, we do welcome the allocation towards the rural LEAP programme. This is something that the ANC has consistently called for since 2019. It shows that when we raise issues, this Government listens. But listening is not enough, DA. If you are serious about fighting crime, you must go beyond additional boots on the ground. You must invest in root causes of violence, including poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and social disintegration. You do not police your way out of a social crisis.

That is why proposals such as building walls along the N2 are fundamentally misguided. You do not stop crime by building walls to protect motorists, while communities behind those walls continue to suffer and die.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our public healthcare system is collapsing. We demand that this Budget addresses challenges at the Mitchells Plain District Hospital where people spend days and weeks sleeping on chairs and floors. We want this Budget to make provision for the development of a district hospital in the Garden Route where none exists.

We have a beautician, a DA princess, the hon MEC of Health. We have got a king: the hon MEC of Local Government who is hypersensitive of our criticism. While she highlights her glaring failures, you run the risk of reporting to the Conduct Committee.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the greatest indictment of this Budget lies in the area housing and infrastructure. In Khayelitsha, the Mahama housing project has been stalled for more than four years due to unresolved landowner authorisation. Infrastructure has been installed, roads have been built, but houses cannot be constructed because this Government has failed to act.

Informal settlement electrification projects cannot proceed because land authorisation is delayed. People continue to live in darkness, not because solutions do not exist, but because Government is not moving and they refuse to move, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we must also confront the reality of declining housing delivery. Official figures show that for the financial year, only 5 317 housing units and 1 404 serviced sites will be delivered under the Human Settlement Development Grant, and a further 859 serviced sites under the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Stoffel, please take your seat. We will add 14 minutes. When I initially spoke, there was a point of order: 14 seconds and not nine.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: I would like to ask the hon member a question ...[Interjections.] regarding District Hospitals in the Garden Route.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, would you like to take a question?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No. Maybe later. Maybe later.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, we will add an extra †...ek kan nie tel nou nie, vyf sekondes ..[.I cannot count now, five seconds.] It was 14 when I initially spoke, so please go.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Hon Deputy Speaker, this Budget claims to deliver growth with discipline and care, but there is no care in this Budget that fails

to confront inequality. There is no discipline in this Government that cannot deliver basic services and there is no growth when the majority of our people are excluded. And for that reason, hon Deputy Speaker, as the African National Congress ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stoffel. Your time has expired. ...[Applause.] I recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Minister of Finance, hon members of the House and residents of the Western Cape who are following us online.

Over the course of this debate, we have heard many views on this Budget. † En ek moet nogal sê by tye, het ons Opposisie gesanik en geklink soos 'n klinkende simbaal. [And I must say, at times our Opposition have been whining and sounded like a resounding cymbal.] Some have praised it, some have criticised it, and some have suggested that more could always be done. But the reality is, budgets are not judged by speeches in this House. They are judged by whether Government can continue to deliver for the people we serve.

This is a budget of discipline, a budget of care, and a budget for responsible growth. It protects frontline services, something our Opposition tends to miss. It keeps infrastructure investment going, something no other province can say. It supports municipalities, while the rest of the country's municipalities are failing ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...and it keeps this province stable in a time of real fiscal pressure.

From the vantage point of the Department of Infrastructure, hon Deputy Speaker, discipline and care are not abstract words. They are visible in concrete. They are visible in steel. They are visible in roads being built, clinics being upgraded, schools being expanded, housing projects moving, not stalling, and public buildings working for the people they serve. Because budgets only matter when they become delivery and in the Western Cape, these budgets actually do deliver for all of our people.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we govern in a time of real constraint. More than 95% of this province's budget comes from national transfers. Again, something the Opposition in this House misses. Yet our population is growing faster than the funding that we are receiving. Another fact the Opposition in this House misses.

Demand for services rises every year, but the allocations do not keep pace. Yet, despite these pressures, this Government continues to build.

We build roads that unlock economic growth. We build schools for a growing population. We build clinics and hospitals that serve more people every year.

We build housing opportunities that restore dignity for qualifying beneficiaries. We build bulk infrastructure that allows towns to grow. And yes, we proudly support municipalities so that delivery does not stop, even those where the ANC have ruined those municipalities with their partner, the Patriotic Alliance. Not because we have more money, hon Deputy Speaker, because we just govern better.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have heard criticism during this debate. †Daardie klinkende simbaal waarvan ek gepraat het in my openings minuut. [That resounding cymbal I spoke about in my opening minute.]

But it is easy to criticise a budget. Out of all of the Opposition, I only heard one possible solution that was proposed: only one! Then, it is much harder to balance a budget. † Vra maar vir die ander agt provinsies waarvan die ANC sewe van die agt beheer, wat nie hulle begrotings kan balanseer nie. [Just ask the other eight provinces of which the ANC controls seven of the eight, that cannot balance their budgets.]

It is easy to promise more spending. Ask your colleague, Premier Lesufi in Gauteng. He loves to promise, but he does not have the money to spend. It is much harder to keep a province financially stable and this Government ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...will not gamble with the future of the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is the hon Leader of the Democratic Alliance soon to be re-elected in the province, overwhelmingly willing to take a question on the land in Hout Bay, please?

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: The hon colleague can put it in writing. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The hon Minister has responded. Hon colleagues, it is the final hon speaker prior to hon Minister Baartman. I sincerely trust that the running commentary will be managed, especially where it borders on shouting. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. We will not make promises we cannot fund in this province, and we will not sacrifice discipline for short-term applause because discipline is what allows delivery, hon members of this House. In infrastructure, discipline means planning properly. It means budgeting honestly. It means appointing capable contractors. It means managing projects tightly and it means finishing

actually, what we start.

That is why, in the Western Cape, projects move. Yet, across South Africa, too many projects stall as many budgets disappear into corruption. There are delays and there is absolute incompetence. But here in the Western Cape, roads are upgraded, housing projects continue, our provincial and municipal land are released for mixed-use affordable housing. Again, a myth which the Opposition in this House fails to see. Clinics are maintained and even upgraded by my hon colleague, and infrastructure is built year after year.

Hon members, that is not luck. That is good governance, something the African National Congress just does not understand.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Budget allows this Government to continue implementing its long-term vision. Through our Western Cape Infrastructure Framework 2050, our Infrastructure Strategy, and our Implementation Plan, this DA-led Government is building a province that can support growth for decades to come. Infrastructure does not stand alone. It supports health. It supports education. It supports local government. It supports economic growth. It supports job creation.

So, we are not just building for headlines, as this DA-led Government. We are building for the next generation. [Interjections.] The next generation the ANC has actually forgotten when they failed at their main mandate. [Interjections.] We are upgrading strategic roads that carry workers to jobs. We are investing

in health infrastructure for a growing population. We are accelerating human settlements so that families who are legally waiting can live with dignity ...[Interjections.] once they get that opportunity. [Interjections.]

We are modernising public buildings so Government can serve people better. Something the Opposition in this province does not understand. [Interjections.] And we are supporting municipalities ...[Interjections.] with the capacity they need to deliver. This is what disciplined government looks like. Not slogans. †Nie gaan grond toe nie. Nie 'n *better life* vir ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [Not go to the land. Not a better life for ...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: We actually deliver.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister. [Interjections.] Hon members, hon member Nkondlo, I will have ...[Interjections.] Hon member Nkondlo! I will have to name you. It is the running commentary that is disrupting the hon speaker. I will have to name you. Please let us maintain the decorum. All political parties have had an opportunity to provide their inputs. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, my colleague, the hon Minister of Finance, reminded this House that real per-capita funding is under pressure while our population continues to grow in this province. But we also know why this is happening.

More people are relocating to the Western Cape. They move here because municipalities work. They move here because services are delivered. They move here because infrastructure is maintained. They move here because Government is stable. They move here because when Government says it will build in this province, it builds. And increasingly, they are choosing to live, even now, in municipalities governed by the Democratic Alliance. Whether we govern outright or whether we are part of a coalition that keeps those municipalities working. † Maar hulle kies blou gebiede in die Wes-Kaap. Dit is 'n feit soos 'n koei. [Tussenwerpsels.] [But they choose blue areas in the Western Cape. It is a fact like a cow. [Interjections.]]

Success brings pressure, hon Deputy Speaker, but it also proves something very important. People from other provinces are voting with their feet to come to the only province that is still that beacon of hope. They are voting with their feet for the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this debate takes place in a local government election year, and elections are not won on speeches in this House. They are won on what people see in their streets. They see whether the road is fixed. They see whether the housing project is moving. They see whether the clinic is working. They see whether the lights stay on. They see whether infrastructure is maintained or falling apart. In this province, people can see good governance and the difference it makes.

They know the difference between a government that governs and a government that complains. Between a government that plans and a government that blames. Between municipalities that work and municipalities that are collapsing, and they know the difference between the Western Cape and the rest of South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Budget allows us to keep accelerating delivery; to keep supporting our municipalities which are functional in this province. Even those that the DA does not govern, I need to add. To keep unlocking development; to keep investing in infrastructure. And to keep building the backbone of this province's economy because infrastructure is not an expense.

Infrastructure is the platform for growth. For growth in our lives, for growth in our communities and for growth in our economy. Infrastructure is the platform for dignity. Infrastructure is the platform for opportunity and this Government understands that.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as we do move towards the 2026 Local Government Elections, the choice facing voters will be very, very simple.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Do you want a government that delivers or a government that delays? Do you want a government that builds or a government that blames? We have heard †die gesanik, agb *Deputy*

*Speaker.* Hulle hou van kla en kerm, maar kom met geen objektiewe oplossings nie. [the whining, hon Deputy Speaker. They like complaining and whining, but do not come with any objective solutions.]

Do you want municipalities that work or municipalities that collapse under the ANC and their allies who are failing or failure? The Western Cape has shown what is possible when discipline meets delivery, when planning meets execution, and when Government puts people first. This Budget keeps us on that path, and this Government will continue to govern with discipline, to continue to deliver with integrity, and continue accelerating towards our future Western Cape, together, for all of our people.

†Nie almal nie maak geraas, ons moet dit saam doen en dankie aan die Opposisie wat bly in die provinsie want hulle gee erkenning aan die DA wat die provinsie regeer, selfs vir julle ook. Baie dankie. ...[Applous.]

[Not all are making a noise, we have to do it together and thank you to the Opposition that live in the province, because they give recognition to the DA that governs the province, even for you too. Thank you. ...[Applause.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I will try my best to get through some of the questions that were asked of this Budget because that is why we are here. We are here to really engage everyone to make sure that the people of our province know what is in the

Budget.

In terms of it was mentioned that the PERO, and previous data shows that our Education, in terms of educator/learner ratio was high and that is true. This is why we have put additional money on the table in this Budget for 701 educator posts in 2026/2027. I am not sure whether the hon members checked, but there are also 150 posts in the year after that as well, in the Budget Book.

So, there is additional funding there for Compensation of Employees and this is exactly in order to address the data and the evidence that we have. Part of the way that we do the Budget process, where we table the data and the evidence first, is to show what is the reality on our ground and we are honest of what our reality on the ground is. But then, the Budget needs to respond. So, the Budget does attempt to respond to this particular ratio.

In terms of the Grant decreases from the National Department in terms of Human Settlements, my hon colleague, hon Minister Simmers, did deal with that. But just to highlight that in terms of the decreases, it was not due to the failure to spend money. Both the Western Cape and Gauteng are currently challenging the cuts that we have in terms of Human Settlements, and we want our money back. So, we will keep fighting for that.

In terms of Education Infrastructure, it is not just for the Rapid Build School Programme. The Rapid Build School Programme is one particular programme in the infrastructure backlog. In the Infrastructure Section, we have also

added, from Provincial Funding, R330 million for backlogs on Infrastructure. This is really to help with Education Infrastructure where there were harmful materials used, for example.

In terms of the conflict currently affecting Agriculture: absolutely! While we cannot determine exactly what that impact is going to be on our province at this stage, obviously we keep a close eye on that. We monitor the situation because, you know, if diesel increases it will affect the input costs of food and we need to make sure that we are prepared for things like that. We will also take guidance from the National Government and National Treasury on those types of matters affecting our economy going forward.

In terms of some mention that was made that Tourism funding was not sufficient or increased. We actually increased Tourism funding for the Tourism Growth Initiative in DEDAT by R12,392 million. The Tourism Safety Programme received an additional R3 million.

But Tourism is not just in DEDAT as well. Separate to the R396,877 million to Wesgro for Investment, Tourism and Export Growth and Trade Promotion, separate to the 15,13% increase to R93,148 million for the Tourism STEP Programme in DEDAT for 2026/2027. We have also allocated R31,326 million to DECAS for hallmark and incubator events because DECAS said that we want to make sure that we are the events economy. So, we must help with events economy.

We have also put R15 million on the table for the World Cup Legacy infrastructure upgrades and this is specifically related to the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup.

On the mention of the Premier Flight sponsorship was not declared. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to read from page 15, as well as page 267 of the Department of Premier Vote 1 annexure to the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, given that they are both the same wording. I am going to read them ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, there is a point of order. Hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a... No, I just wanted to know whether the hon MEC is able to take a question.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: I declined the question, sorry. ...[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question from hon member Sayed?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Deputy Speaker, not at this time. I am attempting to get through answering all the questions the hon Leader of the Opposition posed to me. ...[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The hon Minister is not prepared at this stage. Please continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am going to read specifically from page 267 and by the way, hon Deputy Speaker, this is a tabled document of the Provincial Parliament, in the Provincial Parliament, by the respective department, in Annexure 4 that says:

"Statement of gifts, donations and sponsorships received."

It specifically indicates that there it is.

"Name of organisation: Under2 Coalition."

"Nature of donation, sponsorship: covering the cost of the economy class ticket."

And the amount for 2024/2025. [Interjections.]

So, because this is a Western Cape Government sponsorship that the Government received and the hon Premier was Chairperson on the Under2 Coalition at the time, I just wanted to mention because it was said that it was not indicated.

Then, in terms of employment and employability. A few hon members have

raised this particular matter. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: On a point of order. Like hon member Walters, but I think worse than hon member Walters. At least hon member Walters was not so blatant. He did not go into the substance. He is a bit more experienced in terms of these types of nuances, so I can understand.

But what the hon MEC is doing, firstly, she is misleading the House ...[Interjections.] because the Conduct Committee matter that I referred to is a Conduct Committee ruling based not on an Annual Report disclosure, but the disclosure to the Registrar of Members' Interest.

But number two again, I want to call a point of order because the hon Baartman, and it is abuse because the hon member of the Executive is casting aspersions on the DA hon members of caucus who serve in the Legislature. Honourable ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...Van Minnen ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and hon Johnson and others. Their characters are now being undermined because they ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: There is a ruling of the Conduct Committee that she is now undermining. So, she must bring a substantive motion, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Before I rule in that regard, I see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, unlike the hon Leader of the Opposition, I am going to rise on a Rule. The hon Leader of the Opposition is currently in violation of Rule 62, by saying that the hon Minister of Finance is misleading the House. The hon member is casting aspersions on the integrity of the hon member. [Interjections.]

If that hon member, in all of the hysterics, has the actual substance ...[Interjections.] to bring to the House he should understand the Rules. He must bring a substantive motion. [Interjections.] We cannot have people standing up on a whim because video cameras might capture them. It is an election year. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before I recognise you. Hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, before we proceed, what I will ...[Interjections.] Hon Nkondlo. Before I recognise hon member Sayed, I will listen to the Hansard and then, if need be, revert back to this House. Are you? Is that a new point of order? Hon member Sayed, I recognise you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Rule 62, which I am quite familiar with, says:

"Deliberately misleading."

It speaks about 'deliberately misleading the House'. I just wanted to give that clarity. [Interjections.] But number two, there are no cameras here at the moment, other than just the YouTube. There is no camera at the moment. I think the hon Chief Whip must not try desperately to impress a dominant caucus ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and to try to impress the hon Executive. One day, he will also be, like you got into the Executive office ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...we put, he will also be put into the Executive after the pressure that the Opposition puts on. So ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...he does not need to try other tricks or trying to undermine our oversight. We know what he is doing. We have received emails. We know what he is doing ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your latter comment is not a point of order. We will proceed. The hon Minister indicated earlier on ...[Interjections.] The hon Minister indicated earlier on that she has taken notes and she is in the process of responding to the numerous inputs that hon members have raised. I sincerely trust that hon members who have raised issues are attentively listening to the hon Minister, to ultimately see whether or not their questions are answered.

So, hon Minister, before I see you. Hon Walters, are you covered?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, there is a contradiction here in the points of orders that were raised. I mean, this is a matter. It is actually not concluded. It is in an appeals process, ...[Interjections.] and it should not have been raised by, if there is a feeling that it is undermining processes, it should not have been raised in the speech of the hon Leader of the Opposition, and there would not have to have been responses to his speech.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): You can also rule whether him raising the matter is not undermining the processes of this House in terms of his speech. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Based on this point, I will not entertain further points of order. We will engage and listen to Hansard, apply our minds and revert back to the House if need be. The hon Minister is responding to the inputs made from hon members. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I will continue to try and respond to the items that were raised previously.

In terms of employment and employability, a few hon members asked about the employment and employability. So, I am just going to go through a few of the programmes in each department. I am going to try my best to focus on the increases and not what is in the baseline already of departments.

For the YearBeyond Programme, we increased the Programme by R15,764 million. For the 1000 Stories Programme, we increased it with R9 million. The MOD expansion, we increased it by R15,8 million. For the Community Resilience, we increased it by R18,588 million. For Mental Health for Youth, we increased it by R6 million. For Independent Living for Young Adults, we increased it by R9,5 million. For the Street Coach Programme, we increased it by R20,961 million. For the Job Seekers Travel Voucher Programme, we increased it by R5,080 million. For the Agricultural Education and Training, we increased it by R18,5 million.

We added, increased again, R21,5 million for Mobile eCentres. An increase of R6 million for eKiosks for digital services. An increase of R34,372 million for Graduate and PAY Intern Programmes. The R3 million and I know hon member Lithakong was speaking about the R3 million for the Employment and the Entrepreneurship. It is not the full amount for Employment and Entrepreneurship. That particular R3 million was a R3,098 million increase, specifically for the development of the Employment and Enterprise Development Outcomes Fund which is new. That is separate to the money that is already in the baseline. And we are reprioritising R130 million for our School Sport Strategy.

I know, hon Deputy Speaker, a lot was said about how fiscal discipline reaches our communities and I just want to say to the hon members. When you look at the Budget, the Budget could not be the budget it is currently without the R5,6 billion that we added in Provincial Funding to the Budget. So, that R5,6 billion

is enabling us to fund these increases because we did not get that from National. This is our Provincial Funding that we are putting into the Budget and that is what fiscal discipline means.

It means that if you do the right thing, if you really work in making sure that the Rand is stretched as far as possible, that you are able to do this. Even some of our Disaster Funding that we are putting on the table, is from our Provincial Funding that we are really being able to say this is how we are able to respond.

In terms the one hon member, hon Deputy Speaker, who spoke about that there was no extra funding for shelters. This is not true and I will just mention a couple, for example, and I am going to speak about both the shelters and protecting our children.

For the CYCC for Differently Abled Children at Risk, we increased it by R15,5 million. For the GBV shelter in Caledon, we increased it by R4,8 million. For the GBV shelter in Mitchells Plain, we increased it by R4,8 million.

I already spoke about the independent living for young adults because part of that conversation that Social Development put on the table is once young adults reach a certain age, we do not want just anything to happen with them. We want to be able to support them going out into the world and being able to support themselves. So, that is what it is for.

We increased Non-Frail/Destitute Older Persons bedspace subsidies by R36

million. We increased the Siyakatala Secure Care towards operational costs with R30 million. We increased bedspace expansion for homeless family shelters with an extra R6 million. We increased bed expansion for homeless shelters for adults in the Metro area also by R3,9 million.

We made big inflationary adjustments for the designated Child Protection Organisations and Non-Designated Child Protection Organisations of R31 million and R94 million each. We added additional social workers as well, and that is also in addition to the Mental Health Programme increase that we are putting on the table for this specifically.

In terms of service delivery and how we are assisting with service delivery. This is both in line with assisting municipalities but also making sure that we really respond in terms of our Growth for Jobs plan. So, in terms of Energy, we will be spending R452,259 million. For Water, we will be spending R177,942 million in terms of the allocations of our Energy and Water allocations. Those can all be found on page 117.

This is really across all the departments, and it really is. It does not affect just one municipality. It affects multiple municipalities where they will be supported with Energy and Water.

In terms of Knysna. I have said this before, and hon Minister Bredell has also said this before. Knysna does not have a water problem: it has a leadership problem. We will continue to assist to make sure that residents have access to

water. In Kannaland specifically, also, we are working with DLG to make sure that we address water challenges.

Hon member Nkondlo mentioned the Budget is R91 billion. That is only the Receipts. The amount we are appropriating, so what we are taking out of the kitty and putting on the table, is R93,538 billion. Of the R5,6 billion in Provincial Funding, of that, R3,077 billion is in the 2026/2027 year specifically.

In terms of the additional funding for the informal economy. I do note that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, through the RSEP Programme, we will be spending R18,4 million over the MTEF and that really does attend to address that. The Township Economy Implementation in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, on page 416, we will be spending R2,7 million in 2026/2027. Agriculture will be receiving R15,49 million over the MTEF for mobile abattoirs for the informal economy.

There is R33,36 million increase in the 2026/2027 financial year for the Integrated Economic Development Services and when you read the particular Budget Vote, you will see that it speaks about the... that it is driven by the implementation of SMME and the township strategies also, supporting also the informal economy.

The Department of Agriculture really has done wonderful work with the

vaccinations due to the Foot-and-Mouth disease which also affects the informal economy. To date, across 396 sites, they have completed over 107 000 vaccinations.

Hon Deputy Speaker, mention was made of members of the public presenting in the Budget Committee. That is a matter for Provincial Parliament and because legislation is a public hearing, members of the public can come and speak at any public hearing session specifically. [Interjections.]

In that regard, I am always quite excited to see when members of the public engage in these types of public hearings because some people do not necessarily see the Budget as very tangible. It is a very abstract document. Sometimes, people want to see the very specifics in the departmental votes. So, I am always quite excited when I see extra members of the public wanting to attend the Budget Committee.

In terms of the nutrition. So, separate to the increase of the R6,225 million that we are putting on the table for Disaster Nutrition funding, the Agriculture Department is spending R64,41 million on food gardens. The Education Department will be spending R1,77 billion on nutrition in schools. The Health Department with the Khulisa Project for malnutrition, will be partnering with the private sector to really help our moms and their babies to make sure that we do not have this increase in malnutrition in our province.

The Department of Social Development will be spending R12,256 million on

food security programmes. They will be spending R56,736 million on food distribution centres and community nutrition development programmes, and they will be spending R81,413 million on food relief under Social Distress.

In terms of Local Government transfers and hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to make reference to the fat *Gazette* book that we have also tabled in the House for consideration. The total amount of Local Government transfers from this Government will be R11,1 billion and it is R3,61 billion, R3,702 billion and R3,798 billion for the three financial years. That includes both the actual transfers, as well as funds returned in order to deal with the Human Settlements amounts.

But in terms of just dealing with the respective grant funding that municipalities will benefit from. Nine municipalities will benefit from one grant from the Provincial Treasury in 2020/2027, which is R23 million. For the Department of Community Safety, there are five grants that will benefit 10 municipalities. In this financial year, that is 300. It is in the book: R397,676 million for Education. There is a grant that the City of Cape Town will be getting of R36,347 million. Health has three grants that will benefit the City that is R635,399 million for this year.

Mobility has four grants that will affect six municipalities: R283,835 million. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has that RSEP grant that we spoke about a bit earlier. That will benefit 15 municipalities with R11,3 million. Five grants in Infrastructure benefitting 24

municipalities with R1,8 billion. Two grants benefitting two municipalities in DEDAT for R2,9 million. Four grants benefitting 25 municipalities for DECAS of R312,128 million and seven grants benefitting all 30 municipalities for DLG at R77,019 million.

In terms of the Parliamentary Vote, hon Deputy Speaker, we usually do not go into detail in the Parliamentary Vote. We usually leave that, but it was raised. I just wanted to mention that we tried our best to make sure that Parliament essentially received all of its requested allocations. I do not know of an allocation that was not given that was asked.

We are awaiting the National Parliamentary Regulations so that Parliament is able to have its own budget process, but that is unfortunately, not a matter that is in the scope of the Provincial Treasury. We are awaiting that feedback from Parliament in that regard.

On the housing money not being enough that hon member Lithakong mentioned: absolutely! We really agree with you. We ask you to really help us to lobby the National Government to really give us our funding back and help us accelerate our Human Settlements programmes.

In terms of the hon member Christians that spoke about the drugs. It is one of the things that really is affecting our communities detrimentally. This is part of the reason why we want those diagnostic scanners. That will be R80 million that we have put money on the table for. They will be able to detect illegal

firearms, drugs, human trafficking. If someone wants to illegally move animals, for example, other illegal goods and trade. So, that is really why we want these diagnostic scanners.

We are also increasing our social work, professionals specifically. For substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation, the Department of Social Development will be spending R128,109 million. That is really why the majority of the Safety Plan does focus on violence prevention and making sure that we have strong families and communities because we need to be able to really address those root causes.

Then, in terms of the Safety Programmes that hon member Stoffel mentioned that we must not only focus on boots on the ground. I just want to read from page 74 of the OPRI that will deal with all of the particular items that will be covered by the R8,595 billion of Safety. It is:

"Integrated violence prevention, safe and secure tourism environments, safe and reliable and accessible public transport."

There, it also includes the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan.

"Chrysalis Programme focusing on Youth at Risk, Community Level Safety Communications Programme, Gender-Based Violence support, the mobile diagnostic scanners to enhance road level detection and enforcement capacity. Reducing alcohol related harms; family

strengthening response and parenting programme as well."

And really, this is what we mean when we are speaking about a whole-of-government approach and a whole-of-society approach, is it is not just one department must focus on how we are going to solve this problem. We must together, be able to have this conversation about how are we really going to solve this particular problem.

The hon member also mentioned that there are no District Hospitals in the Garden Route, and I am sure that maybe I have heard the hon member wrongly because I know of Knysna, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn in terms of District Hospitals in the Garden Route. So, maybe I have heard the hon member wrongly when I heard her say there are no District Hospitals there, but I know of those already.

Then, in terms of a lot of the hon members who are saying, can we do more? The answer is always 'yes, we can do more!' So, the question is if we can do more as country, how are we going to do more? We need to review the PES formula, we need to look at forecasted population growth, as well as forecasted economic growth. We need to include looking at special needs learners. We need to include looking at home-based care. We need to make sure that our Conditional Grants nationally are phased into the PES so that provinces have more scope in order to make sure that service delivery reaches the ground.

I mean, there is one programme, if I remember correctly, in DECAS where the

amount for a soccer ball has just skyrocketed because of how the tender system at a national level works. But if we had to phase in that money into the Provincial Funding for Provinces and we had to say okay, let us earmark it for DECAS, you will be able to buy almost three times the amount of balls for the type of tender amounts that are being spent on that type of equipment.

For example, what are other things that we can do better? For example, the Road Accident Fund must pay our Department of Health, and they must pay them on time. Because otherwise, what ends up happening is the Health System has to carry all this extra funding, and it must come from somewhere. You cannot just pick money off your back. You need to be able to ask yourself: how are we going to do this?

Part of how we are going to do this is also Alternative and Blended Financing and additional revenue sources. Our current and planned Alternative and Blended Financing, and I will read some of it from page 35 of the OPRI:

"Across our departments in the Western Cape municipalities, our province has successfully been able to leverage more than R10 billion in BFI."

We have been able to, with our PPPs. We have two PPPs of R490 million that we have brought in. In terms of other ABF projects across our Government, we have a project pipeline of R24 billion.

Some of them are for example, donor funding that we received for Energy

programmes of R12 million through the Department of the Premier for Energy programmes. Social Development started the Cape Care Fund which leveraged R253 000. Education leveraged the Edu Invest where you can really work with the private sector in order to benefit schools.

The Agriculture Department has leveraged agricultural partnerships with R140 million. DEDAT has leveraged experiential learning programmes with R55 million, where you can literally bring in more money from the private sector because you put in a little bit of seed funding. DECAS through youth sports and cultural partnerships have leveraged R77 million. This is money that would not have been there if they did not go and work with the private sector.

DLG through Project Tech and Transaction Support, we have put R72 million on the table. This is very important because with the private sector support that we are working with municipalities, we need to help them with pooled financing. Pooled financing is very niche. It is new. I do not know of anywhere else in the world where it is being done. So, we need to be able to really get this right and it is really innovative work. ...[Applause.]

In terms of capacitating our municipal leaders and officials, DLG has leveraged R1,5 million through the Hanns Seidel Foundation in order to be able to assist with that. [Interjections.] We are currently working with the World Bank on a credit guarantee vehicle which we hope will be done this year and so far, it is on track. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning is working on credit schemes because really, we need to be able to

unlock funding for being a good person.

How do you do that? That is behavioural economics. How do we really unlock alternative and blended financing for someone being a good person? ...[Applause.] That is what biodiversity, FedEd??? schemes are about. That is the essential when you break down what that financing means. Then, we have to establish the Alternative and Blended Financing reserve which is over R500 million to service borrowing costs for loans.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, when people say that fiscal discipline does not meet our people, I ask: okay, what about the person that got a job because of their experiential learning programmes? What about the farmers and farmworkers that are benefiting from the agricultural partnerships? What about the youth that are benefiting from Youth and Cultural Programme leveraging that we have?

We need to make sure that every single Rand is really stretched as far as possible because it is the people's money. That is why, we need to make sure that the people's money is spent on the people. I hope that this House really will support this Budget Vote in terms of making sure that this money gets to our people. Thank you. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes the Debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill. Are there any objections to the approval of the Principle of the Bill?

Hon MEMBERS: No!

An HON MEMBER: We object.

An HON MEMBER: There are objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. Those in favour of the question being adopted say 'yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the question being adopted say 'no'.

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The 'yesses' have it ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will now read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the House will deal with the separate Votes on 23 and 24 March 2026. Hon members, please take note that the Sitting for both days will commence at 10 AM.

That concludes the business of the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited. The House is adjourned.

[House adjourned at 13:00.]