
THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Temporary Chairperson, hon Wendy Philander, took the Chair and read the prayer.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You may be seated. Good afternoon and order, members. Before we proceed I would like to remind members of some of the logistical arrangements. Today we will be using the hybrid model for the sitting of the House. We have hon members present here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table staff and also hon members participating in the sitting of the House via Microsoft teams. The Chamber has therefore also been connected to Microsoft Teams.

Hon members, I trust that everybody has been connected to participate in this sitting of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, in terms of Rule 1A of the Standing Rules with all our members in remote attendance via electronic means.

Allow me to highlight some of the important directives in this regard. We do have dedicated Technical Support provided by us today by Mr Tafseer Abbas. Hon members, all microphones have been muted. For those hon members who are participating in the sitting of this House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to please use the raise-hand function of the system where you desire to raise a point of order, and you will be recognised by the Presiding Officer.

When an hon member present in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order such hon member may address the Presiding Officer as normal, but must mute their mics when they have completed speaking.

For the purpose of this sitting via the hybrid model, language translation services are available in all three official languages, Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa.

As ruled by the Presiding Officer in the Sitting of the House on 23 April 2020 via Microsoft Teams, no interjections shall be permitted during the debate. In this regard I also wish to draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, we are gathered here today to commemorate women and I am sure we would all agree that we ought to dedicate support to women more frequently and consistently. We will rise to discuss the successes and challenges on the road since 1956 and as we agree and commit greater efforts may we engage today in unity. Though we rise in our respective colours, let us so serve our Rainbow Nation. May our debate be constructive and in the best interest of women, women in our constituencies, our country and women across the globe.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 147 we will now proceed with the Speaker's debate. I will now recognise the hon Speaker, Speaker Masizole Mnqasela.

SPEAKER'S DEBATE

Women's Day, Dignity and Rights

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Chairperson, hon, the Premier of the Western Cape, Mr Alan Winde, the members of the Executive Council, our Cabinet in the Western Cape, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the people of the Western Cape, people of South Africa, and the people of the world who join us in various platforms. We are welcoming this opportunity in a very unique way of a hybrid session, Madam Chairperson, and of course the hon members who are sitting here with me, and particularly the hon, the Deputy Speaker, and of course the hon, the Leader of the Opposition, who happens to share this scarf with me.

He actually stole the moment because he thought he was going to be the one wearing the scarf but I had my scarf first, and I also see the hon, the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture, hon Minister Anroux Marais, who is here with us in the Chamber and obviously the hon Maseko, who is here in the Chamber. I am particularly acknowledging them here, Madam Chairperson, because this is the hybrid session and they are in the Chamber with myself and the Deputy Speaker, and of course yourself.

Thank you very much, and again the spirit of this debate as you have seen in terms of the Order Paper, this debate is on Women's Day and we are discussing and debating dignity and rights of women in the Western Cape.

Hon Chairperson, on 13 August 2021 the Western Cape Provincial Parliament under the able leadership of the Deputy Speaker, hon Beverley Schäfer, facilitated the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians. That is the CWP Women's Parliament. This groundbreaking event expanded the platform for the Western Cape Women's Parliament to include international speakers and delegates on the programme as well as the Western Cape Stakeholders.

The theme for the 2021 Western Cape Parliament CWP's Women's Parliament was placing the dignity and innate rights of women in the spotlight. This was a perfect thing and it was befitting of the moment and the occasion of celebrating, not only the rights of women, but also the strides made towards protecting the rights and dignity of women in South Africa and

the Western Cape has seen some challenges in this area and of course these were articulated extensively during this programme.

The keynote speeches were delivered by the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and this is the International Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentarians. The Chairperson of the CWP Africa Region, the representative of the National Conference of the State Legislature is in the United States of America, the NCSL, as well as our Western Cape Ministers, one for Social Development, Minister Sharna Fernandez, and the Minister of Health, Dr Nomafrench Mbombo, who were present during this programme and addressed this very august occasion.

Hon Chairperson, the 25 stakeholders representing all districts of the Western Cape, as well as the members of this House and some members of the other parliaments and personnel from various other parliaments in South Africa and of course some parliaments in Africa, together with the members of our CWP Branch in this Parliament participated in this beautiful event.

Stimulating discussions were held on various topics. aimed at furthering the rights of women in the long term by focusing on specific issues, such as the gender remuneration gap, very exciting deliberations there, Madam Chairperson, the gender-responsive budgeting, and the enrolment of women in Stem, Stem is translated as the SANS Technology Engineering and Maths Programs in the institutions of higher learning. It was a wonderful

experience, Madam Chair, the coming together of these women, with the sole purpose of advancing dignity and innate rights of women and I look forward to the continuation of this in this particular debate. This is an opportunity to gather ideas and deliberate on the programmes that seek to address the very fundamental challenges that are confronting our women and celebrate great women, current and the previous women leaders and businesswomen and also women in the civil society organisations who are doing amazing stuff, and also women in this Parliament and in Government, so thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I look forward to exciting debate here today and of course in that spirit I do know that it is going to be a beautiful one.

Welcome to the hon members who are going to debate and good luck. Thank you very much, Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much hon Speaker. I now recognise the hon Deputy Speaker, hon Beverley Schäfer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Chairperson and Premier, members of the House, Speaker, thank you very much for hosting this debate. As you said last Friday, we were able to do this international parliamentary session of which the aim was really to get our voices across the platform, across the planet, and that theme around placing the dignity on innate rights of women cannot be underestimated.

Chairperson, I am specifically repeating some of my remarks here that I made

last Friday because I cannot stress enough what I said last Friday. I think it is because of the slow progress of change around women, their rights, and their dignity and the dignity in this country, and once again I stress the word dignity, Chairperson, because I do not believe that people really understand the meaning of that word.

Dr Donna Hicks, the author of the book, *Dignity*, the essential role it plays in resolving conflict, states that “dignity is our inherent value and worth as human beings, that everyone is born with it, and that we all have a deep human desire to be treated as someone of value. Whilst there is so much conflict in the world between nations, in our communities, at work and even in our personal lives”, asks Dr Hicks, “imagine”, she says “what the world would be like, if we treated each other as if we mattered, if we all valued each other’s dignity.”

Certainly food for thought, Chairperson. Chair, what has been highlighted by our international speakers, is that any quality and gender-based violence that women face on a day-to-day basis is no less evident in developed or more democratic countries, but rather equally prevalent across the world. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a reminder, Chair, that countries must deliver on goals 5 and 16, specifically to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and to promote a peaceful and inclusive societies which includes responsive participatory an decision-making at all levels of society.

The latest global ranking as reported by the CPA shows only four countries in the world at a 50% or more women parliamentarians, and interestingly, Chair, not considered to be the most liberal of nations, Rwanda at 61%, Cuba, Bolivia and the UAE.

Just yesterday a joint statement was issued signed by more than 20 countries, including the European Union, United States and the UK, stating a deep worry about Afghan women and girls, their rights to education, their work and freedom of movement and call on those in positions of power and authority across Afghanistan to guarantee their protection. The CPA has asked that we in this Parliament be one of the first in South Africa to start the road to becoming a gender-sensitive parliament and so I will ask my colleagues on both sides of this House that we take this proposal forward. It will be a process as it will involve collating and publishing gender-disaggregated data that we know as legislatures whether our budgets are really making a difference, but ultimately it will be in line with International Best Practise.

I want to, Chair, pay tribute to all the women of the Western Cape out there, to those that wake up each and every day with little hope of escaping the situation they find themselves in. We as legislators and parliamentarians have a great deal of work still to you for you.

Chair, in closing I would like to end off with the excerpt of the poem

Still I Rise by Maya Angelou for all those women who feel trapped by their own circumstances, and I quote:

“You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like the moons and like the suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like the hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.”

Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I now recognise hon Bakubaku-Vos, who is joining us online.

An HON MEMBER: *Malibongwe*.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Bakubaku-Vos, are you there?

[No audible reply.] One last call, hon Bakubaku-Vos, you may proceed.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Hon Chair, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Who is addressing the Chair?

Mr L L MVIMBI: It is hon Mvimbi. I just got an indication that hon Bakubaku-Vos is just experiencing network problems.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Mvimbi.

We will then proceed with the hon Minister Anroux Marais.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Madam Chairperson, as we commemorate National Women's Month we understand that the plight of women and the girl child is not only bound to the month of August.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent lockdown regulations worsened this plight and once again highlighted the urgency with which we

as a whole of society are to redress its root causes, not only its symptoms, 365 a year. This collaborate effort is needed to progress gender equality as a human right to empower women but more importantly to stop the marginalisation of women and girls through accepted societal norms.

Since sworn in I have prioritised advancing the agenda of women in sport through the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. In 2019 I addressed affiliated federations through the Western Cape Provincial Sport Confederations, Women's Commission and the Department of Cultural Affairs Sport Women's Desk, calling for the Safety and Dignity Plan to be incorporated into a Western Cape Women in Sport Policy, the first of its kind in South Africa.

Following the various engagements with these valued stakeholders each federation and by extension local clubs on grassroots level was tasked with including women in sport programmes to their respective annual plans and providing inputs on a simple 10-point plan of action to create a more enabling environment for women and girls to participate in sport across the province and at higher levels of performance.

While these engagements initially gained momentum to achieve our collaborative desired outcomes, COVID-19 and National Lockdown Regulations delayed its progress.

However, as we contain, adopt and recover in the Western Cape the

Department has remained committed to our gender equity priority and proactively responded to the unprecedented circumstances with innovative solutions. Throughout the pandemic we have kept the lines of communication open as the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport hosted various vigils and hybrid engagements to boost our support to federations and to increase the resilience during this difficult time. The programmes hosted on created virtual platforms included amongst others the National Policy Development, the Provincial Action Plan implementation, the Gender-based Violence Workshop, Women in Leadership Workshop, Gender Equity, Mental and Physical Wellbeing.

To meaningfully change the lived experience for women and the girl child, the developments of the Provincial Action Plan for women in sport is our focus for the 2021/2022 Financial Year. As we continue to consult with sport federations and partners, the desired workshop deliverable outcomes for implementation across the Western Cape include increased participation in sport, access to facilities, safeguarding policy, capacity building of female administrators and coaches, media and sponsorship. As we now commemorate Women's Day 2021, I am happy to update you as members on our Women in Sport for Safety and Dignity Plan and to note its draft in consultation with our valued stakeholders to be adopted and launched on 8 March 2022 on International Women's Day.

The launch will serve as the culmination of the upcoming monthly webinars to commence in September 2021. Each webinar will deal with

relevant themes to progress the draft plan with experts in the field advising on matters that may transpire from our federations through our ongoing engagements. These teams include but are not limited to the status update on sporting sector, physical and mental wellbeing, during unprecedented times, the Western Cape Government for dignified sporting experiences for women in sport which will focus on the Western Cape Government Safety Plan and the DCAS role in bringing it into fruition.

We also had a virtual Women's Day Programme for our Department staff as we raise awareness on gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equity in the work environment. We have to engage our internal staff who actions our service delivery footprint in our communities across the province as empowerment starts at home. Gender equity is not only about balancing quota systems but also incorporating support systems to justifiably place competent women at a table of decision-makers to disrupt the patriarchal institution still at play, so to equalise the playing field from the perspective of a women. As much as we need women in positions of influence, we need more men on women's commissions and advocacy groups, taking the lead in the plight women phase as daily experiences. With democratically diverse representation we will have more gender-neutral policies more sensitive to issues affecting women and goals to facilitate easy access to a safer sporting environment in which all can flourish equally.

This year we nationally commemorate Women's Month under the theme:

Generation Equality, Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future.

The concept of generation equality is a global campaign and links South Africa's global efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030. As the leading province the Western Cape we have laid a strong foundation and together we must continue to do the hard yards in establishing sustainable equality to stop discrimination that continues to undermine the rights of women in our society.

We need more opportunities for women in sport, so that we can lead in addressing the plight that other women and the rest of society face. One urgent matter we are addressing is the gender-paid gap. Through the Netball World Cup 2023 we as a collective will see to the pay gap in sports. While compensation for women has improved over the past decade the gap still exists. Men's sports receive vastly more media coverage, TV licences and sponsorship deals.

According to the World Economic Forum 2021's Global Gender Gap Report of 30 March 2021, the time for the gender gap to close grew by 36 years in a space of just 12 months, all as a result of COVID-19. We do not have time to rest. †En in goeie Afrikaans, ons kan nie op ons louere rus nie. [And in good Afrikaans, we cannot rest on our laurels.]

As the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport we are here to assist, facilitate and equip where we can, but we need a whole-of-society

approach and I wholeheartedly thank all our federations and valued partners for joining us in this very important collaborate effort. In closing I bring to your memory the words of Nelson Mandela, and I quote:

“As long as outmoded ways of thinking prevent women from making a meaningful contribution to society, progress will be slow. As long as the nation refuses to acknowledge the equal role of more than half of itself, it is doomed to failure.”

I thank you.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. We now move over to hon Windvogel. Are you there?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon hon members. Deputy Speaker, we gather here today to celebrate the bravery of the 1956 generation. One of the leaders of the 1956 march, Frances Baard, who was imprisoned for years after the protest, recollected in her autobiography titled *My Spirit is not Banned*. “The particular challenges that black African women face under apartheid...” [connection lost.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have we lost hon Windvogel. Hon Windvogel, are you there?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes, thank you, Deputy Speaker. †Ten tyde van die aanloop tot die protesaksie moes hulle snags in afsonderlike gebiede ingaan om oor die probleme te praat oor hoë huur, geen kosgeld en beperkte pasboekies, waarsonder hulle nie kon werk nie. Sy vertel van 'n tragiese uitsmyt van 'n weduwee na haar man se dood. Vroue is weggejaag of gedwing om weer te trou om net 'n huis te kon bekom.

Deputy Speaker, toe die 20 000 vroue met armsvol petisies na die Eerste Minister Strijdom by die Uniegebou opdaag, was dit nie net oor paswette nie, maar oor vroue se vele probleme. Baie van daai probleme in die versoekskrifte bestaan vandag nog. Byvoorbeeld is die vergoedingsgaping steeds groot tussen swart werkers en die res. Tussen ander groepe van die vroue, word die vroue die minste betaal. Dit wys net dat die demokratiese regering die bevryding van swartes en vroue in besonder moet versnel.

Die Wes-Kaap staan vierkant in die pad van vroue-ontwikkeling in die private sektore sowel as die openbare sektore. Daar is ook erge ongelykhede in hulle vergoeding. Ons vra die agbare Premier om voorkeur te gee aan die skep van werksgeleenthede van vroue in senior poste en van voorste geleenthede sodat daar versnelling is van sulke vroue in aangewese groepe en om in senior bestuur geplaas word.

Die voorstelde landelike en stedelike uitsettings in die provinsie het 'n afbrekende uitwerking op vroue, veral vroue wat hulle waardigheid en

veiligheid prysgee. 'n Pensioenaris, Antie Sebienna Oktober van Indingo Farm in Swellendam is uitgesit en dit is in die Vroueparlement van 2019 bespreek en tot vandag toe kon hierdie Wetgewer nog nie seker maak dat hierdie probleme tot oplossing kom of aangespreek word nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[At the time of the run-up to the protest action they had to go into separate areas to talk about the problems about high rent, no money for food and limited pass books, without which they could not work. She told about a tragic eviction of a widow after her husband's death. Women were chased away or forced to marry again just to be able to get a house.

Deputy Speaker, when the 20,000 women with arms-full of petitions to the Prime Minister Strijdom arrived at the Union Buildings, it was not only about pass laws, but about womens' numerous problems. Many of those problems in the petitions still exist today. The remuneration gap, for instance, is still large between black workers and the rest. Amongst other groups of the women, the women are paid the least. It just shows that the democratic government should expedite the emancipation of blacks and women in particular.

The Western Cape stands squarely in the way of womens' development in the private sectors as well as the public sectors. There are also serious inequalities in their remuneration. We ask the hon Premier to give

preference to the creation of job opportunities for women in senior posts so that there is fast-tracking of such women in designated groups and to be placed in senior management.

The rural and urban evictions in the province mentioned had a destructive effect on women, especially women who have to sacrifice their dignity and safety. A pensioner, Auntie Sebiena Oktober of Indingo Farm in Swellendam was evicted and it was discussed in the Women's Parliament of 2019 and till this day this Legislature could not ensure that these problems are resolved or are being addressed.]

Deputy Speaker, we have to take over the baton and continue to fight for the creation of South Africa that is free of racism, sexism, homophobia and capitalist exploitation. We must destroy gender inequalities and create opportunities for women to flourish. The first step is to work together to defeat COVID-19. The Western Cape is an epicentre contributing over 27% of COVID-19 cases to the nation. The Provincial Government is not doing enough to ensure that people in the poor working class and communities register for the vaccine. The Provincial Government must urgently device strategies to deal with this vaccine urgently. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Windvogel. I understand that hon Herron has tendered his apologies, but in the spirit of today's debate I see that hon Bakubaku-Vos is here, so before we

continue with the programme, as it runs, I am going to give hon Bakubaku-Vos her opportunity to deliver her speech.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I can hear you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Deputy Speaker, †ndivumele namhlanje ndibhotise kuwo wonke amanina akwiMpondo leNtshona Koloni nakwilizwe jikelele. Sidibana namhlanje ukuze sixoxe imicimbi ejongene namanina kule nyanga yethu. Inyanga yamanina lixesha lokuba ilizwe lijongane neemeko kunye nobunzima amanina ajongene nabo, kwaye sibonakalise uvelwano.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[please allow me to greet all the women in the Western Cape and nationwide. During women’s month, we are here to talk about the issues facing women. Women’s month is the time for the whole country to deal with the issues and struggles that women face.]

This year marked the 65th year anniversary of the 1956 Women’s March to the Union Buildings. This year’s theme for Women’s Month is the Year of Charlotte Maxeke, realising women’s rights. It is the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic which negatively impacted on the health, gender,

equality, education, food security and the economy. Women are also victims of the second pandemic of gender-based violence. This year also marks the 26th anniversary of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action which flagged 12 key areas, where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys. The 12 Beijing Critical Areas of Concern included: women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, and women and the economy amongst others. The Western Cape is not immune from any of these challenges. For instance, women in the province suffer as the gang-wars destroy their families.

At this point I am reminded of the painful death of 26-year old Shameema Doherty who died whilst shielding her children from a hail of bullets when ruthless gangsters opened fire near their home in Lavender Hill in April this year. Our thoughts and prayers are with her parents and family.

This Government's ineptness in the fight against crime and gangsterism is failing women in the province. The Western Cape is also the epicentre for GBV and femicide and yet there are no special programmes and budgets to combat this scourge.

The Victim Empowerment Programme, the Cemetery Dignity Project and funding of shelters for victims of GBV do not come close to addressing the above areas of concern.

†Le budget urhulumente ayikhuphayo ukulwa neGBV incinci kakhulu, Somlomo. Futhi yiminyaka simemelela ukuba lo rhulumente makavule ezinye i-shelters kwingingqi apho abantu bakuthi bahlala khona. Kuba kulapho i-victim ezinintsi zihlala khona.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[The budget that government is providing to fight GBV is very little, Speaker. We have been crying to government for years for it to open shelters in areas where these victims live. These areas are where most of the victims live.]

The Provincial Government needs to improve on its effort to create a conducive environment to enable women to gain control of their lives and to address structural oppression and further oppressing patriarchy and sexism.

The ANC in its internal documents noted that gender-based violence and femicide are now national priorities. We have to lead the fight against the remaining patriarchal attitude that caused it; the objectification of women, their role in family, discrimination in society, economy and politics. The ANC Government had vastly progressed since 1995 on women's rights, ownership of housing, access to services, completing high school and tertiary education. Women's burden of care for children has been massively supported through Child Support Grants.

Moreover, the United National Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation reported that whilst South Africa may be scoring below the global average of 30% of women pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematic careers, the country was still leading in Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to UNESCO Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for about 28% of women in STEM careers. South Africa has the highest number of women graduates in Sub-Saharan Africa at 32% and even more female ICT Graduates at 38%.

The majority of women are poor, unemployed. We need rigorous programmes to address women poverty and unemployment. Even those who are employed, the majority of them are in the lowest paying jobs. While women and girls have better access to healthcare, contraception as well as enabling women to control their own reproduction.

†Somlomo, ziyaxhalabisa iingxelo zokuba abantwana abancinci ukusukela kwiminyaka elishumi ubuncinci, bakuluhlu lwabo bakhulelwa kwiPhondo laseGauteng.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[Speaker, it is very worrying to hear reports that it is children from the age of ten upward that make up the highest numbers of those falling pregnant

in the Gauteng Province.]

It is a cause of serious concern that nearly 20 000 children under the age of 20 fell pregnant in Gauteng. This is a challenge to MECs of Health, Education, and Social Development to intensify their programmes to prevent children and teenage pregnancies.

†Xa ndizokuvala, Somlomo, ndifuna ukucela ukuba uzame kangangoko ukuba iindibano ezifana nale mazingapheleli ekubeni zi-talk shows.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[In closing, Speaker, I want to ask that you try by all means that meetings such as these do not turn out to be talk shows.]

You owe this Parliament an update on the progress that is made on the implementation of the resolution of the 2019 Women's Parliament, particularly on gender-based violence and femicide and challenges facing women in rural areas. Not only have we delayed implementation of resolutions, but we have also failed to ensure that we create a Western Cape that is free of gender inequality and ensure safety of women and children.

Under our watch women are sexually harassed by their superiors in Government departments and we turn a blind eye as HODs, MECs and

other senior managers unite to cover up and protect perpetrators for sexual harassment in the workplace.

Somlomo [Speaker] I implore you, if you care about the plight of women in the workplace to approach the Commission for Gender Equality to investigate the handling of the case against Mr Farrel Payne by the Premier and the Department of Transport and Public Works. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bakubaku-Vos. I now move over to hon Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Deputy Speaker, on 9 August 1956 women faced many different challenges than what we face today. This could have been the most difficult period for them but as one they decided to mimic the story of David and Goliath to take on the Government, the proverbial giant.

Today may feel like an extension because of the terrifying 2020 / 2021 year. Mothers lost their children; in some cases multiple children. Wives lost husbands, this without the traditional last goodbyes, without seeing a body, without holding a hand. Our challenges are different but similarities lie in how we rise.

We have made significant strides as we commemorate this 65th Anniversary. We see progress in lawmaking and employment equity with more women serving in high-ranking positions than before. We see a

growth in access to education. According to Stats SA we have achieved a gender parity ratio of point 99 during 2019 where one is considered full equality. Well welcomed indicators of some success, but women still face many deep societal challenges, challenges that hold potential to regress on success.

Yesterday *News 24* reported over 23 000 teenage pregnancies recorded over one year of which almost 1000 were between the ages of 10 and 14 in Gauteng. This poses serious social economic, physical and psychological hazards by which we experienced an increased likelihood of dropouts and unemployment, absent fathers and single female headed households, a serious mismatch in responsibilities and upbringing of our children. These are fights faced every day by too many and require a commitment to intervention, services and resources uplifting programmes.

Deputy Speaker, as at 18 June 2021 the Provincial Department of Social Development has supported close to 110 000 female learners with over 700 000 sanitary pads. Many lack basic resources like these, which keep them from school but since the launch of the Sanitary Dignitary Project, dignity is being re-established. As GBV was quickly considered a shadow pandemic the Department extended support to over 5000 women this year knowing the challenges faced in seeking help as threats are too close to home. The structural barriers that women face with regard to substance and physical abuse are different to male counterparts. In partnership with NGOs the Department secures early intervention and in-care facilities to

women with their children, special care for adolescent girls and aftercare support.

The Masakh'iSizwe Bursary Programme prioritises women, youth, students with disabilities and learners especially from rural communities when awarding bursaries to better futures and so I pay tribute to women, women arise despite these adversities. It takes courage to seek help and succeed. I want to pay homage to the resilience of a wife, mother, sister, daughter who have suffered great loss because of this pandemic in particular, but have to continue with life in the work that they fill. Deputy Speaker, we no longer carry passes today or are restricted based on the colour of our skin or sex but we face social resistance and setbacks that require active and intentional redress.

In marriage, Deputy Speaker, a 65-year anniversary is celebrated with a traditional gift of a blue sapphire, in Spain with platinum, and in France, rosewood. Deputy Speaker, precious valuable representations of success, and so we asked ourselves, can we champion our support to women with a similar tone?

The 1956 group of women taught us resilience, perseverance, and to continue through the struggle we face. We are not fully recognised but as women we continue to be resolute in the struggle of recognition. Deputy Speaker... [connection lost]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Botha, are you there?

Ms L J BOTHA: Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know why it went off.

Ms L J BOTHA: Yes. Deputy Speaker, as a woman who has also been tried and tested, who have loved and lost during this very difficult pandemic period, I want to call on all women in this province to rise, to be resilient, to unite and to continue the work of women started by the group of women in 1956. With this speech I pay tribute to those partners in my sisterhood whose strength I could draw from. Those who have carried me, bloodline and no bloodline, female and male, I value you.

Deputy Speaker, I pledge to continue to be that woman who does not become an obstacle to another woman to not achieve success, but chooses to remain that woman who holds the stepladder for another woman to climb in order to achieve success. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon Botha. I now call on hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Deputy Speaker, as the ACDP we honour the women of this province. We honour the women of this nation during this month of August. A month to set aside for our grandmothers, our mothers, our

sisters and daughters is hardly enough time to honour the courage and their strength. It affords me great joy to have this opportunity to celebrate women. I celebrate women. I celebrate their strength during hardship, their strength to rise above circumstances, their strength to make the best of their given situation and their strength to be the best that they can be. I celebrate the joy of their joy. I celebrate the happiness of their happiness and their strength when they are in tears.

Deputy Speaker, I celebrate spirit-filled women empowered by God who make a difference in the lives of communities, countries and in the entire world. I celebrate women who have fallen in love with our Lord Jesus Christ, who walk with a path and is a child of God. I celebrate the power of women who prostrate themselves before Almighty God in prayers of adoration and intercession.

I also want to take this time and opportunity to celebrate Dr Susan Vosloo, the first female heart surgeon in South Africa, who, in this very month we honour women, is heavily criticised for her views on the vaccinations against COVID-19. What a shame.

I share the pain of women in love-starved marriages and victims of gender-based violence. I celebrate women who rise after they have fallen, who through sheer self-will refuse to remain in the gutter. I celebrate women whose hands are open to help, who feed others when they feed themselves, who dress others when they dress themselves. I celebrate

women who hold strategic and influential positions in boardrooms, in the lecture halls, on the factory floor and hospital wards.

I celebrate women. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I now call on hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, let us admit it, since 1994 South Africa has been competing with other countries in the world to be crowned the sex capital, sex for offenders and women abusers, even baby rapists, and then you know what, South Africa won gold, and this failed state carry those medals with pride, even giving discount on jail sentences for those found guilty of rape and murder.

It has been reported that seven women were murdered daily on average in South Africa between 2015 and 2020. This is the sad and heartbreaking reality of a demoralised society. From the minute a girl is born in South Africa she lives in fear of being raped or being killed. Women in South Africa are treated as punching bags by men, who consider them mere incubators for their fatherless kids.

37.6% of households in the Western Cape are headed by women. This must stop! It is women who brought us glory at the Olympic Games, not men.

The worth and our perception of the worth of a woman must be revolutionised and I can assure all women in South Africa – mark my words, if the Freedom Front Plus should succeed in getting a Free and Independent Western Cape their rights will be protected, 2000% more than what the case is now.

Speaker, currently women even in management positions are living under constant threat of losing their full-time employment if they do not get vaccinated – this at a time when medical experts themselves are still contradicting each other about the efficacy of the vaccine. Women have heard all of today's speeches before. We pity them, but we do not protect them because we in the Western Cape do not have the power to protect our women.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, we need to include women development in the Province's Western Cape Economic Recovery Plan. We need to do that and protect our unemployed mothers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: They will only be free if the Western Cape becomes free. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you very much. I now recognise hon Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you very much hon Deputy Speaker. In my contribution to this debate today I rise to create awareness in supporting security of all women in this modern day. To be secure means to be free from danger or threat, to experience greater levels of certainty, safety and an assured future. We could thus argue that where we place a woman or the environment in which she finds herself will greatly affect her security. Deputy Speaker, during Women's Month last year our country adopted the long awaited Resolution 1325, which aims to affirm this. Security and peace efforts are more sustainable with women, women considered as equal partners in this development.

Deputy Speaker, this means that the world needs women. The adoption of the resolution followed a year of turmoil and where GBV was also termed the second pandemic and so, some would argue, that it thus could not come at a better time.

At the same time others may argue that it is way too late, given that we have reached a point in which violence against women is considered infectious. In addition to this, countries like Liberia and Rwanda have adopted such plans ten years ago. Regardless, it is clear that for greater security in this day we must empower women, secure women. The ISS report which I draw from, shows that in South Africa 43% of its

parliamentarians are women; 31% of the Defence Force and 37.2% of police personnel are women at both tactical and strategic levels.

Speaker, on Women's Day this year I had the privilege to engage with the Montrose Park Neighbourhood Watch in Mitchells Plain, a group of 30 women under the stewardship of Ms Bertha Abrahams. I reiterate, a group of women that decided too, no more will innocent kids be gunned down and their community be held hostage by criminal elements.

I acknowledge and salute the brave and courageous women across the Western Cape, the bold and fearless women that are not afraid to face the barrel of a gun when it comes to protecting their neighbourhood. We have surely made strides, even without the adoption, but we are not yet there.

During May this year Forbes reported the following reasons why the gender-paid gaps are still with us and will remain so until 2059. Deputy Speaker, surely we ought to say – not in my lifetime!

Firstly, their analysis shows a slow progress in the gender-paid gaps since 2015. It however shows a narrow difference of 2% between men and women, when accounting for advantages of education and experience, but as years pass this gap compounds and so this gap also fails to account for those who lack these opportunities to education and experience.

Moreover, the study shows that for 60% of women who experienced this

gap it is due to their own inhibition, in undertaking their care-giving responsibility, while 40% relates to businesses' or employers' perception of this responsibility attributed to women.

Deputy Speaker, a tricky situation indeed, but what becomes clear is that there is most certainly a need for deliberate intervention for women to take up space and for employment bodies to pull the plug of often subtle yet discriminating policies. Yes, many and rightfully so, argue that pay gaps are but a mere part of establishing greater security, but it certainly enables. Deputy Speaker, it sets a record straight, for example a woman dependent on a partner who according to SA GBV stats may pose a risk to her safety. Jane Adams thus accordingly said:

“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”

When women are secure, they have freedom, they reach out to opportunities and so we must recognise women equally. There is power in parity. There will be power in parity, and we must create power in parity. I wish to welcome some findings in the Western Cape, I note the level of female employees within our provincial structures. There are over 31 000 more female employees than men, during times when finding a job proves tougher than ever. On middle management level, there are over 400 more women than men, whilst at senior management level, 44% of roles are filled by women.

I want to encourage women to keep on taking up this space. In the DA-led Cape Winelands District Municipality, Executive Mayor, Dr Elna van Schlicht, is a shining example and leading from the front in her approach and drive relating to COVID-19 recovery on a high-performance level.

Deputy Speaker, we have heard of many stories and figures to represent the challenges and successes made by women and for women; theoretical analysis of the place of women, but what truly matters is ensuring that we continue realising the value that women empowerment networks and initiatives hold. The security we create for them returns to society. Let us consider the power of parity and how we create a secure future for all. Let us be intentional about greater strides; as intentional as the women who walked before us that led to this commemoration and the celebration of equal rights for women then, and especially today.

Hon Speaker, it is a given that limiting basic freedoms for women and girls will have devastating consequences for generations to come. We no longer have a choice; we owe it to our future generations.

Deputy Speaker, I stand on the shoulders of the Helen Suzmans, the Helen Zilles, the Aunty Bokkie Claasens, the Rokaya Meyers, the Hetta Sylvesters and many more, who teach us; it is never about us; it is for the cause. May we recognise our individual freedom. May we, as a nation, recognise our human fallibility but may we grow, and may we realise the power of a woman sooner. May the nation, not only one month in a year, but around the clock,

endeavour to recognise the greatness of women. History has shown us Deputy Speaker, that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Al Jama-ah is deeply concerned over many flaws in the Maintenance Act which fails to deliver justice to women, children and the elderly. We support calls made by social justice activists for the rights of women, that amendments be made to the Maintenance Act which will speed up the process of applications and deliver and deliver fair and just rulings, especially for women and children. The Government has failed to respond or act on the unequal and ineffective maintenance system.

We call on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament to approach National Parliament to consider amendments to the Maintenance Act. The current Maintenance Act is discriminatory towards women. We question why men receive a travelling allowance and a relief payment to attend court hearings on maintenance matters whereas women are deprived of this stipend; they must pay their own travelling costs. Women who attend maintenance hearings suffer the loss of jobs and loss of income.

This is insulting to the dignity of women who must beg the fathers of their

children to pay maintenance. Women pay R50 in travelling costs to hearings which allow the father to pay a pittance towards the maintenance of their children. Our courts are clogged with maintenance applications resulting in children reaching maturity without benefiting from any maintenance.

There are also no timelines in place to ensure effective applications of maintenance. Women are also not receiving the necessary assistance from maintenance staff when making applications. They are often bullied to accept pittance for maintenance. As a province, where is the oversight at the maintenance courts? There are reports of a lack of resources, staff shortages and proper investigations into maintenance matters. These are causing unnecessary delays and postponement of matters. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Let me appreciate the platform and join all the other members in celebrating the strides made up to this point, to legally remove women exploitation and acknowledge the baby steps of diversity that our democracy has ushered in with men as husbands, as fathers and as leaders, standing side by side with ourselves, as women counterparts, to fight for gender equality in South Africa.

As the ANC we join this Women's Parliament discussion with serious

reservations and pessimism, both as members in this House, and women in particular. We can collectively declare the immense burden experienced by women in our country and province, especially compounded by COVID-19. The burden of this pandemic on women has not assisted efforts to equalise and drive a non-sexist society forward, particularly given the stubborn political economy of the apartheid economic infrastructure.

Such has been confirmed by studies done since the advent of the pandemic of pre-existing conditions that have exacerbated the vulnerability of developing economies such as South Africa, particularly those outside of the economic mainstream, which is women and youth. Recent data from the Stats SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey indicates a glum picture as far as youth is concerned and young women in particular.

It is also important to remind this House that in a similar debate, as the ANC, we raised the notion of the economics of GBV. It is interesting that a recent report by the Western Cape Police Ombudsman revealed that human and other resources to sustain the Police Victim Empowerment Programme and ensure victims receive all the services, are lacking.

We call on the Safety Plan to resource and ensure a working, equal system to respond effectively to GBV in our province. Let us remind this House, as we still have a few days to go in wrapping up Women's Month, that our past is interwoven in our present, and our present is an indicator of our future. We must be looking for women as an add-in, but also ensure that they steer the

institutions of patriarchy and its toxic masculinity away. An economy that has been designed by white males continues to be the lived experience of today's economies and the Western Cape provincial economy is no exception.

Women's dignity and their rights †Somlomo [Speaker] are both qualitative indicators but not only that, their numbers must cause a stir to create a new economic design and architecture that will have all that we agreed upon: being an inclusive economy with business modelling and value chains that enable the participation of women. Such inclusivity must be intentional, it must also be time bound.

The ILO has undertaken an investigation into the price of economic exclusion on women with disabilities in the workspace and general macro-economic costs. With their data limitations, they reported that in Africa macro-economic losses are between 3,1% of the GDP in Malawi, about \$99 million, and 7% of the 2006 GDP in South Africa which is about US\$17,8 billion. Can this Province and our CWP Branch, Deputy Speaker, help us to ensure that a study of this nature is done in our province and use the findings to steer the gender equality agenda to the main basis of our oversight and financial accountability work.

We have, as the ANC, consistently raised in the House the stark reality of income inequality and it must lay as an indictment to us as a generation of legislators; so long as such a reality persists, we must soldier on to fight the system.

Business Tech recently reported in an article on South Africa's middle class that it is in trouble, impacted severely by COVID-19. For those with a take-home salary of more than R20,000 monthly, their total debt to annual income ratio is 152%. They spend over 60% of their nett income on repaying debt. Maxeke calls on all of us:

“This work is not for yourselves – kill the spirit of self, and do not live above your people but live with them. If you can rise, bring someone with you.”

I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, hon Speaker and hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Provincial Cabinet, the hon Leader of the Official Opposition, hon members of the Legislature: I rise today to participate in the Speaker's Debate on Women's Day 2021. I do so by presenting to you the stories of six remarkable women who have crossed my path over the past two years but let me firstly also express my thanks and appreciation for all the participants that spoke in this debate.

I have listened very carefully, and I am inspired by the stories and the

comments and the speeches in this debate in line with the opening remarks of the Speaker of this debate and I want to congratulate this debate taking place here today.

And so, I have remarkable stories of women who have not allowed their circumstances to define who they are. Remarkable because they have grabbed every opportunity they came across as a stepping stone to create their own opportunities for themselves and for others. But hon Deputy Speaker, charity begins at home and so I would like to salute all women in this Legislature, all those women who have represented their respective political parties in this Legislature since 1994, long before us.

They all made a contribution to this province. I salute all women speakers of this Legislature. I salute all those who held the positions before and currently as Deputy Speakers, also women Ministers since 1994. They have all contributed to building this institution. I salute all our women, heads of departments, past and present, and all those who are serving, currently and past, in public entities here in the Western Cape. Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to salute our women in this province for building resilient communities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the first person that I want to celebrate today is Berene Sauls. After completing school, Berene Sauls from Tesselaarsdal in the Hemel-en- Aarde Valley in Hermanus in the Overberg region joined Hamilton Russell Vineyards in February 2021 as an au pair at the age of 19. She soon moved to an administrative position and quickly got involved in the much

more complicated administration linked to wine exports such as the labelling and warehousing of the estate's wines.

15 years later, Anthony Hamilton Russell offered to assist her with the opportunity to own her own wine business with the expertise and assistance of Hamilton Russell Vineyards winemaker, Emul Ross, and the Hamilton Russell Vineyard's team sole focus of production is on Pinot Noir as the climate and soil is the best for this cultivar. She named her wine Tesselaarsdal, honouring the story of her family. Today Berene continues to grow her wines, now also producing a Chardonnay and she is doing outstanding business. Both the Deputy Speaker of this House and the current Premier have met her and know her story. Today in this House, we celebrate this story.

The second woman is Tannie Poppie. The *roosterkoek* queen Tannie Poppie van As comes from the Karoo town of Laingsburg and has become a national treasure for a lovely delicious roosterbrood, a local delicacy made of dal, roasted on an open fire.

Tannie Poppie started her roadside roosterbrood stand to earn an income and won the hearts of passers-by through the Karoo. It was not long before she became famous and she appeared on lifestyle television shows, in magazines, in articles and even a documentary. Her supporters even included a group of Italian cyclists who ended up inviting her to Italy. Today a plane is named after Tannie Poppie. The plane is called Tannie Poppie Piazza; plane in the

Italian language. We celebrate Tannie Poppie from the Karoo. Yesterday we posted her photo in the office of the Western Cape Ministry of Agriculture in Wale Street in Cape Town. We honour and salute Tannie Poppie.

Natasha Johannes – she started the Garden of Hope in Mitchells Plain, five years ago when she was diagnosed with colon cancer. She is familiar to the Member of Parliament, Ricardo Mackenzie, the Premier of the Western Cape and Minister Albert Fritz. She needed to eat fresh vegetables as the cancer caused her to feel weak and tired. She could not afford to buy her own vegetables; she did not work and therefore did not have the money. In her own words, she had nothing. There was a dumping site behind the house which she had been watching.

Liaising with the community and her husband, she asked them to convert it into a vegetable garden. After liaising and negotiating with the City of Cape Town, they agreed. They got the land and with the support of my Department, they converted this dumping ground into a community vegetable garden. It has now become her passion; she now teaches the community to grow their own vegetables and she does this for the love of agriculture.

Natasha Love – a small scale farmer, Natasha Love hails from Ebenhaeser in the Matzikama region on the West Coast. Natasha farms on two hectares, producing Chenin Blanc grapes. The wine grapes are also sold to Cederberg Cellar. The wine is then produced, bottled and exported to Sweden. With the support of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture she was able to

establish her vineyards and currently has 6 000 vines on two hectares.

Ingrid Lestrade – in March 2017 Ingrid Lestrade assumed her current role as Director of Middelpoos Farm in Malmesbury and established the Inspire Children and Youth Trust, a non-profit organisation. Ingrid Lestrade was a bronze medallist in the 2016 Commonwealth Judo Games and four times South African Judo champion and currently holds an LLB qualification.

She teaches 47 rural farm children judo to help them feel safe, motivated, to stay in school, improve their school marks and inspire their parents to drink more responsibly. She helps 13 farm families to use their resources on the farm to break their generational cycle of poverty. Her main work is to develop strategy, fundraising, implement and market the activities geared towards rural children, youth and women at Middelpoos.

Allison van der Walt is a qualified psychologist specialising in industrial psychology and she is the manager of the Genesis Hub in Vredenberg on the West Coast. I had the opportunity to visit with her about three weeks ago. She has 16 years' experience in skills development, talent management and leadership. Genesis Hub is a safe place for youth where they not only learn a technical skill in a special area, but also learn to develop in all areas of life. Focus areas include urban farming, aquaponics, digital skills, fourth industrial revolution skills such as coding, drone training, sanitary pad production, cutting, measuring and trimming and the culinary academy. She described her team as an amazing team and therefore the Genesis Hub is

making magic. “Teamwork makes the dream work”, she says.

Deputy Speaker, the battle of gender equality will only be substantially advanced when more men become champions for social change and gender equity. This is the role men should take up in society, in this Legislature, in the Cabinet, in Government and in the corporate sector and in the decision-making structures of society, as hon members have indicated during this debate. Becoming champions of change and gender equity, requires ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... men to join women and become some. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I just want to firstly convey my appreciation for the contributions by the hon members. I think, hon Deputy Speaker, what we have seen here is exactly what women debates should be like. But the focus should be on the practical attempts to address challenges confronting women and we have heard that, and we have heard the hon members highlighting practical examples on some of the challenges, and some of the great examples of success and of course we have also heard about some of the areas where we have been found wanting. This is the kind of

debate I anticipated, and I am very grateful that the hon members have delivered on that expectation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, you said it in your own address, that in the work we intend to do to address the challenges of women, we need to be practical in our interventions. It suggests that even the Women's Parliament that took place cannot just be business as usual. With the Women's Parliament in the sixth term, we began to deal with the issue of what then happens on the resolutions? Because Women's Parliament takes place and then there are recommendations that get made by stakeholders and delegates. In 2019, when the Women's Parliament took place, there was no proper follow up to deal with the resolutions or recommendations.

Hence it was proper that the CWP leads this programme and that you, as the Deputy Speaker, are able to table a resolution in this House and I do hope and really implore the hon members to support the resolution when it is tabled in this House, especially on the areas that are within the mandate of the Western Cape Executive and the areas that are practical in terms of tangible, impactful interventions, not simply table these because we want to table them, but we need to see outcomes in terms of what we table.

And I also appreciate hon Deputy Speaker, the approach that the CWP seeks to take. The Executive and the leadership of the CWP in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament seek to take this out to the districts, to the communities in the Western Cape, because that kind of approach, it then

deals with the Parliament as the representative of the people, instead of Parliament for itself as Parliament.

It cannot be correct that we sit here, and we debate these issues only for ourselves. It must be that the issues that the Members of Parliament deal with, especially with this very important sector, and that is women, that we take these issues to ordinary women many of whom are not able to connect as we are sitting here because they need to have money to connect because data is expensive in South Africa, but then the question is, what do you choose, bread, butter or data and the answer is bread and butter.

I know this because going around this province looking at what women have to deal with, it is always those women who have nothing, absolutely nothing on their table, who need our voice and they need to hear from us and we need to fight for them, as Members of this Parliament. And I do appreciate, because I heard it here, that members are not speaking from a position of ignorance, but they are speaking from a position of strength because members are grounded in their constituencies.

I have heard our male members speaking here, but I just want to also appreciate the female speakers. Hon Marais, I heard you when you spoke and I also appreciate that you touched on the issues of your portfolio, but equally it is important to highlight the challenges that we see.

I was heartbroken because I watched the Olympics this year and when the

winner came back, we did nothing to appreciate their successes and also the work that they have done as ambassadors for this country, just a thank you; it would be important if the members of this House were to say, 'I am giving R20, I am giving R5' to give bonuses to those women because they are the ambassadors who have taken this country, and its flag, to the global stage and brought back what we all celebrated as victory. Now I wish in our practical intervention that we remember those. Thank you, hon Marais for highlighting some of the great successes that you have seen, and you have led in your area of portfolio.

You also heard from hon Windvogel about some of the areas that were highlighted as challenges, and I do hope that the hon members in the Executive will be able to address some of those.

Hon Baku-Baku Vos, Madam Deputy Speaker, was specific about a particular issue and I do want to say: †Mama, ndiyivile la nto ubuyithetha, Mhlonitshwa. Ndizokucela ke into yokuba umphathiswa okanye aba baphathiswa bachaphazelekayo, bazilandele. Ndizokucela mhlawumbi into yokuba awunokuyenza na into yokubana ubhale i-question okanye uyizise nge-interpolation, ukwenzela into yokuba sikwazi ukuyiqwalasela kakuhle siyile ndlu yoWiso-mthetho. Ngamafutshana, ndicela into yokuba uyireyize kakuhle kwelinye inqwanqwa xa sele sizokudilishana naye ngokupheleleyo.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[Honourable member, I have heard what you were saying. I will ask that the Minister or Ministers that are involved please follow it up. I will ask that perhaps you can write the question down or you can present it as an interpellation so that as the legislature we will be able to concentrate on it properly. In short, I am asking that you raise it on a different platform where we can deal with it more fully.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, it would be better for hon Baku-Baku Vos to ask a written question or an interpellation so that it can be addressed thoroughly because the hon Ministers affected, as Members of the Executive, in these particular cases, may not necessarily have the opportunity to reply because they are not speaking in this debate and those are departmental issues. So I advise that the hon member Baku-Baku Vos uses that approach because we have created an environment for interpellations, questions, both oral and written.

Hon Baku-Baku Vos also raised an issue which I have addressed, hon Deputy Speaker, that this kind of Women's Parliament ought not to be just about having an event, because then they become a talk show and we do not want that and I was particularly impressed when you said that to me, 'but Speaker we are not just going to have events because we want to be impactful.'

I must say that you learned it is not just in South Africa, but in Africa, and there is also an appetite because the CWP in this Parliament has worked as a collective, beyond party politics, and that is impressive because then you get

the appetite and the drive from other legislators, beyond this country and of course continentally and abroad, and I think that for me is very important. I appreciate that. So that will then respond to the issue that hon Baku-Baku Vos raised, issues that hon Botha and of course issues that hon Nkondlo has raised. We must make sure that we follow through and make sure that these events do not just become a talk show.

I also want to finally appreciate our interpreters. You see they are women and I have seen them in other forums as well, beyond the Western Cape and beyond this country, and we must celebrate them and say that the work that they do, we appreciate, and of course at this Parliament we continue to enjoy the work that Terry Botha and Amira Baker do. We say thank you and we love you. Thank you, you are doing very well.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I cannot underscore the contributions of hon Christians, hon Pieter Marais, hon Brinkhuis and hon Meyer because these are not debates for women, these are debates for us as legislators. We, as legislators, must take these issues to the heart because women do not rape themselves, women do not beat themselves but we, men rape and kill women. So we need to ask ourselves what we can do differently to stop the culture of patriarchy, the culture of abuse and the culture of stigmatisation in our society.

As men we do not own women. Women are not our subjects, and we have no responsibility to prescribe how women should behave, how they should dress

and how they should lead society. That is why it is important that, as men here, we lead from the front and provide a very clear example that we will not tolerate any form of abuse towards women.

That is why when you walk down the corridor here to the office of the Speaker, you can see Deputy Speaker, the declaration that we signed in 2019. It is the greatest thing that we have ever done, and it shall never be removed from there, but we need to augment it to ensure that we practically, in heart, mind, word and in deed, represent and act in a way, that will represent this august institution as an institution and a Parliament of the people, starting with the members of staff of this Parliament who are women.

The sexual harassment policy is a very clear example of that, and it is equally important that we look at why this Parliament, in the Sixth Parliament decided to implement maternity leave for female Members of Parliament. That was led by the Chief Whip of this Parliament. She was pregnant and she had to come and ask for approval here to go and be a mother. No women should ask for permission to be a mother and it is our responsibility to lead by example but there is a lot more that we need.

I want to thank you once more and say †baie dankie [thank you very much] and this Parliament is proud to have such a debate. I did not hear anyone attacking anyone here and I will really be remiss if I do not say to Dr Meyer, mentioning those women here may sound like a speech but to me and to those women I do know, it made a significant impact on them. Some are in my

constituency, Deputy Speaker, you know, you have met them, and it makes a huge difference because they know that this Parliament is not for the elites, but this Parliament is for everybody, including those who have nothing because this Parliament is a Parliament of the people, and we have really lived up to that. Thank you very much, may God bless you, hon members.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Speaker. That brings us to the end of the Speakers Debate. That concludes the business for the day and the Secretary will now end the meeting and members will be exited from the sitting. The House is adjourned.