
TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024

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 09:29.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Order! A very good morning to everyone here at the opening of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, to welcome all our esteemed guests into this Sitting today. Order!

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. Today we will be using the hybrid model for the Sitting of the House, so we have hon members here present in the hall with the Presiding Officer and the Table staff and we also have hon members and guests

in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams. This Hall and the Chamber have been connected to Microsoft Teams.

Hon members, I trust that everybody has been connected and that the Western Cape Provincial Parliament remains fully operational with members also doing their work in the constituencies, hence why we have a hybrid system.

Also allow me to highlight some of the important housekeeping rules of this Sitting. The Secretary and his Administration will ensure technical support, should anyone require it. Members who are present in this Hall and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by the law. Members who are considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and will be called to order. Today's Sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules and in an instance where the Rules cannot be applied the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

I would also like to remind our guests you may not participate in this debate. Hon Members in the Hall are requested not to sign in onto Microsoft Teams as it does cause interference with the sound and for the purpose of this Sitting via the hybrid model, Language Interpreting Services are also available and I think all members are aware of how to access language translation via their second device, and finally, hon members are reminded that no interjections are permitted during the Sitting, and to this end I draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules.

I now recognise the Hon Chief whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I move:

That in terms of Section 3 of the Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Code of Conduct Act, 2002 (Act 3 of 2002), Advocate P Burgers be appointed as the Registrar of Members' Interests for a period of three years with effect from 1 March 2024.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I so move. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion? No objections? Agreed to.

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

ORDER OF THE DAY

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Stimela. I have received a copy of the Premier's State of the Province Address delivered in the House on Monday, 19 February 2024. The address is printed in the Minutes of the

Proceedings and I now place it before the House for debate. I recognise the hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. We have an election to win and that is why we have deployed many of our comrades on the ground and do not worry about anything...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

- The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Premier, colleagues and comrades in the Legislature, †die mense van die Paarl en die Drakenstein Munisipaliteit [the people of Paarl and the Drakenstein Municipality]. †Abantu base entshona koloni [the Western Cape]

Before we commence this debate the ANC wishes to acknowledge here today the citizens of Paarl and the Drakenstein Municipality. The people of Paarl will tell you that for years they had complained about the broken fence around this very Huguenot Hall. Women were sexually assaulted at night because this fence around this hall was broken. Now suddenly the fence and the potholes in the road are fixed before SOPA and nothing illustrates better the truth of service delivery by the DA. [Interjection.]

†Hulle gee nie om vir ons mense nie. Vir tien jaar, niks, en nou ewe skielik

spring hulle. Soos mense sê oor die DA: "Bo blink, onder stink." [They do not care about our people. For ten years, nothing, and now suddenly they jump. As people say about the DA, "Shiny outside, rotten inside"].

While the majority do not receive service delivery, it is only the wealthy and the elite that get services of a good quality. Our farm workers are evicted and right now, and that is where member Marran is, a terrible accident impacting once again on farm workers near De Doorns and they don't care. †Hulle gee nie om nie. [They don't care]. The DA, like the Premier did yesterday, lifts out one or two individual cases and spin in the media that they govern better.

Siyabona ukuba DA iyaqxoka we see that the DA is lying

†Mense sien nou deur die leuens van die DA. [People now see through the lies of the DA].

Here in Drakenstein the DA Mayor, Mr Poole, faces a motion of no confidence amid serious *prima facie* allegations of jobs for pals, but where did he learn this? He learnt this from his masters, Anton Bredell, Tertuis Simmers and now Sharna Fernandez, who is trying to †wikkkel [wriggle] someone into her Department, which she knows should not be allowed. [Interjections.]

†Sy is deel van die baantjies vir boeties! [She is part of the jobs for pals.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, if you can take a seat please, there is

a point of order. [Interjections.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Die waarheid maak seer.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: The truth hurts.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Deputy Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 59. The member is reflecting upon the integrity of Ministers that are sitting in front of the House and he has mentioned them by name. I wish for you to rule upon that. [Interjections.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Die waarheid maak seer.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: The truth hurts.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am going to, for the ease of this debate, be reasonably flexible. I am going to say to you, hon member Dugmore, I will listen carefully if it is really aspersions that you are casting on each and every member, but I am going to try and be as flexible as possible within the ambit of the Rules. Please, hon Dugmore, please go ahead with caution.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. When ANC councillors like Moutie Richards tried to speak about the corruption, †hier binne-in Drakenstein, [here inside Drakenstein,] they

attempted to charge him and it is the same Drakenstein Municipality that is standing in the way of transferring †die grond van Saron, die grond van Saron na die Communal Property Association, [the land of Saron, the land of Saron to the Communal Property Association,] despite the Minister of Land Affairs saying in writing that the land should be transferred.

†Hulle staan in die weg.

[They stand in the way.]

In our speeches, Deputy Speaker, we will be asking specific questions which we request the Premier to respond truthfully when he replies. People are now seeing the DA *swart gevaar* trick of trying to instil fear about Black African people amongst Coloured people. At the same time, the DA is pushing White South Africans into a laager.

As the ANC, we say that any person without a place in school, whether they are African, Coloured or White, needs our help. A person who is without a house, whether they are Coloured, African or White, needs our help.

†Ons is almal mense, [We are all people,] we are all human beings with similar hopes and dreams.

†Masimanyane apho entshona koloni [let's unite there in the Western Cape]

†Kom ons staan saam! [Let us stand together!] †abantu bantshona koloni [the Western Cape]

The ANC unites, the DA divides. As the ANC we want to call on those in the White community who still fear for the future. It is time to realise that you are South African. You are African. A future is only sustainable if genuine efforts are made to redress the injustices of the past and to work together to build our future. Do not stand on the sidelines. Get into the scrum and help build a better life for everyone. The starting point is to come to terms with the fact that the vast majority of White South Africans were massively advantaged by apartheid and colonialism and affirmative action in the apartheid years. Thus White South Africans need to accept the incontrovertible fact that there is still a need for redress. It may be tempting to fall for the populist and racist rhetoric of the Freedom Front Plus and the fear-mongering of the DA, but it will not take you anywhere.

†Bruinmense in ons provinsie is 48% van die bevolking. Swartmense is 38%. Die Blanke gemeenskap is 18%. Nou hoe kan dit ooit geregverdig wees dat Bruinmense net 10% van stedelike grond besit en Swartmense 'n skamele 3%. Ons moenie toelaat dat die DA ons verdeel van ons Swart broers en susters nie en van ons Bruin broers en susters en ons Blanke broers en susters nie. Die DA – ons weet van hulle maar ons as die ANC beywer ons nog steeds om ons land te verenig, Bruin, Swart, Indiër, Blanke, Christen, Moslem, Jood, Xhosa moedertaal, Afrikaans moedertaal, Engelssprekendes, en soos die Vryheidsmanifes sê: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it," and that is why when this Premier spoke, hy het nie 'n enkele woord gesê oor die Khoi of die San nie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Brown people in our province are 48% of the population. Black people are 38%. The White community is 18%. Now how can it ever be justified that Brown people own only 10% of urban land and Black people a mere 3%. We must not allow that the DA divides us from our Black brothers and sisters and from our Brown brothers and sisters and White brothers and sisters. The DA – we know about them but we as the ANC is still striving to unite our country, Brown, Black, Indian, White, Christian, Muslim, Jew, Xhosa mother language, Afrikaans mother language, English speakers, and as the Freedom Charter says, "South Africa belongs to all who live in it," and that is why when this Premier spoke, he did not say a single word about the Khoi or the San.] [Interjections.]

While Helen Zille was the Premier and all other provinces set up Houses for traditional leaders, Zille and the DA refused. Then, when the Traditional Khoi-San Bill went to Parliament, †die DA wat hier sit het teen daai Wetsontwerp in die Parlement gestem, en hulle noem nie eers van die Khoi en die San van ons provinsie nie, en ek het 'n ou gekry gister wat sê, "Nee, ek het vandag die waarheid gesien, daai Premier stel nie belang in ons nie." [Tussenwerpsels.] [the DA sitting here voted against that Bill in the Parliament, and they do not even mention the Khoi and the San of our province, and I found a guy yesterday who says, "No, today I saw the truth, that Premier is not interested in us."]

[Interjections.]

That is what he told me afterwards. So we need to participate actively in the national process now and assist people in terms of the national process, but let it never be forgotten who delayed this process.

The people of the Western Cape stand united in condemning the genocide of thousands of Palestinians and the Israelis' absolute disregard for international law and the rule of law. We condemn this Provincial Government and Legislature's duplicity in regard to the genocide of Palestinians. When the Premier spoke yesterday, he could not even get himself to mention the word Palestine. He condemned Russia and he is silent in the face of Israel. Despite exports from our province to Russia exceeding exports to Ukraine, this Provincial Government put out a statement condemning Russia, †maar wat sê hulle oor Palestina? Niks! [But what do they say about Palestine? Nothing!]

The crocodile tears of this Premier yesterday must just be rejected.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes, yes. [Applause.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The double standards, †en die skynheiligheid van die DA is daar [and the hypocrisy of the DA is there.] The racism and support of apartheid by the DA are typical and must be condemned. There was even an official, †n amptenaar in die Wetgewer wat 'n keffiyeh aangehad het by die werk, en een van die Ministers wat hier sit het haar probeer intimideer [an official in the Legislature who was wearing a keffiyeh at work, and one of the Ministers sitting here tried to intimidate her] and say "you cannot use that," and we know who he is. [Interjections.]

When we look at this issue of Gaza, it is a human rights issue. It is not a

religious issue. That is why Christians, Muslims and thousands of South African Jews support our Government in laying a charge of genocide against Israel at the ICJ but all the DA members in the National Parliament, all of them voted against our Government going to the ICJ.

When we look at the economy it is clear that the Premier back in 2018 admitted that only 3% of agricultural land in the Western Cape was in Black hands, Coloured, African and Indian. Six years later, five years of Winde rule, the situation remains bleak.

†En ek moet sê, die Premier het net bladsy 4 vandag van *Die Burger* gehaal. Hulle stel nie eintlik belang in hom nie, net bladsy 4. [Tussenwerpsel.] [And I have to say, the Premier only made page 4 of *Die Burger*. They are not actually interested in him, only page 4.] [Interjection.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Ek is bly jy lees *Die Burger* nog.

[An HON MEMBER: I'm glad you still read *Die Burger*.]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Ja-nee, ek lees hom en ek gesels saam, ek gesels saam. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: *Ja-nee*, I read it and I talk along, I talk along.] [Interjections.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Gesels saam!

[An HON MEMBER: Talk along!]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But the issue really in our economy is that we have asset poverty and inequality. On the other hand I have spoken about White South Africans owning 90% of agricultural land in this province.

If we talk about economic empowerment, it starts with land and property. When it comes to employment and unemployment, unemployment in this province has always been the lowest in the country because of a number of comparative advantages. When the ANC governed this province, †werkloosheid was 18%. Nou onder die DA in 2024 is werkloosheid 20,2%. [unemployment was 18%. Now under the DA in 2024 unemployment is 20.2%.]

In 2019, he said the Premier wants to support informal and township economy. Five years later, the only Township Economy Project in partnership with Pick n Pay is in tatters, complete disaster, no plan to revitalise the informal township economies. It is just spin, mirrors, no substance. Then he announced the Municipal Resilience Energy Project. Actually, nothing has been forthcoming from that, three to four years ago. He said he was going to get COVID-19 vaccines, †net weer 'n klomp leë beloftes. [Tussenwerpsels.] [just a lot of empty promises again.] [Interjections.]

He said he is going to work with the taxi industry to introduce Red Dot and then he stopped the Red Dot. That is what he did and now they are coming with transport subsidies, which they are going to stop again. So the reality is, women

are not safe working in the Western Cape Government. The Premier of this Provincial Government stands up here and he knows that a Chief Director of this province, Farrel Payne, is charged with sexual assault and committing a sexual act in a Criminal Court and he remains the Chief Director so how can you even believe to begin and the number of women who are suffering from harassment at the workplace, he knows about. This Premier lost an MEC who lied about his qualifications, another for abusing his office and victimising women. Another had to run off to London because she was just failing education completely.

He even had to separate Public Works, but when the Premier talks about the economy he does not mention that many, many of the growth opportunities here come from National Government. AGOA is national, the IDZ, the SEZ, investments from the Presidential Investment Summit, including the Lotus Factory in Wolseley which is employing 750 people. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Their refusal to address inequalities is best seen in the Tafelberg matter, and this morning again the Premier misled people on *Cape Talk* and I will explain why. This asset, a former special needs school is situated on the Main Road in Sea Point. It is ideal for social housing. 12 years have lapsed and still Tafelberg stands empty. This is the legacy of the DA Zille and Alan Winde.

The Courts had to be approached by Ndifuna Ukwazi and the National Minister of Human Settlements to stop that. So the DA lost the court case and the sale was stopped, but actually nothing is still happening and these are three of the questions, Premier, I would like you to answer. Given that the site has been empty for 14 years, seven years in Court fighting for affordable housing, and although there have been nine existing feasibility studies, why is there still no urgency to develop the site for social housing, given that the Province has again said that on 11 March this year people must make submissions for a further to your process, and you did not even know that, Premier, when you spoke. You just said, "Oh, no, there are delays." Your Government is delaying this. Your Government is delaying this. You already have seven plans which you have paid for and now you want to delay this for two years again, so will you please answer that.

The Province has included in this document reactivation of a school facility as an urban public school as part of the new so-called development elements. What exactly, Premier, is the Province's intention for the Tafelberg site. When Zille broke her promise, domestic workers and others occupied the Helen Bowden Nurses Home and I want to ask, thirdly, when will this Provincial Government provide electricity to this provincially owned building, allowing residents to live in dignity and when will you stop the millions and millions that gets spent every month? When will you treat the residents of Ahmed Kathrada House with dignity and actually sit down, start a meaningful dialogue to find fair and lasting solutions? You have never done that and that is a total lack of leadership.

When it comes to energy the Premier mentioned literally hundreds of millions invested in so-called energy resilience. The Mayor of Cape Town announced a project to bring over 600 megawatts. Now despite us asking repeatedly, †wat is die koste? [what is the cost?] What is this electricity going to cost the consumer, neither this Premier or the Mayor has been able to tell us.

In Hessequa where Premier Winde praises the Mayor Grant Riddles, who in fact is under criminal investigation by the Hawks for openly calling on residents of Melkhoutfontein to lie about their incomes, we have him on tape, when applying for housing subsidies. Here again, the Mayor cannot tell us, or you, Mr Premier, how much will the Hessequa electricity cost?

†Dit is 'n feit soos 'n koei. Dit is 'n feit soos 'n koei dat krag wat gekoop word direk van Eskom is goedkoper as krag van die Stad Kaapstad. [Tussenwerpsels.] [It is an indisputable fact. It is an indisputable fact that power bought directly from Eskom is cheaper as power from the City of Cape Town.] [Interjections.]

When you buy electricity for R100 from Eskom in Cape Town you get 42 units. When you buy electricity for R100 from the DA City you get 22 units. Why is that? Because over and above the NERSA surcharge they have added another surcharge. NERSA was taken to the Court. Who suffers? The poor!

Here in Drakenstein, when you go and buy electricity from the municipality

and you are in arrears with another account they take from that R100 and you end up with a R10 or a R20 for electricity. What do you say about that, Mr Poole? That being said, we as the ANC are taking responsibility for this energy crisis and we are making progress, this in terms of the energy mix of coal, renewables, hydro, nuclear and gas. The lack of reliable energy supply hits consumers and businesses hard and we must acknowledge that. But we will have a just transition to a lower carbon economy.

Human Settlements is in a crisis in this province. This MEC wants to disband the entire Project Management Unit in the Provincial Human Settlements, but the Premier came and misled the House again about Education because standards of education have dropped in this province under this Premier in an unprecedented manner. Instead of ensuring that more poor children are educated and given the skills to fight poverty, poorer children are coming off second-best. Hon Bantsoane will speak more about this dismal state, but the fact is that the Premier must acknowledge that the Western Cape scored the lowest of Bachelor passes in the country, from no fee schools. When the ANC governed, our Matrics were number 1 and were 14% above the national pass rate. Now in 2023, for the first time ever the Western Cape has slipped below the national average. That is factual, and then, Premier, you want to come here and claim like in the DA Manifesto that this is the best-run province.

†Vir wie lieg jy? [Tussenwerpsels.] [To whom do you lie?] [Interjections.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Jo! Vir wie?

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: Jo! To whom?]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Vir wie lieg jy?

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: To whom do you lie?]

People are seeing through the DA lies. When it comes to governance, the Premier has allowed his MEC for Local Government to cover up, firstly, DA corruption, fraud, cadre deployment and capture. He has allowed this MEC to penalise non-DA-run municipalities and actually destabilise them. This MEC has covered up for Tertuis Simmers. This MEC has covered up for massive under-spending by DA municipalities across the province and literally...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, one minute please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And yes, we as the ANC want to investigate as a Standing Committee the situation in Knysna...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We want to investigate that and we will.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore! Sorry. I have to interrupt you, if you can just take your seat please. There is a point of order. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Chair, we have already raised this already in terms of Rule 59. The member is continuing to name persons, members of this House and imputing upon their integrity in terms of Rule 59. It cannot be continued in this fashion. If the member wants to bring a matter, then they must bring a substantive motion. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Deputy Chief Whip. That is correct, if there are any aspersions or any accusations cast on any member, you may bring a substantive motion. However, constructive criticism is allowed, but casting aspersions and direct accusations without any substantive motion is not. You may proceed, hon Dugmore, please, with caution.

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Ja, die waarheid maak seer. Altwee van die *MECs* gaan praat. Hulle moet hulself probeer *defend* hierso.

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, the truth hurts. Both of the *MECs* are going to speak. They have to defend themselves here.]

As the ANC we have evidence of DA corruption, nepotism and fraud in each and every one of the 21 municipalities that they govern, including Drakenstein. We have proof of capital budgets that are spent mostly in the privileged areas. Time today does not allow me to deal with each municipality, but rest assured, the truth is going to come out about each and every municipality, †en die baantjies vir boeties en baie meer van die DA [and the jobs for pals and much more of the DA.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Ja.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But let us take a few. For weeks the people of Vredendal North in Matzikama, poor people, went without water, while the town had water for some people. The people of Kalbaskraal in Swartland have not seen houses built in their community for years.

A DA councillor in Matzikama lied about her father's death. †Ja, sy het leuens vertel... [Tussenwerpsels.] [Yes, she told lies...] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, please proceed with caution when you make strong language such as "lied." It will then infringe on Rule 59.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But I am not mentioning this DA councillor's name but it is true, lied about the death of her father to make sure that she got benefits from housing. We will mention these names.

†Dit kom uit! Die dossier is reg vir julle. Die dossier kom uit. [It's coming out! The dossier is ready for you. The dossier is coming out.]

Saldanha Bay Mayor was accused of falsifying his qualifications. No action from the Premier and one of his own members has been implicated for the capture of Voortrekker land here in Stellenbosch. Silence! And we know that

the Municipality of Stellenbosch, the Mayor of Stellenbosch continues to unlawfully try and assist the biggest DA funder, Mr Michiel Le Roux, to change land-zoning in Stellenbosch to benefit him. That is the reality. Look at the books; who funds the DA, Swellendam ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, that is quite an accusation, I would really ask you to proceed, unless we can bring a substantive... [Interjections.]

It does not matter but I think it is very, very important when we say "lied, stolen, helped, coerced." [Interjections.] I would really ask that you proceed with caution, as hon members, before you make statements in the House that are in the public space.

Hon Kama, I recognise your hand? What is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: No thank you very much. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I was really hopeful, you were treating us very well when we started the session, but what I do not understand, Deputy Speaker, is that there is no-one here where member Dugmore is casting aspersions against. He did not mention any name. Are you now wanting to dictate what must be in the speech in terms of the content?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Mr M KAMA: Because he is speaking about corruption that is happening in the

DA and the Premier yesterday here decided to speak about things that are happening in the national space, and no one called order into that.
[Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes.

Mr M KAMA: But now how do you want to tell us what we must debate when we are exposing and exercising our responsibility of oversight and expose the corruption that is happening in the DA and in all its municipalities, including the Executive here in the Province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Kama, your point is noted. Again, I just ask with caution when we say "the Mayor of Stellenbosch," you do not have to say the name, you have just put the label. When we say "the Mayor" in general, that is accepted but I am asking that we do not cause a furore here with accusations that are actually criminal. Really, they are criminal in nature, of what hon Dugmore has just mentioned. So hon Dugmore, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I would really just ask that we do not mention names. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your microphone on.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, I would want to assume that... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear you.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: It is on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I am sure you would recognise and realise that hon Dugmore is protected in terms of powers and privileges of what he says inside the House.

Mr M KAMA: Exactly!

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: And therefore I find it strange that you would want to caution him when he is in actual fact protected. So I want you, Deputy Speaker, to draw a clear distinction between the two.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Your point is noted. Hon Dugmore, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Just tell me about how many

minutes I have had, because there has been a lot of interruption.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to give, it is 50 seconds. It is literally just under... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No-no-no-no-no. That watch there is now getting on to 10 o'clock. I started 20 minutes before. There has been at least five minutes of interruption.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no-no-no, no. My Table staff are very diligent at the time. They have got the timer right here, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, I will share all the other issues of municipalities, but I also want to say that what is rich coming from the Deputy Speaker herself, she is charged before the Appeals Committee and the Chairperson of this Committee is trying to delay where she has been found guilty already, she is trying to delay until after the elections. That is the contradiction. They get rid of Mnqasela and now she is still there ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, there is a point of order, you may be seated.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...as the Deputy Speaker, having been found guilty and they are delaying the hearings. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is the truth. You do not like the truth, but it is the truth. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up. [Interjections.] Hon Baartman, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Deputy Speaker... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Deputy Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 45 as well as in terms of Rule 62. The member is not only reflecting upon the holder of this office as Deputy Speaker, the Appeal Committee is governed by the Code of Conduct Act and in terms of Rule 45, if he is going to continue reflecting on members of the House, I request that in terms of Rule 45 that he must withdraw those opinions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Quite correct. The Rule 45 is quite clear, hon

Dugmore, you are a very esteemed member of this... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am not in any way reflecting on the appeal process, I am reflecting what is public knowledge in the tablings in this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, I am speaking, and your time is up. You may be seated. Thank you very much. I have reflected on Rule 45.

I now call hon member Fry. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Order! [Interjections.] Order!

You may proceed, hon member Fry.

†n AGB LID: Hoor-hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

Mr C M FRY: Hon Deputy Speaker, my father is a giant amongst men and we were privileged to have him here last night at the SOPA address. He taught me a great many lessons. Being an Anglican priest many of these lessons were steeped in scripture and spirituality.

One such lesson is based on what the Lord requires of us in the book of Michael, Chapter 6, verse 8, which reads:

"To do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

In essence, hon Deputy Speaker, the lesson is simple in concept, but difficult in execution. We are required to do what is right. The question though is what is the right thing to do? I would venture to say that the right thing for this Government and any government for that matter, the right thing to do is to serve its citizens and to serve them well. [Interjections.]

Yesterday the Premier made reference to the fact that this address was the last of its kind in its term. In doing so he invited us to take stock of the last five years. The question we must ask ourselves is this: how did this Government serve the people of the Western Cape? Did it do what is right?

Soon after Premier Winde took office our country was beset by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a hurdle that no one could have predicted and a massive obstacle for what was then a young and untested government, but this Government's response was to build the largest field hospital in the African continent in record time. They ensured that medicine could be delivered directly to the homes of those for whom it was unsafe to go out, an innovation which proved to be a lifesaver for many. Hon Deputy Speaker, it goes without saying that this response has put that of other provinces to shame.

What the pandemic demonstrated was that this Government sought ways to take the initiative and go above and beyond. When I listened to yesterday's SOPA I was struck by all the ways in which the Premier and this Government have

continued to do so.

Hon Deputy Speaker, yesterday we heard that this Government has created 240 000 jobs in this term, or approximately 64% of all jobs created in the country in the same period. I will leave it there as I am sure that Minister Wenger will expound on this during her speech, but I would like for all of us, and the public viewing this debate, to fully consider the implications of these figures.

The Opposition often claims to fight for equality, but where they govern they fail to help people. They fail to create jobs, they fail to do what is right. In fact, hon Deputy Speaker, they do the opposite. Perhaps the biggest obstacle to job creation is one created by the ANC's National Government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the Premier pointed out, the numbers related to the energy crisis are harrowing. Over 300 days of loadshedding in 2023, with the cost of upwards of R62 billion. Nearly R900 million per day is lost due to the rolling blackouts. Hundreds of thousands of jobs lost, and they do not seem to care. Recently the ANC Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP said that loadshedding is not the end of the world. I would ask her to go tell that to the people who have lost jobs, [Interjections.] who have lost businesses, who have lost homes because of the lack of adequate supply of electricity that her party is responsible for.

In the recent State of the Nation Address, the President stated that

loadshedding would soon be a thing of the past. Well, if Stage 6 heralds the beginning of the end of this catastrophe, then he would have been right. Alas, this is not the case as the energy availability factor, the core metric in measuring energy supply, now sits at its lowest level ever in a year-by-year comparison, at just 50,84%, and we have yet to reach the cold months of winter.

What is abundantly clear is that this National Government cannot be trusted to fix this problem. They cannot be trusted to do what is right, [Interjections.] but contrast this with the Western Cape Government's response to this disaster. Amongst other initiatives, nearly 40 000 energy packs distributed. A pilot project that will take an entire town off the grid, and R89 million in emergency funding given to municipalities for the procurement of generators to keep water treatment and waste water plants functioning.

Couple that with the 2 000 megawatts that are in the pipeline and you can see the vast difference of a provincial government that works and a national government that is failing its citizens, and as hon member Dugmore has mentioned about the City of Cape Town and the price issue that he brought up, I will not say much because I will leave it to the Premier, but I will say this. The issue remains the Eskom tariff hike of 18,5% for the City of Cape Town.

It costs the City 18,5% more to buy bulk power from Eskom to distribute to the City's customers. The City spends about 70% of its tariff income to buy electricity from Eskom, with the remaining 30% covering the cost of a reliable electricity service and plans to end loadshedding.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as we take stock of yesterday's SOPA and the performance of this Government over the last five years, there is perhaps one major flaw I can identify in terms of performance, one for which it can be forgiven and you could safely say for which it had no option, and one which has been forced into it, but a flaw nonetheless. This Government has let the ANC get away with failing us, but not for long. [Interjections.]

That is why I was overjoyed to hear the Premier's words yesterday. He spoke of continuing to go above and beyond for the people of this province, seeking new ways to serve and new powers to serve with. The ANC has fought the Western Cape Provincial Powers Bill tooth and nail. They claim that the Bill is racist, [Interjections.] that it seeks to separate State, a separate state, but as anyone who has read the Bill and as we know leaders are readers, will realise that these claims are false.

I take also humble umbrage to the fact that I was called in the public hearing "the new Hendrik Verwoerd". [Interjections.] Leaders are readers ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C M FRY: ...read the Bill.

The truth is that the ANC fears this Government doing more [Interjections.]

because this Government ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Windvogel.

Mr C M FRY: ...will then expose their failures in governance ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr C M FRY: ...to an even greater extent. [Interjections.] The truth is, hon Deputy Speaker, that they fear doing what is right. [Interjections.]

This Bill seeks to create ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr C M FRY: ...a new blueprint for governance in South Africa, [Interjections.] one which policing, energy, transport, trade and the ports are devolved to a capable sub-National Government, and after the Premier's address yesterday there can be absolutely no doubt that this Government is capable, that this Government can and that this Government do what is right.

To conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, I will say this: [Interjections.] there are challenges ahead of us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Fry, can you just take your seat for a

second. Hon member Windvogel, it is running commentary. Interjections are allowed, but I have been watching, it is running commentary. Please allow the hon member Fry to actually finish his speech. Thank you very much. Hon member Fry, you may proceed.

Mr C M FRY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, I will say this. There are challenges ahead of us and we have yet to achieve perfect governance in this province or in this country, but now more than ever we need a government that will do what is right.

I have supreme confidence in this Government and this party, and I believe that in a few months the people of this country and this province will demonstrate that same confidence in the ballot box. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise [Applause.] – I now recognise the hon Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. For anyone paying attention and actually looking at the facts, it is clear that the Western Cape is a province that works and is at work. [Interjections.]

Here we believe that success is not about waiting for the right opportunity, but about creating it through determined action. This powerful quote from an unknown author describes perfectly [Interjections.] the very heart

...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...of the Western Cape Government's drive to improve the lives of residents, especially the poorest of the poor. Every day ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...every month and every year ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you could – my apologies for the interruption. I see the Chief Whip is standing.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I do apologise for interrupting, but I do want to raise Rule 40. You have spoken to the running commentary. We had to listen to the hon member Dugmore for 20 minutes saying absolutely nothing. [Interjections.] I think we should have the liberty of listening to the speakers. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.] Hon member Lekker, I see you are standing before I recognise you, but what is your [Interjections.] – hon members! [Interjections.] Okay,

hon member Lekker, please take your seat until we have some order.

[Interjections.]

Hon member Nkondlo, hon member Lekker is standing. Hon member Nkondlo, hon member Lekker is standing on a point of order. Hon member Lekker, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to raise a point of order on the Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance. She just attacked a statement of which she was casting aspersion on the statement that was made by hon member Dugmore by saying hon member Dugmore was actually saying nothing. Can you rule on that one? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again, the ruling of 59 [Interjections.] applies to everybody and as I say on both sides of the House – hon member Bakubaku-Vos, [Interjections.] hon member Bakubaku-Vos! [Interjections.] I am speaking. On both sides of the House, please, hon members, we have guests witnessing this debate here today. [Interjections.] I ask that everybody just take a breather before you start casting aspersions on anyone. Alright? Remember, constructive criticism is absolutely allowed. [Interjections.] We are not saying the people are liars and thieves here.

So please, I am going to let it go. Can I now ask that the Minister be heard for her time at the podium? [Interjections.] Thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you. We are hard at work to grow ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bakubaku-Vos!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...jobs for all ...[Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry. You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We are hard at work to grow jobs for all because we know that if we take steps forward to creating a future full of hope, opportunity, we can create a province where our people have what they need to succeed, because when our people succeed so will this province and so will South Africa. [Interjections.]

Western Cape is a place where more people have jobs. The Western Cape has the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa at 20,2%, and those that do not yet have a job have not given up on finding one because they know that here, more than anywhere else in South Africa, you have the best chance of finding a job.

The Western Cape enabled the creation of 240 000 of the 370 000 net jobs created in the whole of South Africa between the Third Quarter of 2019 and the Third Quarter of 2023. Almost two-thirds of all net new jobs created in

South Africa were right here in the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Just think about it. One province at the tip of the continent representing 12% of the population, created 240 000 net new jobs, while the other eight combined created 130 000 net new jobs, but what is the difference between this beacon of hope and the rest?

The difference is good policy and expert implementation versus bad policy and little implementation. The difference, hon Deputy Speaker, is the DA. It is the DA difference that enables job creation. The DA difference that gives hope and the DA difference that can deliver a better future for all. These achievements have not happened by chance or luck or by wishing. These jobs, which help residents succeed, are the result of determined action despite severe binding constraints, mainly due to the National Government failures which have led to crumbling national infrastructure, crippling loadshedding and job killing logistics crisis, the Western Cape shows in spite of this, what is possible.

We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country, the lowest expanded unemployment rate, the highest absorption rate and the highest labour force participation rate in the country ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...and this is the result of determined action, meticulous planning and data-led and evidence-based policy making and proof of what we can achieve when we work with our private sector partners.

Just imagine how many more jobs we could create if we were not constrained by the ANC National Government and its destructive policies and this is why the Powers Bill is so important, because it allows for a differentiated approach and means that different regions in South Africa can realise their full potential without Pretoria Luthuli House imposing its bad decisions on everyone, and especially for the poor who continue to bear the brunt of ANC inaction and corruption. [Interjections.]

The Hausmann Harvard Growth [Inaudible.] Report recently found in its report titled:

"Growth through inclusion."

That the root of South Africa's problems is collapsing State capacity and spatial exclusion. They found that the ANC ideology [Interjections.] excludes society from participating in State-reserved activities and that political patronage has corrupted the State and the ANC. An indictment.

While here in the Western Cape we have seen a fantastic recovery of the tourism sector, which has now surpassed pre-pandemic levels, with Cape Town International Airport processing the most number of passengers ever with a record-breaking 317 000 passengers in December. [Interjections.] The Western Cape is indeed a destination in demand.

We have also seen impressive performance in our employment levels, which I have already spoken about, and at the same time we continue to deliver on good governance with 100% of all Western Cape Government departments and entities achieving unqualified audit opinions from the Auditor-General.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We continue to push forward so that we can enable break-out economic growth and a trillion rand jobs rich, inclusive, sustainable, diverse and thriving Western Cape economy that is growing at between 4 and 6% in real terms by 2035, and we must break out of the sluggish growth rates, because if we can do this our strategy has the potential to create 600 000 new jobs and a much higher growth rate that can actually put a massive dent in the unemployment rate and lift hundreds of thousands of people out of poverty, [Interjections.] and we do this through meticulous planning because we know that with a job comes dignity, hope and the promise of a better future for every person in this province. [Interjections.] Most especially the poor and the vulnerable.

We continue to work with the private sector to upskill and place unemployed residents in meaningful work, especially our young people. In the eight months from the beginning of April to the end of November last year, through our skills programmes in partnership with the private sector, 2 772 jobs for previously unemployed youth in the province, were placed in strategic and targeted growth sectors, including tourism, clothing and textiles, and BPO sectors.

In the tourism sector 154 400 jobs were created between 2021 and 2022, bringing the total number of jobs supported by the tourism sector to an impressive 215 000 jobs, and in just three sectors we have seen the creation of nearly 160 000 jobs since 2021. Again, this has not happened by chance. It is the result of hard work, strategic support and critical partnerships across Government and the private sector to enable job creation.

Just some examples, skills training and placement in the clothing and textile sector has created 402 jobs for previously unemployed youth. Partnership with ACSA to train and place 124 previously unemployed youth at the airport to assist passengers during peak times and working with the thriving BPO sector to upskill and place 2 200 previously unemployed youth in full-time work opportunities in the sector.

We also know that our SMMEs are the engines of job creation and so we have a targeted action plan to support and grow SMMEs. Our Booster Fund has assisted 860 SMMEs since it began, sustaining nearly 5 000 jobs, and, hon

member Dugmore was a bit economical with the truth when he spoke about the Township Programmes because our Booster Programme has a specific Township Booster leg for SMMEs in townships. [Interjections.]

We also develop trading hubs in townships. KwaNokuthula in Hessequa, Bongoletu in Oudtshoorn, Bonnievale, Montagu, Mossel Bay, Smutsville and Barrydale, Laingsburg, Lesedi Square in Cape Agulhas, Ceres, KwaNokuthula in Mossel Bay, D'Almeida ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...also in Mossel Bay, and at the same time we have made allocations for solar panels for these trading hubs so that they can continue, these small businesses can continue to operate despite the severe loadshedding and there again hon member Dugmore was a bit economical with the truth where he said that they were making progress on energy.

We have just seen the energy availability factor for Eskom is less this year than what it was last year. How is that for progress? That is no progress, that is nothing. [Interjections.]

Our Export Competitiveness Enhancement Programme also works with export ready businesses to access international trade and with 55% of South Africa's primary agricultural exports and the clear demand for these proudly Western

Cape products, this programme is hard at work to help exporters expand to new markets and create many more jobs right here at home.

Our new Digital Enablement Fund is designed to help businesses to transform digitally so that they can reduce costs and increase productivity, expand and ultimately grow and enable job creation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are doing all we can to attract even more domestic and international investment to our province because with investment comes jobs. We have an established record of good, clean, corruption-free governance and effective service delivery that prioritises the poor, plus our policy stability, strong political leadership and this all sends a clear message to investors that the Western Cape works and the Western Cape is open for business. We have a dedicated investment one-stop shop to help streamline the investment value chain, making it easier to do business here.

Hon member Dugmore spoke about how the National Government has enabled SEZs, but right here we have the Atlantis Special Economic Zone, but the ANC National Government has refused to give it any tax incentives. Absolutely refused. So how can we have a special economic zone with no tax incentives?
[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Okay.

[Interjections.] Is it that time? Oh my gosh. [Interjections.] Okay, in conclusion ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...it was Pablo Picasso who said:

"Action is the foundational key to all success."

With this we could not agree more, [Interjections.] because in the Western Cape every day ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ...we act with purpose because we owe it to the people [Interjections.] who call this province home. We do it because it is our responsibility to work for jobs and do everything in our power to make sure that tomorrow is better than today. Thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now recognise the hon member Klaas. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.]

Mr M T KLAAS: I have just going to greet our Commissar [~~Inaudible.~~]

Dr Suzanne [~~Inaudible.~~] Susan that is here. I appreciate he is coming from far to come and check what is happening in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

In the Western Cape [Interjections.] what we are – hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier's speech was not only empty and shallow, [Interjections.] it was also full of promises which this Government does not have capacity to fulfil. [Interjections.] Just like the so-called Safety Plan. [Interjections.]

As the things stand, the Community Safety and the Police Oversight are a dismal failure in addressing the increasing violence [Interjections.] and the petty crimes in the province. The DA in the Western Cape has managed to ensure that the more privileged areas have enough police resources and supplement those resources with their only programmes, but it fails to make a dent in the lack of resources and visible to the proper communities. [Interjections.]

The MEC is clearly either out of the depth of compromise when addressing issues of the community. I can make an example. You must go to Zolani. There is a pigsty police station there. Thank you. [Interjections.]

Employment opportunity and resources. [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker, the Provincial Government must be driving ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M T KLAAS: ...force when it comes to creating employment opportunities [Interjections.] and stop telling us about the responsibility of private sector.

We further call for the insourcing of security guards. If you said you implement jobs why do you not do that in your municipalities and insource the securities? Why you do not insource the cleaners? Why you do not insource the general workers if you talk about jobs, you do not do that, but you come and say you create jobs here. [Interjections.]

Housing, hon Deputy Speaker, Tafelberg site [Interjections.] has been empty for 14 years.

The PREMIER: Did you insource at Knysna?

Mr M T KLAAS: There has been at least nine feasible studies providing how social housing could be developed on the site, including one from the Provincial Government itself on the 2013. Even the Provincial Department of Human Settlements asked to use the site of building [Inaudible.]

However, instead of using the site to tackle spatial apartheid between 2016 and 2018 alone, the Province wasted R5 431 million in public money fighting the Tafelberg case in the courts. This then begs a question, when will the Premier and the Department of Infrastructure stop wasting time and public money fighting his cause and actual release of the affordable houses?

Hon Deputy Speaker, on 3 October 2023 the Department of Transport and the Public Works announced that it has completed the construction of R73 million facility at number 3 Rusper Street, Maitland, to centralise all Government motors transport operating, including from the Government garage and top yards and Roeland Street, but instead people they do not have even the parking areas. They are parking, even they do not have affordable houses.

Healthcare sector, hon Deputy Speaker, we also call the Province to ensure that clinics and day hospitals start operating for 24/7. [Interjections.] To prove a real service to the people 24/7. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Are you doing it in Knysna where you are in government?

Mr M T KLAAS: This shows an out of touch Cabinet. [Inaudible.] people of Western cape and their needs. [Interjections.]

Furthermore, I am closing. We are happy that this is the DA's and Premier Winde's farewell address as the voters of the Western Cape prepare to usher a new era [Interjections.] with the Government whose lived experience are no different from other majority of poor working-class people.

I am just closing saying that we must work truly for the people. We must not just make movies here and lie and tell stories.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, your time is up.

Mr M T KLAAS: And say that things are happening when they are not happening. Thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Chief Whip, hon member Kaizer-Philander.

The PREMIER: The ANC/EFF WhatsApp group.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Chief Whip, hon Kaiser-Philander.

†Die HOOFSWEEP (DA): Agb Adjunkspeaker, vandag wil ek praat oor die realiteit waarin ons gemeenskappe hulle bevind. Ek wil praat oor die tekortkominge wat ons nasionaal beleef en die nodige bydrae wat ons Provinsiale Regering wel maak tot die waardigheid en welstand van ons gemeenskappe.

Ek wil praat oor die missie om Suid-Afrika te red. Agb Speaker, vandag staan ek hier as 'n vrou, geslyp deur nederige omstandighede, afkomstig van 'n familie wat swaarkry ken, bekend met hierdie strate van my tuisdorp. Ek is daardie dogter wie vandag nie haar ouers het nie en op susters wat vandag teenwoordig is in die gehoor, moes staatmaak in 'n uitgebreide familie grootgemaak met liefde en waardes.

En ek staan as 'n vrou wie min 'n kans gegee het, maar my omstandighede het my gered. Ek staan as 'n egenoot met 'n ondersteuningsnetwerk soos min, met my man ook vandag in die gehoor en twee dogters wat verstaan hulle ma weet waarvan sy praat as sy sê die lewe skuld jou niks. Leer klaar, gee jou beste, bou verhoudinge, omring jouself met goeie mense. Ek sê dit, Adjunkspeaker, want familie is die *cornerstone* en die ANC verwoes ons gemeenskappe.

[The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today I want to talk about the reality in which our communities find themselves. I want to talk about the shortcomings that we experience nationally and the necessary contribution that our Provincial Government indeed makes to the dignity and wellbeing of our communities.

I want to talk about the mission to save South Africa. Hon Speaker, today I stand here as a woman, honed by humble circumstances, coming from a family familiar with suffering, familiar with these streets of my hometown. I am that daughter who today does not have her parents and had to rely on sisters who today are present in the audience, in an extended family raised with love and values.

And I stand as a woman who few gave a chance, but my circumstances saved me. I stand as a spouse with a support network like no other, with my husband also in the audience today and two daughters who understand that their mother knows what she's talking about when she says life owes you nothing. Finish studying, give you best, build relationships, surround yourself with good people. I say this, Deputy Speaker, because family is the cornerstone and the

ANC is destroying our communities.]

Adj Speaker, in the audience today we have organisations represented from the many in Drakenstein that can see and they can feel the impact of the National Government's failure and they are stepping up. [Interjections.] Allow me the opportunity to thank them for their unwavering love, their commitment and their support to see to the needs of the most vulnerable on a daily basis.

Hon Deputy Speaker, also present, Edgar J Petersen, a citizen who took it upon himself and saw the need, the realities that we have to see the lived realities. And one can only imagine how that must impact on him. Thank you for breaking the news. What you show us is what we need to see.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to acknowledge, but to name a few. We have remarkable people in this town and across this province. Organisations like Paarl Doenit, Fountain of Hope, Magda's Soup Kitchen, Railing Cupido, Tanya in Lover's Lane, Breaking Barriers and as I say, many, many more. Thank you to each of you for your contributions in restoring and rebuilding the social fibre in our society. Government cannot do it alone and we must be cognisant of who is prepared to walk a mile in each other's shoes, dedicated to the cause and without fear or favour.

Hon Deputy Speaker, with the introduction of the Social Relief of Distress Grant, the R350's. More than 10-million people in South Africa applied. In September last year, a so-called system glitch on the Postbank software

affected thousands of social grant recipients who spent days waiting for their social grants. A similar problem occurred in January of this year. Not only is the SRD Grant inadequate and below the food poverty line, the ANC cannot even figure out how to pay these grants. And now the residents of the Western Cape and Drakenstein have to listen very carefully.

My colleagues in the National Assembly revealed that the ANC will not be able to pay grants to those who rely on them in the 2024/2025 financial year. [Interjections.] In the 2023 Budget Review, indications were of the abolishment of the SRD Grant from 1 March, and you can be assured that cuts to other grants will follow as the fiscal crisis, with compliments of the ANC's corruption, continues to worsen. You tell us what will happen to the 18-million South Africans that rely on those social grants to sustain themselves and their families.

What we need is a country, a country with moral politicians, unlike the Deputy Chair of the National Council of Provinces, Sylvia Lucas, who during the SONA Debate said that loadshedding is not the end of the world. This is the same person ...[Interjections.] hon members and members of the public, who consumed, and I hope not by herself ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...R50 000 worth of Kentucky Fried Chicken ...[Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...in ten weeks. [Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): There ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...Philander. If you could just take your seat. There is a point of order. My apologies for the interruption.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition. Hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and I thank you, I think, for the relative calmness that we have had this morning under your Chairwomanship.

Hon Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order. The hon Chief Whip is contradicting the caution and advice given by the hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance in that she is casting aspersions on the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. [Interjections.] Can you

please caution her in that regard. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, before the hon member continues with her speech, I think one, is she is quoting what has been said, but she may not cast aspersions on her character. I am going to let it ride, hon Deputy Chief Whip, again with caution, but she is merely repeating what was said in the National Assembly. She may proceed. Over to you, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. There is also the former Minister Bathabile Dlamini who said, ‘People should stop complaining about loadshedding. You must go to bed early.’ If it was not so sad ...[Interjections.], it would have been hilarious.

Hon members and members of the public, where is the realisation that loadshedding affects children that have to study, businesses that have to operate for people to be employed and earn a living, and those on lifesaving support in our hospitals. The ANC’s disconnected and uncaring attitude stands in the way of us becoming a community of dignity and wellbeing. That is why we need to get rid of them.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is the year of significance, the one in which we do not want to be taken back, but we want to move forward. †Dikwels, gooi ons ons hande in die lug en ons aanvaar ons omstandighede, en ons mag nie. Die ANC se tyd is verby. [Often, we throw our hands in the air and we accept our circumstances, and we may not. The ANC’s time is past.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, in stark contrast to the ANC National Government failures, the DA-run Western Cape Government offers hope of a better future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape DA-run Government looks after our most vulnerable citizens and thank you, hon Premier and the Western Cape Government for your commitment to a 365-day approach to Gender-Based Violence. We applaud this Government for the appointment for 247 additional Social Service professionals to stabilise an overburdened welfare and child protection system.

In the DA-run province, more than 76 000 GBV survivors had access to psychosocial support services in the last financial year, provided and funded by the Provincial Department of Social Development. The DA-run Province provided long-term psychosocial support to 4 000 victims of sexual offences and domestic violence across the eight TTC Centres over the last financial year. This caring province allocated R164-million to support NPOs that provide therapeutic and support services to people with disabilities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Provincial DSD has allocated R108,8-million to its Substance Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation programmes. The work of this Government and Department is not to tick boxes, but to address the real challenges that our communities encounter. The significant drop of 38,3% of rape cases in Delft is a direct consequence of the Western Cape Department of Social Development's focus on the fight against GBV and the launch of Victim

Empowerment programmes and GBV ambassadors.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these figures translate to tangible successes across our province. It is evidence of the true commitment of a caring government as can be seen in the success achieved in the Swartland with the GBV Ambassadors Programme that has been adopted in their IDP.

In the Western Cape, women and children who are victims of crime and violence can access temporary shelter accommodation, psychosocial support services, paralegal support services, as well as skills training and development programmes. Subsidised bedspaces increased to 2 400 in the financial year in 37 shelters across the province. The Department provided over 109 000 qualifying beneficiaries with access to cooked meals at 111 departmental community nutrition and development centres, and 512 community kitchens across the province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we, as politicians, should feel the need and urgency to assist our most vulnerable. Our duty to care should be a genuine belief that we can only be successful if we take each other by the hand. Government and the community must work together to rid our society of gangsterism, GBV and poverty. We must be able to go back to the drawing board and become innovative in our approach. Whether you live in Chicago, in Lantana, in New York, in Bergendal, the opportunities and the support should be on the same level ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...of urgency and equality, and quality. [Interjections.] †Dit is beter samewerking met plaaslike gemeenskappe, regeringsinstellings en nie-winsgewende organisasies om 'n veilige en meer inklusiewe omgewing vir ons mense te skep. 'n Samelewing wat glo in 'n holistiese benadering van veiligheid ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [It is better cooperation with local communities, Government institutions and non-profit organisations to create a safe and inclusive environment for our people. A society that believes in a holistic approach of safety ...][Interjection.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie, agb lid.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.]

†Die HOOFSWEEP (DA): ...en een wat nie fokus op misdaadstatistieke nie [Tussenwerpsels.], maar die dieperliggende oorsake. [Tussenwerpsels.] Kom ons bou aan ons welstand ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...and one that does not focus on crime statistics [Interjections.] but the deeper causes [Interjections.] Let us build our wellbeing] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Your time is up.

†Die HOOFSWEEP (DA): Kom ons red Suid-Afrika saam. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ek dank u, Adjunkspeaker. ...[Applous.]

[The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Let us save South Africa together. [Interjections.] I thank you, Deputy Speaker.] ...[Applause.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie. [Applous.]

[The SPEAKER: Thank you.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Bans. [Applause.] Order!

Ms A P BANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, the outgoing hon Premier, the outgoing hon Speaker ...[Applause.], hon members, guests ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms A P BANS: ...and resilient people of the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

The incoming leadership ...[Laughter.] and the Executive of the Western Cape. [Applause.] The hon Premier's address yesterday was ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms A P BANS: ...very thin.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please allow the hon member to proceed.

Ms A P BANS: They can sense there is new leadership coming. [Interjections.]

The hon Premier's address yesterday was very thin on what his Government has done to address challenges, widening inequalities, persistent poverty, rampant unemployment for the Black majority: African, Coloured and Indians; and a haunting spectre of escalating violent crimes, especially in the poor working-class communities. Unqualified audits mean little when it comes to communities suffering without essential services. The enduring legacy demands decisive action from the ballot box. Our people must go and vote and usher out in change through the ballot box.

While the DA clamours for more powers to be vested in the province, it has proven incapable of delivering of its own provincial competencies. Education, Health, Human Settlements and Community Safety have failed under their watch. On Human Settlements, for example, let me give you examples.

On Human Settlements, hon MEC Simmers has completely failed with a track record of financial mismanagement, not achieving targets and irregular appointments, like the one of the Chief Director of Human Settlements Planning, who was allegedly appointed without following due processes. This is one of the DA's own versions of cadre deployment.

Due to the DA's incompetence, the Province has failed to spend over R200-million earmarked for housing development which it has returned to National Treasury. Returning millions to the National Treasury when our people are desperate in their need for housing. It is shameful. The DA should hang their heads in the sand. There are people of Rooiland sitting there now staying in

shacks. They could not get homes. We were here last year visiting. That R200-million could have contributed to them.

Housing delivery in the province dropped from an average of 15 000 houses per year between 2004 and 2009 to just over 1 700, which was delivered by hon MEC Simmers' Department at the end of the current financial year. This is a monumental failure and shows the collapse of housing delivery under this hon MEC and hon Winde's Government, which delivered only 5 800 houses against a target of 8 400 houses in the previous financial year. They want devolution of powers when they cannot even deliver in their own constitutional mandate.

R5,5-million – let me join hon member Dugmore. R5,5-million on litigation was spent in trying to stop the people of Tafelberg communities, people that were working for years doing domestic work in Sea Point. They are not seen to be as equal to own a house in Sea Point. Rather, the DA will go and defend and spend R5,5-million for them not to stay there.

The DA Government is unwilling to release suitable land in the City centre for social housing which includes the site in the Ahmed Kathrada House currently occupied by Reclaim the City activists and even the SABC building. The community of Murraysburg have asked me to come and ask the hon MEC Simmers when they are getting their houses as he promised in 2016, taking pictures with them. The Karoo is still waiting. [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, similar to how Israel is treating the people of Gaza
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms A P BANS (ANC): ...where they have closed energy and water provision, hon Winde's Government is also depriving the activists living at the Ahmed Kathrada House of these basic needs. It is not abroad. It is happening right here in Sea Point.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms A P BANS (ANC): The Reclaim the City and Ndifuna Ukwazi activists have asked me to pose the following questions to the hon Premier, who is talking while I am talking, only two questions and they want an answer on that one. What are the updates on the current energy provisions for the residents of Ahmed Kathrada House and why do these individuals continue to face energy poverty?

Secondly: what are the barriers preventing your Government from recognising their occupation as a lived alternative and what steps are being taken to address these barriers. That is directly to the hon Premier. They are listening to you. I hope when you respond later, hon Premier, you will provide a response to these questions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, similar to the failures in Human Settlements in the province, the DA also failed to provide quality education ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): ...for all of the Western Cape. Currently, hundreds of learners, including those who applied on time, remain unplaced in schools. It is unacceptable that two months into the academic year, hundreds of learners still lack placement in spaces of schools. The South African Schools Act makes it obligatory for the hon MEC to ensure every child of school age has a place in school, yet the DA Government wants devolution of powers, but our children are at home without schools.

Under the hon Premier Winde's leadership, there has been a gradual decline in the quality of education, particularly for the underprivileged in the Western Cape. The province has dropped from fifth place, in terms of the Matric pass rate, and sits at the bottom when it comes to the percentage of Bachelor passes coming from the no-fee schools, which only measure 26% of its Bachelor passing from such schools. In contrast, Limpopo is boasting with an 85% pass rate from no-fee schools.

Hon Premier Winde proudly touts the Western Cape as the leading for Math passes [Interjections.] but conveniently overlooks the fact that only 25% of Western Cape learners take Maths as a subject. Only 25%. Only the Northern Cape has fewer learners, and which is also a smaller population than us. During

the ANC's governance in the Western Cape, the Matric pass rate was 14,3% above the national average. For the first time under Hon Winde's Government however, the matric pass rate has fallen below the average rate. This proves that the R1,2-billion spent on the #BackOnTrack programme was a waste. The DA failed miserably in this regard, which is why we urge our people to support the BELA Bill during the upcoming public hearings. [Applause.]

Hon Premier, when you respond I urge you to respond to this question posed by the Equal Education: what is the Government's overarching plan to manage and improve the school admissions process through the Province and what measures are being taken to integrate the unplaced learners into schools, and helping them to catch up academically?

Hon Deputy Speaker, in addition to Education and Human Settlements, Health is also collapsing under hon Winde's watch. The DA closed down GF Jooste a decade ago, in fact, more than a decade now, and has failed to rebuild it to this day. Now hon Premier Winde's Government wants to do the same to the people of Mbekweni, as he plans to close down both Mbekweni and Phola Park Clinics after the commissioning of the Groenheuwel Day Hospital, which is five kilometres away from the community. We will fight side-by-side with the community to block these plans. Hon Premier Winde must give the people a clear answer about his Government's plan about these facilities so that they know what is happening around them.

Service pressures which force patients to sleep on the floors in our hospitals,

are set to worsen as confirmed by the HOD in his video statement that went viral this month. Additionally, patients are warned by staff at local clinics that chronic medication may run out due to insufficient funds as money was spent on addressing the damages to facilities resulting from last year's taxi violence by the DA also.

So, it is disingenuous to pin this entirely on the budget cuts from the National Government. We want to thank those that participated at the NHI public hearings. A clear message was sent out. We are also proud about the pilot project ...[Applause.] that we have seen happening in Knysna and in George.

Hon Deputy Speaker, over 1 300 were murdered in the province and over 1 400 were raped between October and December. Just in three months. This is not normal. Faced with this dire situation, the hon Premier chooses to grandstand by calling for devolution of policing powers. What will they do when these powers are given to them and the Legislature even fails to convene a Standing Committee meeting, just ordinary Standing Committees? [Interjections.]

Last year, hon Bosman convened only three Standing Committees in July to review the policy needs and priorities, and in October to examine annual reports, and in November the Budget Adjustment. In August, there was an oversight onto the LEAP base. That is a disgrace, †dit is 'n skande! [it's a disgrace!] Even when the DA province recorded 130 murders in one week in September last year, the DA did not see the need to convene meetings.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms A P BANS: This clearly shows that they do not care.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

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

Ms A P BANS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the House here ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you can just before you begin, before you continue. I see there is a point of order. If you can just step aside. Hon Deputy Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I wanted to know whether the hon member is willing to take a question. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bans ...[Interjections.], do you want to take a question? [Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: I would love to have a cup of tea. After five years I have never spoken to her. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon Bans. You may proceed. [Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: Crime ...[Interjections.] crime is not solely the responsibility of the SAPS. Provincial and local government spheres have a role to play in ensuring sufficient lighting, accessible roads, CCTV cameras and many other factors, not only in Sea Point removing protestors. [Applause.] The DA Government has failed to implement this in the province, yet it seeks more policing powers. Their job is removing flags of Palestine. [Interjections.]

Hon Premier Winde spent over R1-billion on a Safety Plan, but crime in the province is worsening and still, he wants devolution of powers. I think hon member Plato was the only one that understood that policing is not a matter of the SAPS because he brought in Walking for Busses and today, he is absent in the House. [Applause.]

Crime was at its lowest in the province under the ANC government and that is a fact. We owe our success to good partnerships with community crime fighting structures like the Community Safety Forums and the Bambanani Programme. The DA Government is undermining, underfunding and destabilising crime fighting structures like CPFs and as a result, crime is worsening. We have consistently said to the hon Premier that crime is not only a security issue; it is a social phenomenon. ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Were you here yesterday?

Ms A P BANS: Response strategies should also include addressing causative

factors, not just focusing on boots on the ground. Boots on the ground has cost us billions and no results.

At the height of escalating violence in the province, the DA Administration in the City is retrenching LEAP officers: 66 officers have been fired for failing ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ...firing them.

Ms A P BANS: ...competency tests.

The PREMIER: Firing them.

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

Ms A P BANS: And more ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon Bans, finish off.

Ms A P BANS: And more are said to be retrenched next month. Yet, your loud-mouthed DA national leader has the audacity to attack the AmaPanyaza in the Gauteng province who have proven capable and equal to the task. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bans. [Applause.] I now

recognise the hon Minister Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: †o bekekileyo inkulu umbuso yase phondweni [the greatest kingdom of the kingdom] Hon Premier Winde, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Parliament and also, †kubahlali balapha siyabulela ngento nisamkele [to the residents here thank you for welcoming us]. The hon Premier reminded us about hope, quoting †abangasekho [the late] tata Bishop Tutu, I quote:

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.”

And we, as the province, the hon Premier said that we should also be obsessed with the citycentric delivery.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we, the Department of Health and Wellness, also are obsessed with a person-centred care to deliver equitable quality services to all. Amidst the amount of darkness and gloomy weather of budget cuts, the growing population that we have which is the Western Cape now being the third most populous province growing at the fastest rate, but †ithemba likhona kwaye asidanyi na xha ugulumende ka ndlunkulu esitsweba nyaka no nyaka ngokwezimali. [There is also hope that we will not be disappointed by the government annual financial woes] But I will leave the budget cuts impact for my budget speech, as today, I want to showcase what the men and women in the Department of Health and Wellness have done, despite the challenges that we are facing.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when we entered this venue yesterday just opposite to the entrance gate, you would have noticed a big truck branded: Department of Health Communication Unit.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: This is EMS Mobile that has been used across disasters in the province and runs calls centres to save lives. Gone are the days of just sitting in a building somewhere, stuck in the Metro during the times when people are in need of communication in emergencies. This is just one of the vehicles we showcased recently for our readiness for emergency responses. Including what we showcased, it was about a tranche of 114 new and replacement vehicles that included the Jaws of Life, ambulances, wheelchair vehicles, patient transport busses, just to name a few.

When talking about the EMS, the men and women, which is the first contact of health services to those in need, we are the only province licenced by the South African Civil Aviation Authority to fly drones. Since 2020, our Department has been operating these drones that provide real-time situational awareness to emergency services, enabling a swift and informed response.

Last year, hon Deputy Speaker, we expanded the rescue drones from the Metro to also include the rural districts. In total, we have got about five drones now that are operational. With more pilots trained, the province's drones have

completed approximately more than 15 missions in 2023 and were able to serve more residents over our busy festive season where people are trapped in burning shacks and so forth.

In this festive season, hon Deputy Speaker, the EMS in total responded to 67 143 calls and where our partners, which are the ambulances, AMS, also conducted about 87 missions. Whilst our Healthcare Services do not exist, actually, we do not exist without the state of the art of our stuff, we do need to invest in the state-of-the-art technology so that services can become more effective, more efficient and more accessible.

Hon Deputy Speaker, *somlomo*, we eat innovation for brunch. Talking about emergencies. 62 of our facilities make use of our Hospital Emergency Centre Triage Information System, in short HECTIS. This system helped the whole country during COVID-19 to gather evidence on how alcohol impacts on the emergencies and that is what the President used in applying restrictions to protect the emergency centres during COVID-19. This system is helping us to provide data that we share with other sectors on prime, within 24 hours.

Our Violence Prevention Unit, between August and October 2023 alone, facilitated 156 stakeholder engagements between all safety stakeholders. These include the South African Police Service, the NPA and different Government departments, to name a few. We are the only province that is actually ahead with regard to tackling social determinants of health by having the Violence Prevention Unit.

Hon Deputy Speaker, less than three kilometres away from here we have the Paarl Hospital, a provincial hospital. This 100-year-old facility not only provides essential services to the Paarl and greater Drakenstein District, but also acts as the regional referral hospital for the majority of residents living in Stellenbosch and also on the West Coast areas. In this facility, we have hundreds of dedicated officials who ensure that our patients receive quality health services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Paarl Hospital responded to service pressures by converting their 2-bed high care unit into a 25-bed intensive care unit and made available about 60 additional beds to accommodate COVID-19 patients at the height of the pandemic.

We built a modern psychiatry unit at a cost of R35-million nine years ago. More recently, the hospital acquired a new state of the art CT scanner and also, a new chiller unit and refurbished patient elevators. Currently, a new maternity theatre is being created that will cater for maternal health procedures exclusively, freeing up existing general theatres for other surgeries and procedures, including that of emergencies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, still on innovation. The hon Premier mentioned robotics dashboards and others, but I also want to remind the House about what else we have achieved in the past on innovation by implementing our e-vision, which is electronic e-vision. We are the only province with a unit patient identifier. We have an electronic discharge record, among others. These are the kinds of innovations that are already on the cutting edge.

In my budget speech, I will mention about the innovations that include clinical interventions where there is intersectionality of the medical technology, the digital health and also, the patient care. But as with a unique patient identifier, it is not only about going paperless, but it is also about making sure that we are ready in regard to the climate change. We are actually the only province that is more towards what we call the race to a net zero strategy and participation of the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network. We are leading in Health Care Without Harm, which is part of the climate change.

Hon Deputy Speaker, actually, we won two awards. I think in 2020 and 2022 in the Healthcare Climate Challenges in the categories of Green Gas Reduction Climate Resilience and also, on leadership. We are actively saving our planet by making sure that we are applying all those international targets and also the goals. One of them is about energy. The hon Premier mentioned that we have installed inverters for the sake of loadshedding. We are also installing solar panels and about ten of our hospitals in the Metro are already exempted from loadshedding.

Tygerberg Hospital and with regard to water, the water from our boreholes is currently being treated through a reverse osmosis process and is providing potable water to our facility. Seven of our hospitals convert non-anatomical medical waste into sterile disposables, treated by a product which is environmentally friendly. We are collaborating with Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and Development Planning to recycle hospital food

waste into fertilizer, which is compost, and the rollout of food gardens in our facilities.

On water saving initiatives, we should have expanded to six additional hospitals during this budget year and further into the next budget year, we are being greener and kinder to the environment which also impacts the overall wellbeing of a society.

Hon Deputy Speaker, having mentioned the issues about innovation, but also it does require all of us to be able that when we have the universal coverage, we are ready. It is all about that.

Lastly, I want to mention that NHI is not universal health coverage. That is why we made an input to the President. That is why we have asked, together, the hon Premier and I have requested the President: President, please do not sign the Bill. Take it back to Parliament. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, I agree.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: It is the responsibility of the legislators to ensure they incorporate all the thousands and thousands of inputs that were gathered from all over to make sure that we do the right thing for universal health coverage. Never, ever, any time in history in the health system, have you seen so many doctors protesting because of our unemployment.

Hon member Bans was talking about the issues of patients on the floor and all of that. R1,5-billion in the 2023/2024 budget that the Department of Health and Wellness got a cut from National Treasury. Until actually this year, whilst there are still going to be budget speeches, there are still going to be further cuts. [Interjections.] It is the National Treasury that has cut us in regard to that. So, therefore, that issue about patients on the floor, but that you have got see doctors protesting and there will be more protests as people become unemployed. [Interjections.]

Taking note that the Wage Bill ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Taking into consideration that the Wage Bill that was agreed upon which everyone agrees, the public servants to require a salary increase, but actually, the issue is about the employer or other provinces which have never been part of those negotiations. So now, the provinces have to take in all the Wage Bill and when the Minister at national level indicated that there will be an announcement by the National Minister of Finance about how there will be ...[Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ...more money for their

unemployed ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Okay. The unemployed. It is actually about that they still owe us money for the Wage Bill. So, the money that they said they will be adding is the money they owe us from the Wage Bill.

Having said that, thank you very much to all the healthcare workers. We will fight for you. We will make sure that the resources need to come. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Applause.] I now recognise the hon Cassiem.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You may proceed.

Ms A CASSIEM: As the EFF we do not expect anything coming from this DA's Premier of big business that redress... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Cassiem, just one minute please. Hon members we have been very good at giving everyone the opportunity to speak today in front of the podium. Hon Klaas, I see your hand, just one minute. I would please ask that you afford the same to the hon Cassiem. Please hon Bakubaku-Vos, this is her time now. Hon Klaas, do you have a point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Yes, thank you, Speaker, for the point of order. What we realise every time when the EFF goes to speak or do something, hon Marais always has a negative impact against us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr T KLAAS: I do not know why, and if he is continuing like that we are ready for you.

Mr P J MARAIS: You are rude... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no-no, no! Hon members... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: You are rude!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, hon Marais. [Interjections.] Hon Marais, stand up, please, hon Marais. Hon members, can I – I am on the floor. Hon Bakubaku-Vos... [Interjections.]

Hon Bakubaku-Vos, I am trying to speak. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: What, are you the Speaker now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, can I call you to order, please. Sit!

Keep quiet. [Interjections.]

Mr T KLAAS: This old man must retire, this old man must retire.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais!

Mr T KLAAS: He must move here, we can stop all these processes.
[Interjections, simultaneous shouting.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, hon Marais! [Interjection,
simultaneous shouting.] Hon members, can I call you to order?

Ms N G Bakubaku-Vos: It is pointless.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bakubaku-Vos, I do not want to name you
again. I would like to have the floor back. [Interjections.] Can you give me a
moment to deal with this situation? Thank you very much. Can I have some
order in the House? [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He tells you what to
do... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, can I please handle... [Interjection.]
Hon Marais! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais! Hon Marais, this is the last time I am calling your name and I will ask you to leave if you do not keep quiet when I am calling your name.

Mr P J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, but you do not... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, that is once. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Stand up when you address the Speaker.

Mr M KAMA: Ah, sit down man. [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking now for the other members to be called to order so I can deal with that. Hon member of the NCOP! Hon member of the NCOP! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Klaas! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER OF THE NCOP: [Inaudible.] ...racist, they are calling us [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand but I cannot deal with it while you are shouting. [Interjection, simultaneous shouting]

An HON MEMBER: The racist... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon NCOP delegate. Hon member, can I ask that you give me a moment... [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Let the Chief Whip sit down. I do not want to... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. Can we all [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Who are you? Who are you?

Mr P J MARAIS: Who are you, who are you? Who are you? Don't tell me... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please just let me deal with this and I will recognise you. Hon Marais, can you stand up, please?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Who are you?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now can I have some order please! [Interjection, simultaneous shouting.] I want everybody to sit down till I have dealt with this matter. [Interjections.]

Hon Marais, did you cast aspersions or say any comments that are against the Rules that we have just talked about this whole morning? So in terms of Rule 59 what exactly did you say? [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I told them that if you are making a noise then... [Interjections, simultaneous shouting.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, hon Marais, hon Marais, I am the Presiding Officer. I would like you to withdraw all the comments you have made. [Interjection, simultaneous shouting.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I withdraw all comments... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Marais, this is a serious matter. Please may I ask that you withdraw all comments and refrain from casting aspersions on anybody?

Mr P J MARAIS: I withdraw all comments and casting aspersions on people who continuously make a noise.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais, please be seated. There is nothing wrong with that. [Interjections.] Hon Lekker. [Interjections.]

Hon Klaas. Hon Nkondlo, I am waiting, so I can actually... [Interjections.] Hon

Lekker, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, hon Marais has adhered to your instruction, but then he put a rider. I want him to withdraw totally and not putting some riders here... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We are not his children. He must learn to behave himself in the House. We can be equal to him but we are respecting this House. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker, for that point.

†Die HOOFSWEEP VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Jy vat 'n kans nou. [The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You're taking a chance now.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, please, we had unity here. We had a proper debate where everyone was listening. I would really like you to not stir up the House like this. So it is not necessary to throw comments out and cause one huge volcanic eruption here. Can I ask that you will abide by that? Please, if I can just ask you to stand up so that we can complete this debate and allow the Premier to answer the debate at the end of the day.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, can I just... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no. [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I want clarity... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I want clarity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure.

Mr P J MARAIS: There is only a Rule when you cast aspersions on a particular person, alright. [Interjections.] Now I am saying that person who made a noise, I withdraw. What is wrong with that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, one, I will tell you what is wrong with it. One, in terms of Rule 42, I maintain order. In terms of any disruptions and unnecessary points of order, I maintain order, hon Marais. It is not your job. So it is not for you to tell anybody to keep quiet, so you are incorrect in stating that that is not a Rule. It is very much the fact that I as the Presiding Officer have a task to keep everybody calm here. So I would like you to withdraw. Hon Bans, I do recognise you, just let me finish with this.

Mr P J MARAIS: These hon members called me a racist? Have you got a

ruling on that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay Hon Marais... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Have you got a ruling on that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, I will consult with Hansard on that, but I would like you to please just withdraw all comments made, just full stop, if I can request that of you it would be most helpful for today's debate.

Mr P J MARAIS: With respect, I withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members.

Mr P J MARAIS: I am a respectable member.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Including calling us foreigners.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no-no, no.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Including you calling us foreigners.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to now request that all points of order, hon Kama, is it related because I am not going to deal with it if it is not. You may proceed.

Mr M KAMA: Oh, thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker I think before the fighter started to speak, the mic was not working and all of that, so I was going to make a humble request that we perhaps start her time from the start, you know, and then there was the obvious racist... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Racist member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Kama, thank you very much, but we are three minutes 49 left of hon Cassiem's speech, so I would not be able to get her to start... [Interjection.]

Mr M KAMA: I was trying to say, sorry about that, I was trying to say I could not even hear a thing in that 10 seconds because the mic was off and there were those comments that were made.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, she is 10 seconds from the beginning of her speech so I will grant that, but can I please ask, hon members on both sides, let us just breathe. We have wonderful people here witnessing this debate and I would ask that there be no further points of order on this matter, if I am in agreement with the Chief Whips of both sides. Thank you very much. Hon Cassiem, you may proceed.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that as the EFF we did not expect anything coming from this DA's Premier of

big business that would address the continued inequality in this province. So yesterday's Address by the Premier was just another repetition of false hope, but let me start by saying Deputy Speaker that the Premier and this DA-led Government is a good example of how one can have power, all the power in the world but in reality they are not really clued up on how and when to use those powers.

Here in the Western Cape, Deputy Speaker, the DA is in control and has powers to the majority of our wards, our municipalities and this province in a whole. However, the same DA who has failed to deliver on basic and simple needs while in power are now seeking additional powers through the Provincial Powers Bill.

Deputy Speaker, only a delusional Government would want to assume more powers when the powers they already have; they have failed to execute anything significant. This DA have failed to address the most basic things that they could have provided with the powers they already have but look at them still wanting to assume more responsibilities for policing, railways and harbour among others.

Deputy Speaker, I am not sure if this is the DA wanting to add more failures to their list. Yesterday the Premier spoke about one or two successes in the agricultural field but failed to address the most important fact that at the heart of the inequality in this province lies the skewed patterns of land ownership, specifically in the agricultural sector where 17% of the White minority in this

province owns 70% of land, whilst the majority of 49% Coloureds and 35% Africans population in this province own only 15% and 1% of land. Land dispossession is a historical injustice and any government that is serious about addressing inequality should start with the programme of land redistribution.

The consequences, Deputy Speaker, of landlessness has rendered many of our people homeless, living in informal structures in backyards and informal settlements. Yesterday, Deputy Speaker, the Premier had failed once again to touch on plans of how this Provincial Government and how provincial land will be released for housing purposes, Deputy Speaker.

It is a sad reality that the Western Cape has over 600 informal settlements whilst there are pockets of land close to places of economic opportunity, but this DA will not release that land for provision of low-cost housing for the poor because it will ire their constituents.

Deputy Speaker, I am not sure which planet the Premier and the MEC for Education live on, but are they aware that over 13 000 matriculants in the Western Cape have failed their 2023 NSC exams? To add, Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is actually in the bottom five performance of Matric exam outcomes, where we know very well that it used to be one of the top performers in the province or in the country rather, therefore celebrating one or two individuals speaks to the ineptitude of the Premier and the MEC of Education who had disappointed the entire province.

Deputy Speaker, we further reiterate our stance that Eskom must sort out its mess and end loadshedding now. The majority of our poor people will not be able to afford electricity once its price is dictated by the greedy private sector.

An HON MEMBER: No coalition.

Ms A CASSIEM: But in conclusion, Deputy Speaker, the only thing that the EFF can agree with on the Premier is when he said that this is an exceptional province, Premier, with exceptional people who deserve an exceptional government led by an exceptional Premier, but unfortunately, Deputy Speaker, the current Premier Alan Winde is not that because what we have here is a true reflection of a mediocre government led by a mediocre man. Thank you.
[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I now recognise the hon Minister Allen.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet colleagues, hon members of this Provincial Parliament, honoured guests, let me firstly say I wish to commend the administration for bringing Parliament to the Drakenstein municipal area and by extension the wider district, and then by extension to the people of the Western Cape. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: It is 34 years ago to the month, 34 years ago to the month when Nelson Mandela walked the very ground of Paarl as he exited prison as a free man. However, ANC rule underpinned by corruption, maladministration and cadre deployment have shattered the hopes and dreams of so many. Yesterday during the State of the Province Address delivered by the Premier Alan Winde one could not help but notice the difference between the State of the Province and that of the Nation as delivered by President Ramaphosa. Let us consider, Deputy Speaker, the State of the Nation, President Ramaphosa's recognition of multiple crises attempted to distance himself and the National ANC Government from the very problems that he spoke about. He spoke about the electricity crisis, rampant levels of crime, together with high unemployment rates as if he had no control over those things. He spoke as if he wanted to distance himself from the very province and problems that the ANC is ultimately responsible for. That speaks of a leader that takes no accountability, no responsibility, and that has no political will. Now let us consider the State of the Province. The Premier outlined progress, made commitments, fulfilled and promised to continue the work that we have started here in the Western Cape. The Premier did not detach himself from the realities faced by the residents of this province unlike what the President of our country attempted to do. Let us not forget it was the President, while serving as the Deputy President in 2014 that led the task team responsible for turning around Eskom. So when the Chief Whip quotes Sylvia Lucas as saying that loadshedding ultimately is not the end of the world, I am here to confirm for many it is actually the end of their life... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Let me qualify that because we can confirm. We can confirm an analysis by the South African Police Service indicated that on average, Deputy Speaker, and members of this House and to everyone listening to my voice now, we can confirm it is indeed the end of the world for many as 25,7% of all contact crimes occur during loadshedding. We can also confirm that attempted murders, aggravated robberies and rape were committed during loadshedding, and that accounts to 25,7%. For the people of Paarl, for those that have been victims of property related crimes... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...that figure, Deputy Speaker, stands at 29,2%. There is a direct correlation between loadshedding and increased levels in crime. So it is definitely the end of life for many sadly and the end of the world for many.

Speaker, allow me to delve more into the direct responsibilities within the mandate that I have been given and our Department and against this backdrop let me firstly say I wish to congratulate our SAPS officials and teams from the Western Cape that have been rewarded with Excellence Awards last week Friday at the National SAPS event held in Johannesburg. We have always

maintained that we have good capable SAPS members within the service, but we will never shy away from calling out the corrupt, calling out the lazy SAPS officers that we need to ultimately remove from our service, and the Western Cape...

An HON MEMBER: They are corrupting it...

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...and the community at large can certainly be proud of these officials. Deputy Speaker, the DA led Provincial Government remains committed to address the challenges faced in our province. The last five years to this day still shows that if it were not for the DA-led Government our country would potentially have been on its knees. This cuts across every sector, whether it be the economy, health, education, many others and, of course, safety. So when, Deputy Speaker, member Klaas highlights Xolani SAPS Station, I have already had engagements with Captain Le Roux and after that particular station was revamped in 2022, Deputy Speaker, it was vandalised as a result of the community having lost their trust in the South African Police Service. It is a direct mandate of Public Works and the South African Police Service. That is why when we call for devolution of policing powers we want that responsibility, but we will not even shy away from the fact that our oversight must lead to better service delivery, so we are on that particular issue and we are driving it to ensure ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
...that the residents of that particular substation can get the help that they need, but prior to being afforded this particular mandate by the residents of this province and taking office in 2019 the Premier presented his 10 Year Plan of Growth and taking our province to heights that we have never seen before. Under his visionary leadership, the previous speaker made a comment that I would not even want to repeat because it sounds so absurd, because we have seen vision, we have seen commitment from the Premier and for that he should be commended. But as members of this House, I think it is also very vital that we show gratitude to the residents of this province that have partnered with our municipalities; that have partnered with Provincial Departments; that have shown their resilience; that have shown their adaptability, hence we have been able to pull in the right direction. But allow me to explain this further, for continued periods the Western Cape was the province with the most murders in our country. This was not at any point due to the Provincial Government falling short, we have instead stepped in and we have stepped up, but it was mainly due to the inept and unqualified National Government who has consistently failed our residents, and quite frankly the National Government is just setting our men and women up to fail under our police service.

Imagine, Deputy Speaker, we are requiring 28 000, ideally 28 000 SAPS members at station level in our province. We are currently sitting at 17 500 SAPS members. Those members are under-resourced and they are understaffed in various of our problematic areas, our murder hotspots. All have above

average ratio of police-to-population. I can take the Deputy Speaker and any member to Cloetesville, a police-to-population ratio of one officer for over 1 300 residents. We can go to Khayelitsha and it will be one officer for over 800 residents, but our average in our province is one officer for every 550 residents. We are saying we will be able to quickly amend, quickly implement strategic leadership and management as we have received from the Premier to address that particular tide, because the Premier has stepped in and we know that now we are pulling in the right direction.

The Premier highlighted yesterday that between the four priority provinces, KZN, Eastern Cape, together with the Western Cape and Gauteng, this is the only province since 2019 that saw a reduction in murders per capita. Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KZN, saw double digit increases over that particular period. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: We are saving lives but we know we have a very long way to go. The last quarter of the 2022/23 financial year and the first quarter of the current financial year showed a 14% and 15% reduction in the murder rate respectively here in our province. The second and third quarters of the 2023/24 financial year with its unfortunate increases, remind us that we still have a long way to go to combat the violence and murders that we are seeing in our province, but the Premier clearly highlighted the significance of LEAP, of K-9 Units. Let me reflect on

K-9 units.

K-9 units in the South African Police Service over a five-year period have received a reduction of 38% to their particular deployment, 38% less K-9 Unit members and dogs that we had five years ago. We have stepped in, in Swartland, in Overstrand, in Mossel Bay, and we will continue in that fashion to help and assist Rural Safety Units, our peace officers. All independent reports are showing that we are pulling in the right direction.

We want to help the South African Police Service. We want to step in.

When I hear, Deputy Speaker, member Bans speak about failing, imagine how much worse it would have been because now there are copycats, there are copycats in Gauteng that are potentially wanting, they have already tried to implement a LEAP Programme and we all know what has happened in that regard... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister, if you could just take a seat.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: In KZN, KZN visited... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order, if you could just take a seat. There is 29 seconds left. Hon Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Yes, through you, Deputy Speaker, is the MEC prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Will I get additional time if I answer that question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think so.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Seeing I will not get additional time, I will conclude.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Deputy Speaker, I have spoken about the devolution and the need for it, the Constitution makes provision. I have spoken about how we have stepped in, how we have stepped up. I want to assure the residents of Paarl, of Drakenstein and the wider Western Cape, we will continue. We will not deter from our commitment to make this province a safer province for all, because we are wanting to realise the dream that Nelson Mandela had when he walked this very streets almost 34 years ago, and under the leadership of the Premier together with the Cabinet and all members, I wish to urge this particular Parliament to work with us so that we can ultimately see our young people grow up in dignified communities... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

...and the Western Cape is a safer province and all the work that we do...

[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

†Die MINISTER VAN POLISIE-OORSIG EN GEMEENSKAPSVEILIGHEID:

Dit is my innige dank, Premier, en aan almal vir alles wat ons doen.

[The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: It

is my sincere thanks, Premier, and to all for everything that we do.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie agb, Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: My

29 seconds appears to be 34 now. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I

did not hear it is time to stop, because we do not want to stop working

[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: We do not want to stop working... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...and the residents of this province... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister, your time is up!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...will ultimately have opportunity come May to vote for a DA-led National Government... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time is up!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...to implement DA policies what we have seen here in our province. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Allen, your time is up!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: The noise is making it very difficult to hear the... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time is up!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...to hear the Deputy Speaker, and as the noise continues I wish to say as people of... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister. Allen!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Keep on singing for yourself, keep on singing for yourself.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...for all that we have done our residents, we cannot do it without you. [Interjection.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Allen, that was a little bit over the time. Please, if I actually call your name I expect that you adhere, as all hon members, to the time. Please members! I now recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the ACDP I would like to respond to the State of the Province Address, but Premier you are making a mistake every year, you cannot compare yourself / your Government with the ANC Government. [Interjection.]

†Hulle is stukkend. Gister het hulle gesing: "Klim op die wa," maar die wa is gesteel, so watter wa? [Tussenwerpsels.] [Applous.] [They are broken. Yesterday they were singing: "*Klim op die wa*," but the wagon was stolen, so which wagon?] [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, hon member Christians [Interjection.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Every time... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, if you can just take a step aside, I see there is a point of order. [Interjection.]

Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, on the point of procedure, to protect the Premier as well, can the hon Christians speak through you to the Premier please. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Christians if you can speak through me. [Interjection.] You may proceed, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Yes, we know that everything the ANC touches brakes, is stolen or disappears, so I want to tell the people of the Western Cape that the ANC and the EFF is disastrous for this province and this country. That is a fact.

†Dan kom hulle hier en hulle sê vir die mense hulle gaan wen. Ek dink nie hulle gaan 10% kry in volgende jaar se verkiesing in die Wes-Kaap nie. [Tussenwerpsel.] [Then they come here and tell the people they are going to win. I don't think they are going to get 10% in next year's election in the Western Cape.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: So let me return to my portfolios... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, I am sorry to interrupt you again but there is a point of order. Hon Klaas, what is your point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Ja, the point of order that I can raise is that why does he address the small parties, but he does not address the leading party at the polls. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no-no, hon Klaas. That is not a point of order. Please, hon members, let us not have frivolous points of order, please allow the hon Christians to proceed. [Interjection.]

Mr T KLAAS: He must reply to the Premier, not to us.

†Mnr F C CHRISTIANS: Moet ek julle verder kwaad maak? *Long live Israel,*

long live Israel. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Do I have to anger you further? *Long live Israel, long live Israel.*] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members, please!

†Mnr F C CHRISTIANS: *Long live Israel!* Ek sal julle nóg kwaad maak.
[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr F C CHRISTIANS: *Long live Israel!* I will anger you some more.] [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, can we have some order in the House.
[Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Premier, let me just say [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Christians [Interjection.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Premier, let me just say [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Let me just say, I am speaking on behalf of the residents of the Western Cape... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Mr Gert Maree has concerns of his community in a *plaas*, Buysplaas and they have problems transporting the learners to the schools. They have been fighting with the Western Cape Education Department for a long time and there was a major accident.

Mr Maree tells us that they do not return his emails, they do not pick up the phone, but there is a great concern in Mossel Bay in the Buysplaas. Employees working for the farm, their children cannot go to school because of the lack of transport, so Premier I want you to investigate and look at that problem.

A major problem that we still have with education is, Sunday I was in Kraaifontein, I went to Mitchells Plain because we are campaigning, we are going to do well as the ACDP and I went to Paarl yesterday... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: ...speaking to residents and they are telling me that their children cannot find placement to the nearest school, so what happens now is they must get in public transport. It cost them R1 000 a week, or R500 a week and it is all of their SASSA money, so I want the Premier to investigate, why in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain, in Paarl, in Kraaifontein, all over our learners cannot get placement because of an influx of learners of other areas?

We will have to look at that and we want to make sure that everybody in the province gets quality education, not because of anything, but because they cannot travel too far distances to get to school.

Now Premier also as the ACDP we believe in appropriate sex education, but I was appalled the other day when a parent of Parow Valley Primary School is unhappy and furious because he discovered in a book in the Life Skills class containing scripted sex lessons, talking about wet dreams, talking about ugly stuff that is not for the ears of an 11 year old, Grade 5. So we believe in appropriate sex education not to force our learners to sit in school, that is the job of the parents to teach our children when it comes to sex education. So that is a major problem. We still believe, instead of promoting nudity, because that's nudity, pornography, we cannot promote that in our schools and as the ACDP we will push a Christian agenda. We are calling for religious instruction to be brought back to our schools, religious instruction back to our schools. We have major problems when it comes to discipline, and of course I always speak and I have said to the Premier and I spoke to the Department of the Neighbourhood Watches, move to Community Safety. I still believe as the ACDP when it comes to Neighbourhood Watches that will help us to reduce crime even further.

The Premier mentioned yesterday there are over 14 600 Neighbourhood Watches. I have said it before, I am going to say it again, that at least – if we can give them another stipend, an insurance cover or a life cover, something so when they die on duty... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: ...that they at least die in dignity. I was in Mitchells Plain where volunteers walk with people to the taxi rank five o'clock in the morning and they are not getting anything, but what they are asking is at least give us a life cover or give us something, because I have worked it out, if you work out a funeral cover, a basic funeral cover of R70 it will cost the Province R1 million for 15 000. I do not think that is a lot so I also want to say, because this is my portfolio, my Standing Committee, I am very passionate when it comes to reducing crime and as the ACDP we come with solutions. We do not just criticise. We come with solutions, and I have been in contact with Minister Reagen Allen on numerous occasions on the phone in his office and I tell you that when there is a problem he listens. So I want to compliment you Minister Allen for your openness. I can phone him and say here is a threat. I can tell him there is a case of police brutality. There is a Colonel now investigating those cases. So that is what we do, we just do not complain like the ANC, like the EFF.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: We look at solutions, how are we going to take this Province going forward. [Interjection.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: In closing... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, finish off... [Interjection.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: In closing I want to say, the ACDP supports the Powers Bill and we must have the devolution of powers [Interjection.]

Mr T KLAAS: We are Opposition in the... [Interjections.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: ...and then we will have an effective province. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. [Interjection.] Can we have some order, please? [Interjection.] Order! [Interjection.] Order. Okay, thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Marais.

An HON MEMBER: That is just one vote. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, let us give everybody the right to have the podium.

†Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, guests.

[Interjections.] Ek het met onverdeelde aandag gister geluister na die Premier. Wat my baie teleurgestel het [Tussenwerpsels.], is dat 'n baie mooi toespraak was gehou, goed geformuleer, maar slegs in Engels. Paarl se mense praat Afrikaans. Die Taalmonument van Afrikaans is in Paarl en nou laat ons baie mooi stilte gaan hê, kan ek voortgaan [Tussenwerpsels.] met my toespraak.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, wat my baie teleurgestel het is dat alhoewel Paarl nou die tuiste van die Taalmonument is, het die Premier verkies om slegs Engels te praat, maar ek vergewe jou, want ek beskou jou as 'n vriend, nie 'n vyand nie.

Agb Premier, ek weet nie of dit opsetlik was nie, maar ek glo nie dit was opsetlik dat u net Engels gepraat het nie, [Tussenwerpsels.] maar die toespraak sal hom nie laat kwalifiseer vir 'n universiteitsgraad in internasionale reg, ensovoorts, nie. Dit was meer 'n *pass* syfer vir hoërskool. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ek gee die Premier volpunte vir die *repair work* om die ANC rompslomp reg te maak. [I listened with undivided attention to the Premier. What disappointed me a lot [Interjections.], was that a very good speech was delivered, well formulated, but only in English. The people of Paarl speak Afrikaans. The *Taalmonument* (Language Monument) of Afrikaans is in Paarl and now that we are going to have nice silence, I can continue [Interjections.] with my speech.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what disappointed me a lot is that although Paarl is now the home of the *Taalmonument*, the Premier chose to speak only English, but I forgive him, because I regard him as a friend, not an enemy.

Hon Premier, I don't know if it was deliberate, but I don't believe that you deliberately spoke in English only, [Interjections.] but the speech will not qualify for a university degree in international law, etc. It was more a pass figure for high school. [Interjections.] I give the Premier full marks for the repair work to fix the ANC's slipshod efforts.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, in Africa people are still dying of hunger and ethnic conflicts, especially in the Sudan. In Africa 700 000 children suffer from malnutrition. It has been reported 5 million people in the Sudan in Africa have fled their country. We do not say anything about them. The ANC is quiet. They worry about Hamas. Worry about your own people in Africa. [Interjections.]

The UNO describes what happens as an ocean of neglect. The world has become saturated with bad news from Africa. The world is tired of getting bad news from Africa.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, if you could just ...[Interjections.]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Agb Premier ... [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Premier] ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, if you could ...[Interjections.]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: ...ons moet ontsnap van hierdie *mayhem* wat ...

[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr P J MARAIS: ...we have to escape from this mayhem that] [Interjections.]

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

†Mnr P J MARAIS: ...waarin ons nou is.

[Mr P J MARAIS: ...in which we are now.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just have a point of order.

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Dit is nog 'n *point of order*. Dit is al wat hulle kan doen.

[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr P J MARAIS: It is yet another point of order. It is all they can do.]

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, if you can just wait one minute.

[Interjections.] Hon member Klaas [Interjections.], hon member Klaas.

[Interjections.]

Mr M T KLAAS: Sit down. Sit down. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, just one minute. Step aside.

Hon member Klaas, what is your point of order?

Mr M T KLAAS: Sit down. Sit down. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr M T KLAAS: Ja, before he must sit down first. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, hon member Klaas. Just ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I refuse. [Interjections.]

Mr M T KLAAS: I cannot raise to the brutal person [Inaudible.] point of order.
I cannot.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, would you just take your seat, please? There is a point of order.

Mr M T KLAAS: Yes.

Mr P J MARAIS: My leg is sore, I cannot sit. [Interjections.]

Mr M T KLAAS: I leave my point of order because ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, I hope it is not a frivolous point of order. What is your point of order?

Mr M T KLAAS: I want to raise a question. Can he allow me to raise a question to him? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is his choice. Hon member Marais, would you take a question? [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I only take intelligent questions, no. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Premier, how are you going to escape the mayhem and the tyranny that is in this country endemic? Let me quote you Dr Allan Boesak, who I am sure all the people here know, he is one of those fighters in the UDF for equality, but Boesak has just said [Interjections.]:

"South Africa has never been as racist as now."

Allan Boesak quote.

Hon Premier, the DA must wake up before Africa swallows up the last bastion of liberty and good governance in Africa, namely the Western Cape. We in the Western Cape must aspire to a new and higher level of direct governance and accountability to the people directly and not make them accountable to a government they never elected. The ANC has never won the Western Cape, so

why should they govern us?

We need to manage our own fiscal and taxation policies if a two-state solution is proposed and universally accepted, and I see the ANC says we want a two-stage solution for Israel. Why do you reject a two-state solution for the Western Cape? [Interjections.] Because we are the same. [Interjections.] We want freedom ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Mr P J MARAIS: ...just like Palestine wants their freedom. [Interjections.]

Through the hon Deputy Speaker – you had your chance and you messed it up. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon member, talk through me.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier has mentioned Growth for Jobs of R1 trillion [Interjections.] over four years.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, just take your seat, please. There is a point of order.

An HON MEMBER: Take your seat.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, I need to – I mean to protect both the elder of the House, hon member Marais, and our Leader of the Opposition. I think the commentary inbetween is not assisting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Correct.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon member Marais must not speak directly to hon member Dugmore [Interjections.], please. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Marais, please speak through me. We can avoid any unnecessary [Inaudible.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I will address the ANC through the DA, right. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon member Marais. [Interjections.] You may proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Through the hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, how can economic growth remain sustainable if we have open borders? Floodgates between us and the rest of Africa of people seeking jobs here. How is your economic growth going to be able to sustain itself? We heard nothing.

Giving people food parcels is creating State dependency which is not sustainable. We need solutions that will sustain the welfare of generations to come, irrespective of their race, the colour, the creed or their culture. Hon

Premier, you spoke of Matric results of 81,5%, which I think is really good, but when will bursaries ever be available to these students after they have passed Matric?

We teach Coloured emerging farmers farming methods, but where is the land? The Khoi want land, where is the land? Where will the people farm? [Interjections.] We send them to colleges to prepare them for the unemployment queue.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] speaking English.

Mr P J MARAIS: I only speak English so that the DA can understand because they cannot understand Afrikaans. [Interjections.] I am doing you a favour. [Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Praat die waarheid.

[An HON MEMBER: Speak the truth.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, you are almost done, so you need to finish off your last few sentences. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Excuse me? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are almost done, you will have to finish your last few sentences.

Mr P J MARAIS: I think this is most unfair that my speech is done by the ANC, not by myself. [Interjections.]

I said this before, hon Deputy Speaker, what are you going to do with the Powers Bill? †Wat gaan u maak met my *Bill* wat vra vir *self-determination* vir die Wes-Kaap? U het niks gesê daaroor nie. Die Wes-Kaap weier om deel te bly van 'n Suid-Afrika wat in die grond gedryf word deur 'n kommunistiese ANC. Dankie. [What are you going to do with my Bill that seeks self-determination for the Western Cape? You said nothing about that. The Western Cape refuses to remain part of a South Africa that is driven into the ground by a Communist ANC. Thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie, baie, baie dankie, *hon member Marais*.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very, very much hon member Marais.]
Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon member Baartman.
[Interjections.]

If I gently ask that the audience do not participate in the debate, even if the hon member Marais is coercing you to do so, hon members, ladies and gentlemen. You may proceed, hon member Baartman. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, people of Paarl and the Western Cape. You know, deep down you know ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...exactly where you stand with someone. Hope blurs the line a bit, but you know. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, our province has been through drought, floods, fires, COVID-19, loadshedding and locusts.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I drove through the thunderstorm in Laingsburg that horrible evening of 3 February, desperately trying to get to safety in one piece. Many others did as well. We woke up the next morning in the Karoo with no electricity and no signal, powerless. I bumped into the Laingsburg Mayor on 4 February, that Sunday, on the streets of Laingsburg in Bergsig and I asked her what is she going to do about the situation?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): She responded publicly on the streets of Laingsburg that there is nothing she can do, it is Eskom's problem. For residents, food and medicine were already starting to go off. You could not charge your cellphone, there was hardly any signal. ATM's were not working. Petrol stations were running out of diesel. Businesses shut down. The Lord Milner Hotel, one of the most famous hotels in South Africa for its history,

shut their doors indefinitely until further notice. The pawpaw finally hit the fan.

A natural disaster quickly turned into a humanitarian disaster and when it left people without electricity for almost two weeks, it was the Western Cape Government that stepped in because we said not on our watch.

The Western Cape Government sent engineers to fix the problem quicker, generators to keep water and sewage systems running, partnered with Vodacom to set up charging stations for phones and power banks. Water was trucked in. The Department of Social Work and Gift of the Givers assisted with food relief. Over 5 000 food parcels were provided to indigent households who lost perishable foods. School feeding schemes continued and another 3 000 food parcels are on their way to learners from indigent households across the Karoo. The Karoo is finally back online and we do thank Eskom and the Western Cape Government collectively [Interjections.] for the speed with which they worked.

Today – yes, Councillor Aletta Theron, Councillor Lindie Potgieter and Councillor Juliet Pieterse, who continued to keep the people of Laingsburg informed, despite a Mayor saying this is not her problem. [Interjections.]

Today we need to ask ourselves what could have been done to have prevented this. This time it was a thunderstorm. Tomorrow it could be a complete blackout due to the strain on the grid. This time it was a region. Tomorrow it could be a whole province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, despite having to ask ourselves these very difficult questions, the Western Cape Government did not sit back and say, "There is nothing we can do. It is Eskom's problem." We said, "Not on our watch"

Hon Deputy Speaker, you know, I get it. It is difficult leaving a man you have loved for so long, but who have changed now into someone you simply do not recognise anymore, but we need to be honest with ourselves. We know exactly where we stand with the ANC. Do not let hope blur the lines.

So today I want to tell the people of the Western Cape who feel stuck in a relationship with an unrecognisable, unsympathetic, uncaring, abusive man. This is how you divorce the ANC, but, hon Deputy Speaker, divorcing is expensive, law school has taught me that, especially if he is the sole provider. So how do you leave without remaining economically beholden to him? So today we are going to do a step-by-step on divorcing the ANC. [Interjections.]

You open your own bank account and you start saving. [Interjections.] You go to your nearest Western Cape Access Centre. [Interjections.] There are 77 in the province by the way ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...where you can work on your CV for free. There are staff to assist it. You can print and also email copies to yourself.

There are computer literacy programmes at these Cape Access Centres. [Interjections.] They can assist you with registering your business online, take your registration documents then and submit them to your municipality. Ask them for help being added to the respective supplier database.

If you do not wish to go to a Cape Access Centre in the Western Cape, you can also use one of the 1 567 free Wi-Fi spots across the province and access information on your phone. [Interjections.] You could download the Western Cape JUMP entrepreneurship app to help you find financing and mentorship and help you scale your business. For those who do not know, the JUMP app also assists you with managing and forecasting your cashflow and helping you find relevant tender information on it.

If you have a business and you want to scale, you can apply to the DeDAT SSME Booster Fund that the Minister mentioned and through this fund the 515 women-owned businesses have been supported out of the 860 that the Minister mentioned earlier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, if you can just step aside, there is a point of order. Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order. Is the Deputy Chief Whip willing to respond to a question on her new appointment as the Deputy MEC for Economic Development? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Baartman, would you like to take a question? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): No, thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): You could visit the DeDAT website and find Export Resource Material Guide, tailored for the average small and medium sized businesses for exports. You could also find a respective link for the Export Competitive Enhancement Programme.

So the people of Paarl, I want you to listen closely. If you are currently exporting or you are export ready, but are facing technical challenges to access international markets, to apply for financial assistance, apply for this fund. It provides financial support capped at R200 000 per company and per intervention, and applications are currently open on the website. [Interjections.]

If you live in the City of Cape Town, check out the Smart Supplier Programme, which supports entrepreneurs with skills and information to expand their businesses. You can visit the site also to search for small business finance options, apply for investment incentives [Interjections.] and enrol for a free myriad of free online courses via the Cape Town Entrepreneurship Academy. [Interjections.]

The City of Cape Town's Business Hub also provides practical solutions to simplify starting and developing your particular business further.

So now you have to ask yourself when you leave him, you need a plan because it is easy for me to stand here and tell you how to open a court case, how to apply for a protection order where you can find a shelter in the programme, but what do you do once he is gone? [Interjections.]

We do not just want to be free of the ANC ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...we want economic freedom. Between the Second Quarter of 2022 and the Second Quarter of 2023 the Western Cape's official unemployment rate decreased by 6,6% to 20,9% and over this term the Western Cape economy created almost two-thirds of all jobs in South Africa.

For those who think that the Western Cape have a higher inequality than South Africa, I will refer the members who do not read, to page 87 of the PERO of 2023. The Gini coefficient in South Africa is 0,627. The Gini coefficient in the Western Cape is lower than the South African average. So the coefficient is 0,6. [Interjections.]

HDI in the 2021 – HDI is where they measure the Human Development Index.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (DA): Is life getting better or is life getting worse? The South African average is 0,64. So if you want to know if life is getting better, the number must go up. The Western Cape average is 0,74, but, hon Deputy Speaker, I also just want to deal with some mistruths that the Opposition has brought up.

99,6% of learners in the Western Cape have been placed. Now, hon Deputy Speaker, when you have 0,4% that you are still dealing with, that is not a crisis, but we will ensure that every single learner gets placed, and so I will actually unpack the numbers for us quickly because leaders are readers. [Interjections.]

Of the 529 ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...that still need the place, which constitutes 0,4%, [Interjections.] 25 applied on time, 133 applied after the deadline before the end of 2023, and 371 extremely late since 1 January 2024. [Interjections.] Of the 3 579 Grade 1 and Grade 8 applications received since 1 January 2024, 3 208 of these extremely late applications have already been placed. [Interjections.]

Further I want to get to some of the pro-poor numbers that members of the Opposition claim, that the Western Cape simply does not have. We have 1,1 million learners in public ordinary schools across 1 451 public ordinary schools in the Western Cape. In 2022, 835 000 learners benefited from the Department of Education's No Fee Policy. 510 000 learners benefited from the Department's Nutrition Programme. 65 000 learners benefited from the Transport Programme. 21 000 learners were subsidised and registered in dependent schools, 94 000 learners further benefited from fee exemption.

To the hon member of the ACDP, I just do want to say I am aware of Mr Maree's concerns in base class. He has sent the respective information to myself and we have forwarded it to the WCED, because we are committed to try and find solutions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please finish off, hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Further, hon Deputy Speaker, as I would like to just conclude. [Interjections.] Deep down the people of the Western Cape, you know exactly where you stand. [Interjections.] Hope blurs the lines a bit, but we know.

So choose someone who is going to show up for you ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...when other people say, "It is not my problem," [Interjections.] we will say, "Not on our watch." I thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Okay, thank you very much. I now call on hon member Brinkhuis, who I know is online. Hon member Brinkhuis, there you are. Welcome, you may proceed.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member Brinkhuis. I see there is a point of order from the Leader of the Opposition. Hon member Dugmore, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, you will guide me in regard to the point of order that I want to raise, but is it procedural for this Legislature that given the importance of Education, that the MEC for Education is not speaking in this debate at all? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have no [Interjections.] – so we do not have any power over the list of speakers. [Interjections.] That is the prerogative of the Chief Whip and you would have to ask the [Interjections.] – hon member Dugmore, why do you not ask that to him over tea and lunch? Thank you.

Hon member Brinkhuis, you are there, can we just check that we can hear you?

You may proceed.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear you, hon member Brinkhuis. Can we just check that hon member Brinkhuis can be heard?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I cannot hear hon member Brinkhuis. Can I ask for assistance, please?

Hon member Brinkhuis, if you could just ...[Interjections.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...I can see you are not on mute. So I am not quite sure. If you just check your sound on your computer, please.

If I cannot get it organised, hon member Brinkhuis, I will move to the next speaker and give you the second opportunity. If I can ask ...[Interjections.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Can you hear me now, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you perfectly. You may proceed.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much. [Speaking in Arabic]

†Molweni, good morning, goeiemôre aan almal, spesiaal die mense van die Paarl [good morning to all, especially the people of Paarl.]

Firstly allow me to once again express Al Jama-ah's condolences to the family of 12-year old Firdous Kleinsmidt, Ieglaasi Nieyah Primary School learner, who has been brutally killed in January on the school grounds by a stray bullet fired by gangsters.

Just three months earlier 15-year old Zarah Jackson was gunned down by another stray bullet in Hanover Park. This was while she was on an errand to a corner shop. Her family had the heartbreaking task of burying her on the same weekend she would have celebrated her 16th birthday. Sadly the gang violence continues without an end in sight.

Amidst paying tribute to the victims of these senseless killings, we too sadly reflect on the genocidal attacks by the Zionist Israeli regime of almost 30 000 Gazans in Palestine, of whom a vast majority were women and children. Al Jama-ah expresses his gratitude to the ruling party of National Government, the ANC, and other parties who have fully supported the Government's position and the case it presented at the International Court of Justice against Israeli Genocide.

Returning to our home front. We have seen no improvement in the challenges plaguing the province, which the hon Premier pointed out in 2019 and pledged to prioritise these key challenges. Our poverty, housing, housing backlogs, unemployment, health and crime. The children from poor and working class communities in this province view the achievements of [Inaudible.] as a far cry from what they have access to. Meanwhile this DA Western Cape Province is only focused on its plans on how to secede the province from the rest of South Africa.

With a clandestine Powers Bill such as this on the cards, Al Jama-ah can only conclude that this is a cunning method of demonstrating that it can commit a soft coup. This so-called Bill by the DA is unquestionably unconstitutional because it breaches Section 4(1) of the South African Constitution. Since it is such, it should not waste the taxpayers' monies to push it into law. This is unacceptable and going against the democracy we all fought for.

We know that this DA Powers Bill will subtly introduce policies that are based on a divide and rule policy, a scheming Zionist tactic that the colonial powers and the former apartheid regime adopted and implemented. Our country's democratic policies should not be abused in the interest of propping up further apartheid groups, opening the Western Cape for Zionists who commit murder in Zionist Israel State and then seeking shelter in our region, we declare them as unwanted.

Al Jama-ah says the Western Cape's police force, ports and harbour, public transport system, trade and international trade and energy are not up for sale. We have always been suspecting a third force being behind efforts to destabilise democracy in South Africa.

The recent letter which exposes the alleged involvement of the DA sabotaging South Africa's electricity, comes as no surprise. The DA has made no bones about making calls to privatise the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station. We wish to state that the DA is playing with fire and our lives are at risk because of the heinous plans that are coming to light in surreptitious ways.

We call on the people in the Western Cape to reject this proposed Bill and our nation's Government should dismiss any attempts by the Province political leadership to dismember our beautiful country along geographical, racial and ethnic lines. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

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

†n AGB LID: Hoor-hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, and he will be the Premier again after this year's election I can tell you, [Interjections.] hon

fellow colleagues of the Cabinet, but also members of the Legislature, hon guests and members of the media.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, my apologies for the interruption. There is a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Can the hon Leader of the DA...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Minister Simmers. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Unfortunately I only talked to leaders, sorry. [Interjections.]

Hon members, this morning we have heard the Official Opposition harbouring doubts about the Western Cape being a place where all things are possible, questioning our position as a beacon of hope, but now they have gone to a new low in the five years that I have been a member of Cabinet.

They have been casting aspersions upon myself, my colleague, Minister Bredell, but now they have cast aspersions of other members in other spheres of government, †maar ons kan niks meer of minder van 'n verrottende ANC in die Wes-Kaap verwag nie, want, agb Ondervoorsitter, miskruiers was nog nooit bekend vir iets anders as aandraers van absolute strooi nie, en dit is wat die ANC in die Wes-Kaap en die ANC op 'n nasionale vlak is. 'n Klomp miskruiers

[but we cannot expect anything more or less of a rotting ANC in the Western Cape, because, hon Deputy Chair, dung beetles have never been known for anything but carriers of absolute crap, and that is what the ANC in the Western Cape and at national level is. A bunch of dung beetles.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, in this province we continue to ensure that under this DA-led Government that we are a beacon of hope. That we keep the principles and values of democracy intact, [Interjections.] but that we ensure that our citizens never lose hope to the quality of lives that they aspire to.

In this province through our transport infrastructure branch, we have changed "impossible" to saying "it is possible". Over the long weekend of 16 June last year, this province was hit by severe floods that wreaked havoc across many parts of our province. The town of Citrusdal and its community were cut off from the rest of the province. Sections of the main road that connects Citrusdal with the N7 were destroyed when the Olifants River overflowed its banks, but yet this is a province that gives hope. We make the impossible possible and within 10 days we ensured, with the partnership of the District Municipality, that an entire community was reconnected. We get things done. †Ons kry die dinge gedoen, [We get the things done,] but this is not possible in the other eight provinces where the ANC is in government because in KZN, after two years, people are still waiting for flood damages to be repaired. †Hulle moet hulle eintlik baie, baie doodskaam as 'n regerende party in die ander provinsies. [They should actually be very, very ashamed as a governing party in the other provinces.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, you would be forgiven if you thought that this was a mission impossible for me and my Department, because within three months after the first flood we had a sequel in this province, but this time around the scale of devastation was something which climatologists termed a once in a 100 year occurrence.

At its peak during that cycle of that storm, over 155 provincial roads in our network were closed due to various stages of infrastructure damage, †maar weereens ons kry dinge gedoen, [but again we get things done], because there were massive concerns over the upcoming festive season and the tourism season, and how we as a provincial department and Government would repair this timeously, noting what looms ahead of us, but once again it is possible in the Western Cape because within 14 days many of the road networks, more than 80% of the 155, were opened, partially opened and reconnecting our communities.

Within 14 days we literally rebuilt the bridge at McGregor and the Doring Rivier to ensure that the communities have access, but above all that those communities are also reconnected with the rest of the Western Cape, and when the festive season finally did occur, hon Chairperson, the majority of all economic and scenery routes were open, they were functional, and as the Premier stated last night, we had a record tourism season in the Western Cape and the bulk of those roads contributed to that success. †Ons praat nie in die Wes-Kaap nie, agb Voorsitter, ons kry dinge gedoen. [We do not talk in the

Western Cape, hon Chair, we get things done.]

But not too far from where we are this morning, the upgrading of the main road between the N1 and the Kliprug Road is well on track to be completed on time and within budget. †Iets wat die ANC ook nie in hulle agt provinsies tot vandag toe kan sê nie. [Something which the ANC also cannot say in their eight provinces to this day.] This is a R200 million infrastructure investment and already we are targeting to create opportunities for 14 local SMMEs in the Drakenstein area and we seek to create 200 work opportunities. This is a Government that creates opportunities, but this is a Provincial Government that ensures our citizens' dreams are kept alive. We ensure the citizens' dreams are kept alive through various interventions of empowerment, not bean counting that the ANC and their cohorts are aspiring to, real empowerment of citizens.

One such intervention aimed at mitigating the scourge of unemployment is the Skills Development Training Programme, [Interjections.] through which we focus on plumbing apprenticeships.

Lindelwa Mahlabiso from Khayelitsha was unemployed when she started with a fully-funded plumbing apprenticeship, which my Department offers.

She completed her training, and she is now permanently employed as a maintenance planner by Transnet. This is something that this Provincial Government made possible.

We also have the Contractor Development Programme which aims to develop skills and promotes business sustainability for emerging contractors in the construction industry. One such example is Ragiema Williams from Worcester. She owns a company, hon Premier, called Safari Flooring and this is a woman entering a male dominated space. And she took it upon herself to empower herself, but also to provide job opportunities for other women through her company.

When she started through this programme with us, she qualified for the Structured Training Programme. Again, because we provide opportunities as a province, she went on to an advanced training programme which targets those with a CIBD level grading from Level 3 to 5. And as we speak here today, hon Premier and hon members, Ms Williams' company has gone from CIBD level 4 to a CIBD level 6 and again, she is empowering more women in the Worcester area. That is true economic emancipation. That is true empowerment made possible through DA policy intervention. †Ons praat nie, agb lede, ons kry dinge gedoen. [We do not talk, hon members, we get things done.]

Dreams and hopes are certainly kept alive in this province, but I cannot go amiss without reflecting on what I started my term off in 2019. I was the Provincial Minister of Human Settlements. [Interjections.] In 2019, I made significant policy amendments in the categorisation of beneficiaries. We said we need to focus on the groupings which are not being afforded a housing opportunity, persons with disabilities, backyarders which is a massive problem

in various municipalities in the Western Cape. But also, something with the ANC blatantly lies about in this House: we do provide housing opportunities for farmers and farmworkers because they are our priority in this province. [Interjections.] †Hou op om ons mense te mislei. [Stop misleading our people.]

But if you want to see the DA intervention in action, hon Premier and hon members, the hon Premier and I visited the Vlakkeland yesterday morning ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you could just step aside. I see hon Klaas. There is a point of order. Hon Klaas.

Mr T M KLAAS: What I want, I want to ask him that he can allow me to raise a question because one thing I want to hear about their ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, hon Klaas, is it a point of order or you want to ask the hon Minister a question?

Mr T M KLAAS: Yes, I want to ask the hon Minister a question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Minister Simmers, you may answer or proceed.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: We can talk over tea, hon Deputy

Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, no question ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon Klaas. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And why I would say this, and I will make practical examples, hon Deputy Speaker and hon members ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...the hon Premier with our Mayor Conrad Poole and his MAYCO, we visited Mr and Mrs Dreyer. Both are 81 years old, who lived their entire lives on a farm and last year, they got a house, and they are owners of that house for the first time. But above all, they also have a house with a solar geyser. [Interjections.] They have never experienced warm water before in their lifetimes. That is DA ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...governance in action. †Ons praat nie. Ons kry dinge gedoen. [Tussenwerpsels.] Die wat die ANC nie van kan

praat nie. [We don't talk. We get things done. [Interjections.] that which the ANC cannot talk about]. But to further make another example, Mr and Mrs Malgas have a disabled child. Again, they lived in a backyard for over 26 years. This Provincial Government through its policy interventions, has ensured that that child has a decent home to live in and that the parents can care for her, though all our other departments also play a key role.

But hon Deputy Speaker and hon members, what really has stunned me last week. When the National Minister Kubayi mentioned that her Department is working on a policy proposal for rent-to-own schemes, and I nearly fell off my chair laughing. For the last two years, we have been piloting this programme in Cape Agulhas successfully and hon Premier, in the new financial year we are about to launch two further project sites in the rest of the Cape. Perhaps the National Minister needs to ask this province to actually write that policy for her as well, into the future.

But our Human Settlements, hon members, does not come without many challenges internally and externally, and actually I need to acknowledge that because some of you touched on it. But our focus is on three core elements of those challenges.

Last year in March, we all applauded the National Minister for increasing the national subsidy at the end of March, but guess what? We had to wait five months, hon Premier and hon members, just to get the basic guidelines for implementation. And if you understand the infrastructure space, you cannot

wait five months for clarity on how to implement these adjustments in terms of the subsidy. So, that set back a number of projects and yes, but linked to that, we have also seen underspending because of the impact of that.

But there are four things which have been with us since 2019 and which is getting worse. We have seen the construction mafia and extortion throughout various of our projects which actually bring many projects to a standstill. And one such project is in Gugulethu. It is a R244-million project, hon Premier, that has stood still for two years: a R244-million project. †Maar hulle wil kom skandes maak hier oor geld wat ons wil teruggee, maar hulle sê nie die redes hoekom die projekte nie kan gebeur nie, want dit is in ANC-wyke en die ANC weet wie die mense is wat nie toelaat dat ons projekte kan aangaan nie. [But they want to come and cause shame here about money we want to return, but they don't give the reasons why the projects cannot happen, because it is in ANC wards and the ANC knows who the people are that don't allow that our projects can continue.]

We have also seen ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...illegal land invasions ...[Interjections.] on land ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...earmarked for housing development. Ironically, hon Deputy Speaker, it is in ANC wards ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...where these parcels of land are being invaded. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Please can I have order. Thank you. No running commentaries, please. You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] But we have also seen violent community protests, as my colleague hon Reagan Allen touched on, where we saw non-qualifiers being encouraged by the EFF and the ANC in Mossel Bay in an informal settlement upgrading programme, incur R10-million worth of damage to a programme that was earmarked for informal settlement upgrading in Mossel Bay. Know your EFF; know your ANC in this province. [Interjections.]

But as we face these challenges as Human Settlements, hon Premier and the House ...[Interjections.], we also keep and aspire to keep the lights on and to keep ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...the hope alive. Which is why through our own funding ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: †Ons kan nie meer wag vir Nasionaal nie. [We cannot keep on waiting for National.] We have since last year March, hon Premier, installed over 295 solar geysers in our projects targeting indigent households, but above all the elderly and persons with disabilities ...[Interjections.]

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

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Die ANC praat nog. Hierdie Provinsiale Regering doen ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: The ANC is still talking. This Povincial Government does] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you could just stand aside, please. There is a point of order. Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, it is untenable that the ANC is allowed to misbehave and to not listen to your rulings. [Interjections.] This continuous

shouting and interjections demean this House. [Interjections.] It must be stopped, or they must get out. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, thank you very much. Can I just ask that the hon members on my left, the constant running commentary: if we can hold onto that, hon Nkondlo. Please, I am speaking. We are almost at the end. I think everyone is waiting for that much-needed lunch. So, may I just ask for your indulgence for a short while. Hon Minister, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, in October last year we launched the Wheeling Toolkit as a department to support our municipalities in fast tracking the implementation of third-party electricity wheeling. †Ons kan nie meer vir Sieskom en vir die ANC wat sterf wag nie. [We cannot wait for Sieskom and for the ANC that is dying.] At the same event, we ensured that we appointed an advisory or a transactional advisor for Stellenbosch Municipality because they are busy with an independent power producer procurement project.

Again, the lessons we learnt from this you want to expand to other municipalities, but where are we with this? We are now at Phase 2 which means the feasibility studies are well underway, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please finish off.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And we will ensure that we learn

those lessons. And as I conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape under the DA Government daily creates an opportunity and environment for our citizens, working towards their dreams to become a reality and to ensure that they do become a reality. And this year, it is an election year and we do know ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...we will see the ANC declining further [Interjections.] because the majority of the people who once again make their mark behind the DA, like they did in 2009, like they did in 2014 ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...like they did in 2019, †hierdie jaar maak ons die ANC van nou al dood. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [this year we kill the ANC from now on already] ...[Interjection.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie, agb Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.]

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Die kaders is klaar gesteel. Baie dankie. [Applous.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: The cadres are finished stealing. Thank you.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. I now call on the hon ...[Interjections.] the hon Lekker. Hon Lekker, over to you. [Interjections.] Please may I ...[Interjections.] no. Please may I just ask that the guests please refrain from participating in the debate. Over to you, hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon members, members of the public present here today, people of the Western Cape. This must have been the worst State of the Province Address we have heard from the DA-run Administration in the Western Cape. It is the worst because it sums up the desperation of the Democratic Alliance in trying to convince our people that this province is better than one that it was five years ago.

Today, inequality is higher than it was five years ago. According to Warren Smit, an associate professor at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, and I quote:

“Unemployment in Cape Town has been increasing from 18,3% in 2011 to 29% in 2021.”

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Fact!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Close quote. If one were to look at his Provincial Government's own socio-economic profile for 2021, you would read that, and I open quote:

“Income inequality in the Cape Metro gradually worsened from 2014 by 0,608% to 2020 by 0,626%. Income inequality has worsened across all districts in the Western Cape over this period.”

Close quote.

An HON MEMBER: Ja, but why?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): While the hon Premier has the audacity to stand up and brag about the amounts of jobs that were created, the Western Cape contributes to the total number of jobs created in the country. He speaks in the faces of the 156 000 people who are unemployed today, but who were employed when he started his term as the Premier.

Today, more people are unemployed in the Western Cape than when the hon Premier took office in 2019 and that is a fact. And while the hon Premier may be quick to blame COVID-19, let us remind him that he introduced the Western Cape Recovery Plan in March 2021. Three years later, this Plan has been an utter failure because we are nowhere near the levels of employment that we saw in the pre pandemic days.

In 2019 in his maiden speech as Premier, the hon Premier promised the people of the Western Cape an average growth rate of 2,5%. Instead, we have got an average of 1,2% growth. Well, we would have thought by now that he understands how economies work and that they are subject to conditions in the global market. But the hon Premier stands up and promises people of this province again, a 2% to 4% growth rate that we have no idea where he will get it from. It is like he sucks all these plans out of his thumb. For one that is supposedly big on data, the hon Premier's head remains in the clouds without any idea of reality.

May I also say that the hon Premier quoted the Third Quarter of 2023, and he deliberately did not quote the Fourth Quarter of the Labour Force survey which says the Western Cape lost 23 jobs and that unemployment decreased in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and the Free State because you wanted to know about other provinces. There it is! [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Premier defended his Administration's push on the unconstitutional Provincial Powers Bill. We are made to believe that the DA and this hon Premier believe in the rule of law and yet, they know that this Bill will go nowhere. It is a Bill that is simply trying to outdo the Freedom Front Plus in their push for racism, apartheid, and an independent Western Cape. With the powers that they already have, this Provincial Government has failed fundamentally to deliver and like they did in Infrastructure and Human Settlements, they wish to move the chairs around on the deck because of a clear lack of service delivery.

The people of the Western Cape only had to read in the *Cape Times* yesterday, to witness the complete failure that the Provincial Department of Human Settlements and Infrastructure is. Well, we are not surprised because DA councillors are amongst the cabal of extortionists in the Cape Flats. [Interjections.] Five years later, only 23 – listen carefully – 23 houses have been built instead of the 570 initially planned. But it is only the people of Gugulethu which this Provincial Government has scant regard for.

In Education, the hon Premier boasts about building schools and classrooms. What are the conditions of these classrooms and schools? Are they shack classrooms which cannot withstand the bullets and the weather? In his response, the hon Premier must tell us of the 25 schools built in the last two years since 2022, when the Rapid School Build programme was launched, it is built of brick and mortar and not the shacks that you have been putting.

The hon Premier wants more provincial powers, but his Health Department is yet to replace GF Jooste ten years after the disposal of the hospital. In 2014, Theuns Botha, the MEC for Health, and who has subsequently left the DA in a puff, promised that the hospital will be opened in 2019, bigger and better. [Interjections.] Ten years later the communities of the Klipfontein Corridor continues to suffer from not having a hospital nearby. But again, it is only the poor people of the Klipfontein Corridor that must suffer.

Let us remind the hon Premier that the Provincial Constitution does give him

the power to appoint the Environmental Commissioner, but he refuses to. The hon Premier laments the climate crisis which the province faces annually but declines to appoint an Environmental Commissioner which would give the necessary oversight and assistance in mitigating issues of climate change.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC is pleased to hear that the Provincial Government worked with Eskom to attend to the crisis in the Central Karoo because half the time they are working against Eskom, against SAPS, against PRASA in attending to the challenges in our province. [Interjections.] The Provincial Government working with Eskom is what the Constitution of our country requires of it. It is called cooperative governance, in case you forgot.

One is also pleased to hear that the hon Premier has a newfound concern to sewerage, even though it is in his hometown in Knysna. Maybe it is because it is his hometown and not anywhere where he wishes to pay attention to. The people of Milnerton, Sea Point and fisher folk in False Bay have been complaining for years about the raw sewerage running into their lagoon and the sea. Just four days ago, *GroundUp* again reported that, and I quote:

“Most of Cape Town’s sewerage treatment works are failing, including the City’s largest one which releases effluent straight into the sea.”

It is not only in Knysna that refuse, and garbage are not collected. Right under his nose in the City of Cape Town, if he cares to visit the communities of Philippi, he would have seen the refuse and garbage have not been collected

for months.

A forensic investigation recently leaked to the media probably by a DA faction who opposes Grant Twigg, revealed the total collapse of waste collection services in our communities. The City subsequently received nearly 19 000 complaints of which 38% were from the areas being serviced by external service providers. One hopes that the Provincial Government will promise to pay attention to the City of Cape Town, as much as they are paying attention to Knysna. In fact, the hon Premier must tell us in his response when will action be taken against the City of Cape Town for its pumping millions of litres of sewerage into the sea and its collapse of the waste removal.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me again today to say that in the fight against GBV, the hon Premier must not mislead the House. The Provincial Government's funding for GBV is not enough and the number of GBV shelters have increased because the National Government donated buildings to the Province to use as shelters for victims of GBV. You must give credit where it is due, hon Premier. Your Government continues to fail the victims of GBV.

Payne who continues to be working while the victims are at home, while your Government shields Payne from accountability. If your Government cares, why is it not making an investment to deploy staff to victim-friendly rooms like we did as the ANC when we were in government.

And before I sit down, the Democratic Alliance must stop shielding the

perpetrators of violence. Today, the former Minister, Albert Fritz, is sitting at home because you shielded him for far too long, up until your staff members who are predominantly your favourite, who are White, came out. These matters were never attended to when a Coloured person complained about being victimised by Farrel Payne. You keep numb and you hide behind the unions. This must come to an end.

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Minister Meyer. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Give us your legal opinion about the ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier and members of the Cabinet, hon Leader of the Official Opposition, Leaders of other political parties, hon members of the Western Cape Legislature, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Speakers, Councillors, members of the community and citizens of the Western Cape.

Yesterday, the hon Premier of the Western Cape delivered his State of the Province Address and as he delivered his State of the Province Address, it became very clear, very evident that the future of this province is in our hands. It is in the hands of a clean Premier because we promote clean governance.

According to the legend, the Roman Emperor Nero set fire to his majestic imperial capital on the night of July 19 AD 64 and fiddled while the city was burning. This resulted in a popular saying: it is fiddling while Rome burns meaning that a person or an organisation is dealing with a difficult or a dangerous situation, but instead of doing and dealing with it, is busy with doing useless things or pretending that nothing is wrong.

Hon Deputy Speaker, doing useless things or pretending that nothing is wrong sums up what the current ANC Government is doing in South Africa and what President Cyril Ramaphosa himself referred to as the nine wasted years leading up to his presidency for the last five years.

Little did we know at the time that the next five years were going to be disastrous under his leadership, as so often depicted by the rather surprised look on the face of the President whenever he is confronted with the realities of his term. Hy is altyd verbaas. Hy is altyd geskok. Hy skrik altyd vir goed wat daaglik voor hom gebeur. [He is always surprised. He is always shocked. He is always frightened by things that happen in front of him daily.]

And this we have seen during COVID-19, †daar in die Oos-Kaap, toe koop hulle belaglike motorfietse, *scooters* as ambulanse tydens COVID-19 [Tussenwerpsel.] [there in the Eastern Cape, then they bought ridiculous motorbikes, scooters as ambulances during COVID-19.] ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It is embarrassing.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: These scooter ambulances that were bought in the Eastern Cape is scandalous. [Interjections.] They bought them during COVID-19 ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ...and the image of him looking at the pothole. You saw that live on television. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Die President was geskok toe hy 'n *pothole* sien. Hy sê: Wat is dit? [Tussenwerpsels.] Hy kon amper vir hom gebad het in daardie *pothole*. [Gelag.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: The President was shocked when he saw a pothole. He says: What is that? [Interjections.] He almost could have had a bath in that pothole.] [Laughter.]

The ANC has effectively paralysed the public management architecture and vote governance in South Africa. That is why we need to rescue South Africa. Hon Deputy Speaker, there is hope because unlike the rest of South Africa, governance in the Western Cape is working. As my colleague the hon Minister Wenger said, and I quote, she said:

“The Western Cape is working!”

Hon Deputy Speaker, when hon Premier Alan Winde delivered his SOPA Address yesterday, he outlined the achievements of the Western Cape DA Government and the hope of the Democratic Alliance. This is what we have to offer. [Interjections.] The future of this province. After he spoke, I could not resist to think that the province is in our hands. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: It is in clean hands: ethical, moral. We undertook a lifestyle audit. The President again, when we asked him where the national lifestyle audit of his Cabinet is, †dan is hy weer geskok [then he is shocked again.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, five years ago following his SONA address, the President Ramaphosa expressed [Interjections.] his shock at news that South Africa was experiencing Stage 4 loadshedding. †Fase 4 beurtkrag, toe is die President, vyf jaar gelede, toe is hy weer geskok. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [Phase 4 loadshedding, then the President, five years ago, then he is shocked again]...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members in the front. You may proceed, hon Minister. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Ah, sorry. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. He said five years ago, and I quote:

“It is most worrying, it is most disturbing, it has shocked me and also made me quite angry that we have reached this level of dysfunctionality.”

That was the President speaking five years ago. Last week, when I listened to the 2024 SONA debate, it was I that was shocked, surprised, and angry to hear the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Sylvia Lucas, †toe sy sê:

“Beurtkrag is nie die einde van die wêreld nie.”

Maar soos die agb Minister van Polisie-oorsig, Reagan Allen, verduidelik het, dit is pynlik, hartseer en dodelik vir mense. Haar arrogansie maak ons meer gedetermineerd om Suid-Afrika te red.

[When she said:

“Load shedding is not the end of the world.”

But as the hon Minister of Police Oversight, Reagan Allen, explained, it is painful, sad, and deadly for people. Her arrogance makes us more determined to save South Africa.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, at the core of the loadshedding crisis is the deliberate, intentional, purposeful breakdown of the governance as highlighted by the Chief Justice, hon Justice Zondo, in his State Capture Report. But it is also being amplified by the Auditor-General of South Africa, and she said in her report many things that are going wrong under the ANC. But she also spoke of what is happening right here in the Western Cape and this is what she said. In the Western Cape where the future is in our hands, the Auditor-General said, and I quote:

“We attribute the consistent achievement of clean audit outcomes to the Provincial Government setting the right tone of good governance and to the accounting officers [sitting there at the back] and our authorities driving a culture of accountability and striving to continuously improve the control environment.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, when I listened to the hon Premier yesterday, I made detailed notes because I saw a man that is leading a government with values. Last week when I listened to the President, I saw a man that is leading with cadres and there is a difference when you lead with cadres and cadre deployment, and so what are the values that this Government is leading with?

We are leading with the values of caring. This is the most caring government. That is why the hon Premier outlined yesterday the energy packs because we deeply care for people. That is why the hon Minister of Infrastructure went to a project yesterday, caring for people. That is why hon Minister Reagan Allen

cares for people. That is why the small-medium enterprises development that the hon Minister Wenger spoke about: caring. That is why in 65 days we build schools. That is why hon David Maynier is caring. Hon Minister Bredell spent day and night to go to the Karoo: a caring government. Hon Minister Nomafrench Mbombo: day and night, caring for our healthcare workers. That is a caring government. And the energy packs are just one simple example.

But there is one most uncaring Minister in South Africa, and that is Lindiwe Zulu. Ask hon Minister Sharna Fernandez. Every time when she says we should be a caring government, let us help the people, the Minister Lindiwe Zulu does not care.

The second value is competence. Getting the right skills, getting the right competence. They deliberately broke Eskom, Transnet, the harbours, and we now have the minutes of the Cadre Deployment Committee. We are going to expose people that have been put in the State-owned enterprises ...[Interjections.] and I am going to guarantee you all the Government officials: we are now looking after your interests because we are going to watch whether your pension fund, the Government Employment Pension Fund, whether the ANC has put anybody deployed into your pension fund board because we are here to protect your pension fund because we are simply a government that is caring. But we have the minutes, and we know who the Chairperson of the Cadre Deployment Committee was, the current President. He will be exposed very, very soon.

And so, competence is why this future of this province is in our hands. Excellent capabilities. We had no clean audits when we came into government 15 years ago. In no short time, 13 clean audits. Capable, competent.

Well, another value is innovation. While we have seen the innovation also during COVID-19: building a field hospital in six weeks. The Minister at the time, Dr Mkhize said, ‘This is mindboggling. How do you do it?’ We say appoint capable and competent people. Thank you, hon Minister NomaFrench because you step ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Everything in your power.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: You set a standard ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Everything!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Innovation, capability. Well, we have seen a lot of innovation in Education, Healthcare, Community Safety and also more recently, in Mobility. [Interjections.]

Well, the next value, very important for this Government, is integrity. Integrity speaking the truth. Well, talk about the truth. For many years, the ANC said Zuma built a fire pool at Nkandla and now suddenly, Fikile Mbalula said the ANC was lying in Parliament. It was not a fire pool; it was something else. Talk about integrity. And so, Fikile Mbalula is now silenced every time. He

can no longer talk after a National Executive Committee. They said now Nomvula Mokonyane. She is now the spokesperson because they said Fikile, †bly stil. Jy praat te veel die waarheid. [Gelag.] [shut up. You speak too much truth.] [Laughter.]

Well, there is another national Minister, she was caught out, hon Deputy Speaker. They asked her, ‘Did you and your boyfriend go to Switzerland?’ She said, ‘No, I did not go to Switzerland. I was in Zurich.’ [Laughter.] Zurich is the capitol of Switzerland. Talk about integrity. Well, we know what the President did, the President, he was sleeping on \$4-million. Talk about integrity.

Hon Deputy Speaker, under the leadership of this hon Premier, we developed a new architecture called: build a government that the people can trust.

The next value is accountability. Yesterday, the hon Premier accounted ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Your time is up. [Interjections.] If you can finish your last sentence? [Interjections.] If you can finish your last sentence. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. [Interjections.] I think what we now know is that the new government is coming to the Union Buildings. We are ready to rescue South

Africa and the hon Premier is leading the rescue campaign.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now recognise, last but not least, the hon Minister Mackenzie. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Dugmore, can I proceed? [Laughs.] Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, hon Speaker sitting here, hon Premier, members of the Western Cape Cabinet, my colleagues, the people of Paarl, hon Leader of the Opposition, and members of the Western Cape Legislature. Thank you for being here this afternoon.

Can I first say regarding the crash in De Doorns this morning, unlike the members of the Opposition who are chasing ambulances and media attention instead of attending this debate, the DA Government has done the hard work of developing traffic and emergency services that save lives. I am thankful that there were no fatalities in the crash this morning and I wish those who were injured a speedy recovery.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Speaker, the Coat of Arms for the Province of the Western Cape was approved and enacted by this Provincial Parliament in 1998, the official motto is *spes bona*, meaning Good Hope, particularly fitting for a province that boasts the Cape of Good Hope. By the motto, it is not only about geography. The motto is about the people that we serve, because we never forget about them.

Everything we do in the Western Cape is about giving people hope. The DA-run Western Cape Government builds hope and delivers real progress for this province. Hon members, just whilst we were sitting here yesterday debating the Western Cape State of the Province Address by our Premier, Alan Winde, in Gauteng they were throwing water bottles, insulting one another, causing havoc during the State of the Province Address led by AmaPhanyaza.

This is not what the Province of Hope does, and I want to thank members of this House for showing fairly good behaviour today, because that is the difference between where the DA governs and where the ANC governs. As we are building a Province of Hope, they are busy destroying. But I must say, whilst listening to hon members speak, it feels like listening to a broken record. They are repeating the same tired points without offering any real solution. We have not seen any solution or a hint of solution coming from members of the ANC benches over the last five years, I must say ten years because I have been

member, just empty suits. It is clear that their election strategy is spreading lies and misinformation, resorting to fear-mongering tactics.

Hon members, as in life itself, our progress continually faces devastating obstacles like the inure budget cuts caused by the ANC National Government or the complete power-outage this month in the Karoo. But we continue to push forward in the Western Cape to enable job safety and wellbeing and dignity for all. As the Minister of Mobility where moving forward is both practical and symbolic, but let me say, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is because we are moving forward and making progress that the people of the Western Cape have this hope.

Hon Deputy Speaker, just yesterday Premier Winde mentioned about our DA-run Government call centre, which boasted the 96% resolution rate with over a million tickets received. I challenge any member of this House of the ANC by just contacting Home Affairs, just as the smell of the cows' winds lingers on the collapsed ANC-port run in Cape Town, so will the ANC receive poor service delivery from oversight.

As Mr Dugmore said, †dit is 'n feit soos 'n koei en die stank wat die bote in ons hawe toegelaat het was deur die ANC se hawelose Transnet ingebring. Die Kaap stink want die ANC het die Kaap laat stink [it is an undisputable fact and the stench that the ships let off in our harbour was brought in by the ANC's harbourless Transnet. The Cape stinks because the ANC causes the Cape to stink.]

The ANC corruptocrats just know how to be incompetent. Hon members, several ANC MPLs spoke this morning, in fact hon Lekker had 16 minutes, she only spoke for 10.26. That is the lack of content they had in five years, yet not one member of the ANC or their allies addressed the issues of guns stolen in Mitchells Plain and in our communities. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Objection. Speak to the issues.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! [Interjections.] Hon members! If you could just take your seat. Hon Lekker, what is your point of order? [Interjections.]

Hon members, I am not going to let the hon Lekker speak until her own members have kept quiet and give her the floor.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Haibo.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, I would

like to raise a concern?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, is your mic on?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I would like to raise a concern because right now hon MEC has cast an aspersion that I did not utilise all my time. I think that is unbecoming of him and at least I have not been sent into a rehabilitation centre in my 10 years here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, hon member, I am not so sure, and as I say again, the hon Minister, I am going to [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Yes, the lack of contents of hon Lekker is well noted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Mackenzie [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Your 16 minutes [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, give me a second. I am not sure if anybody can hear me, one minute. [Interjections.] Hon members, can I just finish this

point that has been raised? [Interjections.]

Hon members, I know you are probably all waiting for lunch. Can we afford the hon Minister the space? [Interjection.] Hon members. [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, please, I am just trying to finish. Hon Minister Mackenzie, if I can just ask that you please heed Rule 59. Thank you very much. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon member. Not one member of the ANC spoke about the issues, for example guns stolen in Mitchells Plain. They had an hour to deal with the issues affecting people of the Western Cape. As the DA, we have condemned and marched against such act but the ANC has been quiet on issues affecting the people in the Western Cape. Their silence is deplorable, but not surprisingly, seeing that the ANC parties with gangsters.

However, member Dugmore weaved the Khoi-San into his speech as an afterthought, yet outside the Union Buildings, where we were last Saturday, the Khoi-San have been waiting for years now. They literally live on the lawns of the Union Buildings. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: If member Dugmore really cared about the Khoi-San community, he would have moved all those corrupt ANC members out of their homes in Bryntirion Estate and moved the Khoi-San family members into their homes. They will add more value to the lives than the corruptocrats in National Parliament.

Hon member Bans, facts are a stubborn thing. Bad governance has consequences. Let us take ANC Knysna, ANC Theewaterskloof, ANC Beaufort West and several municipalities where the ANC governs. They will wish they had DA good governance. I can tell you about PRASA, Transnet, Crime Intelligence... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: SAA, Eskom and many other SOEs that have collapsed due to bad governance. So hon Bans, good governance is good for our country. Hon Bans, the reason we spent a billion rand on a Safety Plan, is because of the ANC failures. We would not need to spend a billion rands if South African Police Services were functioning. So yes, we do want devolution. Yes, we are getting a lot of people for not complying with the rules of their employment and, yes, we will not lower our standard on employment standards in the Western Cape or the City of Cape Town.

Hon member Lekker, facts indeed are a stubborn thing. So let us take out our cell phones and Google the unemployed stats as released just an hour ago by

Statistics South Africa. The Western Cape again has the lowest unemployment in the country. [Interjections.] It is a statistical fact and let us deal with the economy. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: We will deal with the economy because she raised issues about global economies, but let me put this into context. If a boat cannot port at our ports, if the train cannot take the goods to market, entrepreneur, Premier Alan Winde spoke about it, then you cannot create jobs, so when you have a failing Transnet, a failing PRASA, a failing Portnet, a failing SAA, that is the reality. That contributes to job losses in South Africa. So if we fix that, we can help. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: The reason we fix the Central Line because the ANC wanted, and I say it again, wanted to come and dump people there. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: You cannot put people where there are no train lines, no toilets, no police station. That is what the ANC does in other provinces, but in the Western Cape we will not allow that to happen.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker...

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: You need a master plan to ensure people have proper public transport. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: PRASA brought back the...

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: They did not bring the Central Line. The line is not running.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members! I have a point of order. If you can just take your seat, Minister. Over to you, hon member.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, all members here has the right to hear what the speaker says. We cannot allow the ANC to disrupt this session. [Interjections.] I ask that you consider sending this member Mvimbi out of this House so that we can exercise our right to listen to the speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon Mvimbi, you are doing a running commentary... [Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: That is not a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...having a direct conversation with the Minister. Can I ask for the last eight and a half minutes, that we allow the Minister to complete his speech as everyone else has been afforded the platform? Over to you. [Interjections.] Hon Mvimbi, hon Mvimbi, even if you think so you cannot do the running commentary. May I ask for your indulgence, please. Thank you. Over to you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you very much. So hon Deputy Speaker, yes, the Central Line, the million people living on the line, so if we talk about job losses, hon members, the direct results of the collapse of rail, if the ANC National Government was serious they would have fixed the line or give it to people like ourselves that can get things done. That is the solution.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government, hon Dugmore loves the taxi industry. We are moving forward with assisting the minibus taxi industry. In fact, we all know that the industry is sadly plagued by violence, criminality and unsafe operation. It is completely unacceptable, hon Dugmore, that commuters must live in fear of being in the wrong place at the wrong time while needing to get to work and get to school. The Western Cape Government stepped up and took action, piloting our groundbreaking Blue Dot and Red Dot Pilot Project, a rapid intervention to normalise and improve the minibus taxi industry. But, as always, member Dugmore, where we are sitting now, there is

no money. The policies of the National Government has collapsed our fiscal; that is the reality! So, because of the lack of money from National Government, we cannot invent money. That is the reality and you know it, member Dugmore, you are highly intelligent enough to know it.

Hon member Dugmore, as the Minister of Mobility, we are moving forward with both practical and symbolic solution. Let it be known, hon Deputy Speaker, because we are going forward and making progress, the people of the Western Cape have hope.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, Minister, my apologies. There is a point of order. Hon Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: No thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I was going to say that to avoid the interaction I think you need to advise the Provincial Minister not to address the members, but...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, it helps a lot when the Minister directly speaks to me. Thank you very much. Over to you, hon Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you very much, hon member. I will address the hon members via you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, for the first time in South Africa, passengers and other road users were empowered to raise the quality of services via cell phone. That is the innovation from the Western Cape Government and we will continue to do so, but we are asking

our members on the left-hand side to ask the corruptocrats in Pretoria to stop stealing money so we can use the money to further help people of the Western Cape.

Hon members, I would be failing in my duty if I do not address the glaring lack of prosecutions in the minibus taxi industry of hundreds of murders that occurred. The families of the victims deserve justice, yet we are met with deafening silence, †*doodstilte* from the ANC members. There is a conspicuous silence from them regarding the victims of taxi violence. [Interjection.]

The DA has been the only one who consistently spoke about the violence plaguing the taxi industry. [Interjection.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the nature of hope is about the future and the future must be green. The Western Cape is the first province in the country to publish an electric vehicle strategy, and of course, the hon members on the left-hand side did not say a thing about it because in their provinces they do not even have one. In fact, when they came to visit us last year, we offered them for free and they intimated, well, it is probably going to cost them R40 million and I said "No, we have it, we will give it to you for free." [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Discussion aside – mic unmuted]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: But we know the corruptocrats wanted to steal money. Hon members, I was in George last week and as usual I checked in with

our beautiful GoGeorge Bus Service. Juxtapose that to my trip to Johannesburg over the weekend. In Soweto Rea Vaya and all the other bus services are not running. In fact from the R50 billion spent in Rustenburg, †daar is niks oor nie, nie eers 'n bus-stasie nie. Die bome groei uit, uit Johannesburg se bus-stasies [there is nothing left, not even a bus station. The trees are growing out, out of Johannesburg's bus stations.]

In George our Themba lethu Bus Service provides an excellent service to tens of thousands of people in that community, so much so that the service is over subscribed.

That is the DA-led Government. I was struck by the operational excellence that we deliver as the DA-led Government. As we addressed critical issues here in the Western Cape today and several times over the last few weeks, it is imperative to highlight the plight of the NASA students who are once again left in the lurch by the ANC Government. Their accommodation remains unpaid and they are waiting for letters to arrive. This is another example of ANC bad governance. Where is the ANC National or Education spokesperson on these matters? Their silence is deafening.

Children are sleeping at police stations in Parow and they forced to sleep at the entrances of hostels in Bellville. Where is the ANC on this topic? Why are they not speaking to the national counterparts on this topic? It is disgraceful, hon members.

Hon Deputy Speaker, coming back to the currency of hope, just last Thursday alongside the Premier of the Western Cape, we officially launched the Getting YOU to Work, a travel voucher offering job seekers 12 free trips using Golden Arrow Bus Services.

The PREMIER: Hear-hear. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: We joined the very first job seekers to make use of the service as they attended an interview in Athlone.

Getting YOU to Work, hon members, is not just a random shot in the dark, but a strategic intervention based on research in the challenges job-seekers face. One of the biggest hurdles is the cost of transport. Because of the collapse of rail by the ANC Government, they are forced to use alternative measures and we have now given them the cost of transport, nearly R280 a month. As the DA in the Western Cape, we cut that cost down to zero. That is innovation and good governance.

Hon members, our Traffic Management Team consistently do good work in the Western Cape. However, during the recent visit by the RTMC, none other led by Minister Chikunga, they provided input and advice on accident hotspots.

Hon members, I want you to take out your phone and just Google this, they embarrassingly said the accident hotspots in the Western Cape is Fransie Van Zijl and Woodstock Main Road. Now everyone in Cape Town knows Fransie

van Zijl and Woodstock Main Road cannot be an accident hotspot. It turned out that is where our hospitals are based, Tygerberg Hospital and Groote Schuur. Minister Chikunga, led by a team of 10 people got it so horribly wrong, they use data from our hospitals and not from our crash report.

I was embarrassed in that meeting, so we will not take advice from the ANC-led Government.

Hon members, every life saved by our interventions is a check and chance for the restoration of hope because in the Western Cape we keep moving forward, the people of the Western Cape have hope.

Hon member, if I can speak via you, Deputy Speaker, to hon Cassiem. Hon Cassiem clearly lives on another planet. Hon Cassiem, we want these powers, we want rail to work. We want police to work. We want crime intelligence to work. We want the ports to work, so we do want those powers because we want devolution and we are not going to stop until we get those powers. In fact, hon Cassiem, when last did you visit Ekurhuleni? The below mediocracy EFF cannot even govern that municipality. In fact, you call the mediocracy an insult for those who bother to wake up in the morning.

Hon members, Ekurhuleni is in a financial meltdown so I suggest hon members in the EFF visit Ekurhuleni before they come to the Utopia called the Western Cape.

In fact, the EFF MEC Dunga there is called the "godfather of corruption," so we will not – I repeat – accept any advice from godfathers of corruption.

Hon members, one of the most devastating... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Sayed. [Interjection.] Order, members! [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Mackenzie is casting aspersions on... [audio breaks up]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: No, Dunga.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Now we have allowed even worse. [Interjections.] These are the double standards. He is now casting aspersions on a Councillor who is not in this House to defend himself. [Inaudible.] He must please steer clear of that and reproof... [audio breaks up.] ...about the Councillor. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Mackenzie, I have kept a steady consistent view, so please bring a substantive motion if you need to, on any members here, and please take heed about accusing anybody outside. Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Okay, from an EFF member in Ekurhuleni?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just think that you must heed...

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take heed of what you are going to put out to the record today. I will leave that up to you, it is a debate but please just...

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Okay, thank you, Deputy Speaker, I will do that. Hon members, one of the most devastating collapses of the hope and opportunity is the collapse of rail, as we know. Last year... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: I have got a point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Is that a point of order? Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is. There is, apologies. Deputy Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Deputy Speaker, when I read Rule 59 it speaks about reflections upon members of the House. When you read the wording of the Rule it speaks about reflections upon, one just says... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: ...another member, so I did not hear the other members of the House raise a particular Rule in these Rules regarding why Minister Mackenzie may not say what he is saying in terms of the Ekurhuleni member. So I would like to understand what Rule exactly that was raised on because you cannot raise a point of order if it is not in the Rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, so Rule 59 applies to us, members, but I did ask and our previous speakers that when we mention for example a Mayor and where the Mayor is, we have to be careful, unless it is already in the public space, that we cast aspersions out in the public to public reps. I have kept that consistent and all I am asking it is the Minister's prerogative to what he wants to say here but of course always it is on public record with his rights and privileges.

Hon Kama, do you also have a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: No, you know, Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I really wanted you to frown at the Deputy Chief Whip because she is the one who raised a point of order earlier when there was a Councillor that member Dugmore was talking about and you made that ruling and she knows that in terms of the very same Rules she cannot contest a ruling that we have made. We have made a ruling on the matter and she must not contest that ruling. She can do so on another platform. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you, hon Kama. Can I ask, there is exactly one minute 51 seconds for the Minister to complete his debate speech, if we can allow the Minister to proceed. We are quite close to lunch now. So thank you very much, you may proceed, Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in June last year, the Director-General, the highest and the top official in the Department of Transport, promised on a public platform that the rail devolution would be gazetted by the end of the year. We are now almost at the end of February and the rail is still busy collapsing in the whole country. We have seen nothing, whether there is a delay, another deadline gets missed, further gets pushed back further, but our trains are not functioning. Our rail is collapsing because of the lack of urgency from National Government. So hon members in this House who claim to promote the best interests of the people of the Western Cape, must put pressure on the national colleagues to deliver for rail devolution so that we can see rail back on track as soon as possible because as we are building in the Western Cape, they are breaking down. As we are building hope, they are breaking down state infrastructure. Hon Deputy Speaker, when I reflect on this Government over the last five years, I am proud to say the Premier and our colleagues and every single member of the Western Cape Legislature of the DA has done best to honour the people. There have been fears, COVID-19, taxi killings and horrific car crashes, but every single day this Government makes choices for our people that serve them that makes their lives better and ultimately reflects the hope

we all share for the Western Cape and South Africa.

In conclusion, hon members and fellow citizens, we must ask ourselves, what do we want for our province and our country? Do we want the stability that the Western Cape offers, the progress that the Western Cape offers, or the effective governance that the Western Cape offers, or do we want instability, destruction and mismanagement from the ANC under other provinces?

I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. Hon members, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the Debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address. Business will now be suspended but can I ask that members and guests are invited to please enjoy some refreshments in the area behind the hall? Our guests should please exit through the main entrance at the back of the hall and then turn left and walk down the side of the building and ushers will show you exactly where to go.

Our members, can I ask that you please exit through the door here to my right where the ushers will direct you.

The Premier's Reply to the Debate will commence sharply at 14:00. That is 2 pm. The bells will be rung at 13:30 to indicate that members and guests should take up their seats. The bells will be rung again at 13:55 to indicate the resumption of business.

Thank you very much. Please proceed to lunch. The House is suspended.

Business of the House is suspended at 13:10.

(House resumes at 14:00)

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much and good afternoon, hon members and guests. Hon members, the Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will now allow the hon Premier an opportunity to reply to the debate. I recognise the hon Premier, Premier Winde.
[Applause.] [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: I hear from [Indistinct.] that I must be quick, get this over and done with...

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, can I just please ask that you switch on your

microphone.

The PREMIER: Can I push it – ah, there we go. That we must get this over and done with. [Interjections.] Hon Speaker, I gather I have unlimited time [Interjections.] and I will use that time.

Can I thank each and every member of this Provincial Parliament for their inputs into this debate. I am sorry that we could not actually have more time as the last Sitting or the last State of the Province Address of this term and actually give every single member an opportunity to speak. Perhaps we can do that next year or next term. [Interjections.] The ANC is dreaming.

I also want to, hon Speaker, take this opportunity not only to thank those individuals who have put ideas on the table, raised issues, asked questions in the debate, I really must thank the citizens of this great city of Paarl who have been here, who have supported us over the last few days with our visit, who have enabled the Parliament to take place. Hon Speaker, to you and your team as well, to enable us to be here, to deliver the State of the Province in Paarl. It has been amazing. [Applause.] Ja, you can definitely give them a hand.

I can say that, hon Speaker, even speaking to some of your officials in this Legislature, they were telling me that the municipality has been outstanding in the support. So if I can say to the Mayor of this municipality, to you and your administration, thank you very much for the support that you have given in this process. [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, there were a lot of comments in the morning debate around substantive motions and objections. Hon Speaker, I am going to give notice here of a substantive motion that I want to bring to this House. I will bring a substantive motion calling for a full investigation into the ANC, EFF, Patriotic Alliance, corrupt municipalities in this province. I will be bringing that substantive motion asking for full investigations into the Knysna Municipality, into the TWK, the Theewaterskloof Municipality, [Interjections.] into the Beaufort West Municipality ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...into the Kannaland Municipality. [Interjections.] [Applause.] We need proper investigation into these coalitions ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...of corruption. [Interjections.] We need to do this because it must be a warning. It must be a warning to the voters in South Africa that this coalition of ANC, Patriotic Alliance, EFF is a total mess. [Interjections.] It destroys every single opportunity of citizens in those municipalities. [Interjections.] That substantive motion that I am going to bring is going to ask critical questions around water supply. For example, I did not give time to have a detail of water supply in Knysna, but the water supply in Knysna,

that reservoir that had a body floating in it. [Interjections.] I remember when I got the call to say there is a body floating in the water system. My first reaction was that happens fairly often if people drown in our reservoirs.

I used to be a volunteer at National Sea Rescue. I used to be called to go and dive bodies that had drowned. I said to them the water gets purified and then goes to the residents. They said, "You get it wrong here." In Knysna the bodies in the reservoir that feeds to the citizens, it is after the cleansing process. That is where this body has been lying in the water for nearly 19 days.

You know, when that body, when they try to pull it out, it fell to pieces. That is how decomposed it was. That is how that coalition cares for its residents. Specifically that reservoir feeds the residents of Edamini, Dam se Bos, Khayaletu, Nekkies, Ou Pad, Kaalkol and Sewende Laan. Those residents were given the water in that reservoir without a caring government. That is totally unacceptable and that needs investigation.

What also needs investigation are the sewage leaks. What else needs to have investigation are those piles and piles of refuse that this Government, along with the neighbouring municipalities, send their trucks to and remove the mountain of rubbish that is bigger than this hall. [Interjections.] The rats running around that when you drive at night and the light shines on that pile, you cannot believe how the rats are running in the road.

Neighbouring municipalities, along with this Administration, go and clear that rubbish pile away and say to the municipality, "We have now stepped in to fix your problem. Now keep on doing and giving your citizens the service they deserve. Show that you care for your citizens like we do." 14 days later the pile is back up this size again. They cannot deliver the basic services. That must be investigated. [Interjections.]

The same thing, where on earth, where on earth is the Patriotic Alliance/ANC coalition in Beaufort West delivering the Dubai of the Karoo? [Interjections.] Where is that? I will tell you where it is. It has got sewage pipes that run into the desert and the sewage just runs. That is the kind of investment that they made into their people. We must be aware of what happens when that coalition corruption mess gets put into power.

Hon Speaker, I am going to ask in that substantive motion that we even go further than that. We need to investigate cash in packets being handed over in parking lots. We need to investigate the request in the coalition agreements, not about who is the Mayor, who is the Deputy Mayor, which political position you get. The question about it is who gets the CFO position and who gets the MM position because they want to claim the money from those citizens. [Interjections.]

The interesting thing is I would imagine that when this investigation is completed, it is going to find out that the ratepayers of Knysna, who are being cleared out at the moment because they cannot collect the rubbish, but the

money gets stolen, that money then gets used to buy Councillors in other municipalities. Then they take power with the ratepayers' money from the neighbouring municipality ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Cast aspersions.

The PREMIER: ...gain the next municipality. Then they use that same money to buy *kospakkies* and they use that same money to try and take over that administration. [Interjections.] That will be the substantive motion, that will be the investigation that needs to happen because the ANC, EFF, Patriotic Alliance corruption coalition in this province, in those municipalities, is killing any hope for citizens where they live there. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, I also want to say that, the Minister of Health spoke about it, people in the public domain are speaking about it. I think there is a march tomorrow about it.

You have all seen the really distressing letter that has been written to the Minister of Finance and myself and the Minister of Health in the province, by our clinicians, by our professors, by our doctors, by our specialists in the medical field. It is a distressing letter when you read that letter because they feel the absolute pain of the cuts, of the cuts that we are having to deal with and specifically the R1,1 billion ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ...in-year cut that takes away that healthcare opportunity for our citizens, and what I want to do is I want to co-sign alongside those clinicians, I want to co-sign it and I am going to send that very letter to the President, but what we are also going to do with that letter is it has to form part of our intergovernmental dispute. We are going to fight tooth and nail to get back that R1,1 billion so that we can employ more doctors, so that we can employ more teachers, so the citizens of this province get the services that they deserve. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

I also want to say another thing ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ...around finances and of course that letter gets sent to the National Minister of Finance. I want to say something about our Provincial Minister of Finance, who has made an announcement and I am proud to, from this podium, welcome our new Head of Treasury in the Western Cape, Ms Julinda Gantana. The first time that we are going to have a female heading up our Treasury in this Government. [Applause.] Congratulations, Julinda, [Interjections.] I really look forward to what you are going to bring to our Administration over the next term.

I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition, thank you very much for your inputs, thank you very much for your questions and let me start off. You spoke

about not caring, you spoke about service delivery failures. Well, let me tell you about service delivery. The first service delivery I am going to talk about is water. I want to talk about refuse removal. [Interjections.] I want to talk about flushing toilets.

So we know from the Census that this province has 630 107 more households than we had the last time it was counted. We know that we are now sitting at just on 7,4 million citizens in this province. We know that 150 000 people every year is our population growth. People coming from other provinces to look for services. We probably need another investigation into the empty schools in the Eastern Cape and the money that still gets paid to the Eastern Cape for teachers and ghost teachers with nothing to do, because those learners are here getting quality education.

That is the 150 000 citizens that grow in our population in the province every single year, but when that same Census and that same report comes out that talks about services to the citizens of South Africa and rates it across our whole country, that same report says that the second highest water provision to any citizen in South Africa, is in Gauteng at 75% of its citizens get water. 75% of its citizens get water, but in this province – this is water piped to your house – but in this province it is not 75%, it is 85,5%. [Applause.]

Flush toilets way better than Gauteng, and remember, Gauteng has got a small geographic area, it is supposed to be the economic powerhouse of South Africa. It is supposed to be 35% of our economy. They are running it into the ground,

that ANC/EFF coalition that I speak about, Patriotic Alliance coalition, is in power in Johannesburg. They are running it into the ground, but our flushing toilets are now 93,9% of households.

Refuse removal the highest in the country, by far more than any other province, but then let us also talk about how we spend our money. How do we spend our money in this province?

In 2019 when this Government ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Bakubaku-Vos, is that a point of order?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: My point of order is on your guest who participates in our debates. The one who is sitting there in the middle of those two men.

The SPEAKER: I will – thank you very much, hon member Bakubaku-Vos. I take your take your point. Can I please remind the members in the gallery and the guests that you cannot participate in the proceedings of the House. So can I please ask for your indulgence.

Hon Premier, my apologies, you may continue. Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, you had an opportunity to raise your point of order, between you and the Minister [Interjections.] – between you and the Minister, the Premier is on the floor. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. This Government in 2019 spent on the social delivery departments, those departments where our budget gets spent on the most needy in our province. These are where we spend our money on:

- Social development, DSD, our social workers, the most vulnerable in our society.
- The Department of Health where we provide healthcare through health, through our hospitals and our clinics, to the most vulnerable in our society.
- On education, providing education across the board to the most vulnerable in our society.
- Human Settlements, giving homes, as the Minister spoke about today, as I saw in Vlakkeland yesterday, homes to people.

Our budget component to those citizens in 2019 was 74%, but this caring Government has now pushed that percentage up, it is now 79,8%. Just short of 80% of our whole budget goes to those communities, the communities that need the money the most.

So when this side of the House stands there and says, "You only spend your money in rich leafy suburbs," you know that it is an absolute lie. [Interjections.] It is totally untrue. So they come here and spread untruths. That is totally unacceptable and unparliamentary, [Interjections.] but here are the facts.

So for every R4 – oh, sorry, for every R5 that this Province spends, R4 goes to the most needy in our province [Interjections.] [Applause.], but let us add a little bit further to the data.

So not only the hon member Dugmore, but also the hon member Lekker, was speaking about the rich and poor gap, and hon member Lekker specifically – please note, Education workshop – you measure it through the Gini coefficient. Not some professor making some comment. You measure it through the Gini coefficient. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition, [Interjections.] is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Point of order ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member Nkondlo, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections.] Hon member Nkondlo and hon member Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, the Premier must not

...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...he must not speak directly to our Chief Whip, especially around issues of stats and those things, and academia, because that requires post-matric as well, please. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I take your point of order. [Interjections.] Hon Premier, can I please ask that you speak through the Chair? Hon members, I am on the floor. Hon Premier, can I please ask you to speak through me and not directly to the members?

Hon member Marais, was that a point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: I will pass in favour of the Premier. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you, thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I apologise, through you, hon Speaker, in answering to both the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The way you measure the gap between rich and poor is a measurement called

the Gini coefficient. Now the Gini coefficient in 2019, the beginning of this term five years ago, the Gini coefficient in South Africa was 0,676, 0,676. Now obviously what you need to get a lower number, you need to reduce that number because what that does it shows you, through this measurement, that you are actually closing the gap between the rich and the poor. You are actually making it a better, more equal society. That is the Gini coefficient test.

So in South Africa we were at 0,676 in 2019. Move on to 2022, because we are still waiting for the 2023 number, but move on to 2022. In South Africa are at 0,676. No change. So the National Government has not managed to make any change in the Gini coefficient.

In the Western Cape in 2019, we were better off than the National. So remember, you have got to have it lower. So National was 0,676 and in the Western Cape we were 0,597. The next year it came down to 0,595. The year after that it came down again to 0,593, and in 2022 it came down again to 0,592.

It continues to reduce in this province because of exactly what we were talking about yesterday and today in the inputs from members of the Cabinet and members of this side of the House, because that changes, that changes the gap, that makes sure that we are building a better society.

In the unemployment rate. Now we already had quite a lot to say about the

unemployment rate. We know that we have got the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa. We know that, as I said yesterday, nearly two-thirds of all jobs created in South Africa come from one province, but let us look at the unemployment rate.

In 2009, an election year, the unemployment rate in South Africa was 28%. In 2014, another election year, the unemployment rate was 35%. In 2019 the unemployment rate went up again under ANC rule, to 37%, and right now, as we are going into an election again, the unemployment rate in South Africa is now 41%. [Interjections.]

So every year the ANC has been in power, that number just gets worse. Unlike the Gini coefficient in this province. Unlike us working damn hard to make sure we create an ecosystem for jobs, an ecosystem for investment, an ecosystem for skills development, an ecosystem of opportunity that actually brings about change, and in talking about that ecosystem for jobs and opportunity.

There was some talk about the cost of electricity raised by the hon Leader of the Opposition and that is also quite an interesting point to make because he is quite selective with his data.

So in the city of Cape Town, which is what he spoke about, in the City of Cape Town they have got – it is called a Lifeline Tariff. I mean an easy way to explain it, it is called the tariff. As an indigent household you can apply for

this tariff. People [Interjections.] – yes, yes, yes, it happens all over the country.

So if you go and have a look at that tariff, it happens all over the country and we measure it on 450 units. In Durban right now those 450 units, with that Lifeline Tariff, with the indigent in place, it would cost you R1 336 for those 450 units. That Lifeline Tariff, that indigent tariff, R1 336. An ANC-run region. In Johannesburg it would come down a little bit from eThekweni. That would be R1 151, that indigent tariff. In Cape Town, R899. [Interjections.]

So he must not come here with nonsense, he must come here with facts. [Interjections.]

Then the cost of electricity for the Lifeline customers. If we have a look at what has happened in the last year because we have had massive increases, we have had massive increases from Eskom, right? Massive increases.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: NERSA.

The PREMIER: NERSA, Eskom, the ANC. [Interjections.] In 2023, if you measure all of those cities, excluding Cape Town, the increase on average is 15,1%. Cape Town is -5,1%. [Interjections.] So there is a 20% difference. [Interjections.] A 20% difference. That is the difference about caring and, you know, those come in with homes, now the [Indistinct.] to half a million rand. So anybody with a house less than half a million rand qualifies, or R7 500 a

month. That is the real difference that is made. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, what I also want to mention in that same vein, is around retention rates and education, and it is quite interesting to see – oh, now I cannot find my numbers. I will see if I can remember those numbers.

It is quite interesting to see. So we know that the retention rate in the Western Cape is now getting to 70%. I know that when we first came into government it was a 60/40. 40% of learners in South Africa started in Grade 1, made it to Matric, 40%. In our province, what we have done, is we have flipped it on its head, we turned that around, and now we are getting close to 70%, but you must not only correlate your retention rate in your schools, you have also got to correlate it to opportunities and jobs.

So we know that we have got a 20% unemployment rate. We know that young people have got a better chance in this province than in any other province in South Africa. Go and have a look at the Free State and the Free State's retention rate, and you will see it is way lower than here, and what happens in the Free State? Young people, young people do not get to Matric. They get chucked out along the way, number one. [Interjections.]

So the measurement system is wrong. We measure Grade 3, Grade 6, Grade 9 and Grade 12. [Interjections.] You only measure Matric and you do not care about who you chuck out along the way.

Now those young people are given even less of an advantage into an economy in the future, and go and have a look at the Free State. You will see the unemployment rate going through the roof because young people have zero opportunity of getting a job after they have finished, after they have been kicked out before they get to Matric.

Hon Speaker, I want to talk about an issue that was being raised by the hon Marais and he has been talking, he and some other of his cohorts, have been talking about the Western Cape and a referendum.

I first want to say that a referendum, if it could be called, is not a mechanism for independence. It is a mechanism for testing the will of the people or an issue amongst citizens. Because we also know that referenda on independence in say Scotland first of all did not work, the vote did not carry, or in Catalonia and this is even more pertinent to us. In Catalonia they tried a referendum, but it was unconstitutional and it never, ever succeeded.

Now, in this province there is an organisation called Die Kaapse Forum and the Kaapse Forum decided that they want to force me to call a referendum, but their legal advice very quickly told them it is not going to help asking me to call a referendum because I cannot. You cannot even call a referendum by the President right now. The President could not call a referendum today even if he wanted to. Why? Because no regulation has been put in place. It has never been put in place.

And the Court application brought by the Kaapse Forum actually connected me and the other Premiers in all of the provinces to this Court application and the President, and it was very interesting to see the ruling of the Constitutional Court. The ruling of the Constitutional Court says they are not going to rule on this because the regulations are not in place, the regulations are being put in place because of a Democratic Alliance Members Bill that has been tabled to put those regulations in place at the National Assembly.

So, I want to put this to bed once and for all that it is not possible. It is not possible through the regulation process because of course, you must think about it. How do you do it? The IEC has got to do it. You have got to understand what the parameters are, when is it going to happen, et cetera, et cetera. They have all got to be put in place. So, quite frankly, that does not work.

But what will work is the Powers Bill ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Oh no!

The PREMIER: ...because the Powers Bill talks about federal powers within a South African process or South African Government and our South African constitutional democracy. And I believe, as I am sure you believe as well, hon Speaker, I am sure the hon Marais believes and I am sure because I have heard him say this a few times before that provinces should be or should have, where they can exercise it, more powers. They should have more federal powers and

with us, we should definitely have more federal powers where you can show you have the will, number one, and number two, where those services are being failed at national level.

And I do not have to go into it again because we know the citizens are totally failed by the National Government when it comes to rail, when it comes to commuter rail, when it comes to ports, when it comes to electricity, you name it. They seem to be failing across the board. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, I want to also talk about an interjection that came from a few hon members of the ANC. Now, this is the Opposition who are supposed to be holding Government to account and Hon Speaker, they were asking about the previous Speaker who is no longer a member of this House. What I can say about the previous Speaker is that the HAWKS are still busy with their investigation ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But you fired him, nevertheless.

The PREMIER: The HAWKS are still busy with their investigation, but what I can confirm is that after he was first confronted, he has paid back R39,409.07 already before he left office and after he left office, a further R30,238.84 have been claimed back from him. So, so far, his admission of guilt that he has paid is R69,647.91. That is so far. The HAWKS are still investigating. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: But how much, but how much again is the Speaker talking about?

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, I also want to talk [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: I also want to talk about the firing of LEAP officers, or should I rather say LEAP officers whose contracts have been ended. A number of those officers' contracts [Interjections.] in the City of Cape Town have not been renewed. Why? They have not been renewed because three times, they have been given the opportunity to pass the competency exams.

An HON MEMBER: They cannot even write a ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: This is a clear difference ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: How were they ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: When you are talking ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ...about a tale of two parties, a tale of two parties. An ANC

that fails the citizens of our country or the Democratic Alliance that shows the difference and how it should run governments. [Interjections.] The real difference and you can even hear it in the interjections while I am speaking to you, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.] because ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: There is no Rule that we cannot interject. That is one of the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...citizens, members ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon members [Interjections.] hon members, you had an opportunity. [Interjections.] Hon members, you had an opportunity this morning to make your inputs to the Debate. The hon Premier is now being afforded an opportunity to respond to those inputs.

This running commentary needs to stop. You are drowning out the speaker. You had an opportunity, and you were protected this morning by the Presiding Officer, and we will afford the hon Premier the opportunity to do so. If you do not agree with the response, this is not the time to object. You will have another opportunity at another Sitting. But for now, the hon Premier is on the floor. Hon Premier, my apologies, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, what I am talking about here is really that tale of two parties. A party of failure and a party of success in government. [Interjections.] That party of failure, the one of cadre deployment. They would never in their lives think about removing them or ending their contract, never, because competency is not a prerequisite. [Interjections.] It is party allegiance that is the prerequisite.

In this side of the House, competency counts. [Interjections.] We will give opportunity to those officers. In actual fact, we gave them opportunities three times to pass their exams. They have not managed the competency assessment. I hope they go away and get themselves prepared and do it again and come back and try again. They are welcome to do that ...[Interjections.] but they cannot serve as LEAP officers in service of the citizens of this province if they cannot reach the competency levels. We have got to have the right people in the right job, delivering the right service for the citizens. And that is the real tale of two parties. [Interjections.] That is the real tale of a party of failure versus a party of government.

And while speaking of the LEAP officers, I really said yesterday that we owe our LEAP officers a lot. [Interjections.] But, again in this House, listening to a number of the debates, people again raised the issue of the Safety Plan, and it is quite clear that the Safety Plan is boots on the one side, using data, using evidence, using technology, innovating, but it also about violence prevention on the other side. And I promise you, this is where that difference is being made. That is why Lesufi in Gauteng is trying a similar LEAP-type officer

appointment.

But the interesting thing is when I was sitting with him in Gauteng about two weeks ago, he said to me, ‘I must come and visit your LEAP programme because I am getting a lot of uphill from Bheki Cele because he does not want to pass our firearm competencies.’ But the reason is he cannot because what Lesufi has done is he has not used the proper legislation and regulation. He is trying to put EPWP jobs into highly trained security people’s jobs with firearms making the difference. [Interjections.] You get the basics wrong every single time. I have welcomed him to come and see it, as the hon Minister said. KZN was here just the other day to come and look at what we are doing. They come to see the difference.

But hon members of this House have seen this a few times, but, you know, sometimes you have just got to say it again and again and again and again. The Institute for Security Studies: they measured two periods in time for the four provinces with the highest murder rate. Remember, in 2019 when this Administration started, we were the murder capital of South Africa. More murders per hundred thousand in this province than anywhere else in our country, but we put a Safety Plan together. We said we cannot just say our job is oversight, it is the National Government’s job to deliver. We tried things. We put things in place. We innovated. We used data and evidence. We used our health data and evidence, and not policing data and evidence. [Interjections.]

And so, in September, when the Institute for Security Studies puts out their report on the five years before this term and this five-year term, you can see and of course, this is very small and very far for all of you at the back there, but this is the Eastern Cape. A short bar here: the previous five years. This term, these last five years, the bar increases: murders per hundred thousand. Gauteng: a shortish bar goes really high, a huge bar going up again. KwaZulu-Natal: no different. A short bar previous term. This last term the bar goes right up again.

But you cannot even see a second bar in this province, the Western Cape, because it is in a minus. It is in a negative because we do not have the same deaths per hundred thousand that we had five years ago. Why? Because of the Safety Plan, because of these interventions. That is how it changes. That is how change comes about.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: I am about to ask, hon Speaker through you. Is the hon Premier prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Okay, I will ask the hon Premier. Hon Premier, are you prepared to take a question?

The PREMIER: Most definitely.

The SPEAKER: The hon Premier is prepared to take a question. Please pose your question.

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you very much, hon Speaker. So, the hon Premier when earlier he was talking about the Safety Plan, he says there is a policing component of the Safety Plan and then there is the prevention part. Just recently, the last Annual Report in the Report of the Police Ombud, the Police Ombud makes a statement there to say it is high time that we deal with the socio-economic contributing factors to crime.

Now, when will the hon Premier, just like how he did and issued the R1-billion to make sure that we have boots on the ground, when will we have this Government saying we are putting this particular amount to go and target youth development in these areas that are affected by crime, to make sure that we prevent crime in those particular areas? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I have this sudden urge

to rush out of this building, go in to buy some earbuds so that that hon member ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...can clean the wax out of his ears. He obviously has not been listening at all to the last two days' worth of debate. I have just told him about the socio-economic expenditure of this Province where R4 out of every R5 gets spent in that direction. The Safety Plan talks about the violence prevention. We have spoken about Chrysalis; we have spoken about the YeBonaires. We have been speaking about exactly those things. You obviously have not heard a single thing that is being said here in this House. Unbelievable!

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: No, hon Speaker. I just want to check through you whether the hon Premier is prepared to take another question. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Kama, this is not a question session to the hon Premier. I am not, in the interest of moving forward, I have allowed that latitude for that first question. I am not going to create a platform for a dialogue between you and the hon Premier. So, hon Premier, can you please continue with replying to the inputs of your Debate.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for saving me there, hon Speaker because the quality of the questions are really poor. Hon Speaker, I want to continue in the vein of the Safety Plan.

You know, when we look at and of course, it is about a downward trend because crime is not [Interjections.] it is not a thing that you can go and switch a switch. I was thinking about Delft and how things are changing in Delft. I was thinking about Delft, and I get asked when last I was there. [Laughs.]

An HON MEMBER: When last were you there?

The PREMIER: Just the other day, walking with the Neighbourhood Watch, just the other day doing unannounced visits. You must please, you must please. If you want to learn something, watch my Facebook page. You will definitely learn something.

But hon Speaker, I mean, there are decreases and increases, but the overall result is what I have just held up when we get judged and not judged by ourselves because when you want to really measure any impact, you have got to have independent assessments. You have got to have independent assessments. But if I look at this report on the decreases and increases and of course at one stage, we had an 11% increase in Delft in murders. In Gugulethu a 29% increase, but if you go and have a look in Atlantis that had a 77% decrease or Harare that had a 30% decrease. Philippi a 20% decrease. But these increases and decreases happen, but the overall trend in our region is a

change.

And just as the Institute for Security Studies gave us that report and I have done this as well to these members. It is very interesting and these documents that I am reporting on, and I am not sure if the hon members here remember them, but for the citizens that are watching, the citizens that are here. That Institute for Security Studies, they are part of the Hanns Seidel Foundation and of course, the Bavarian Government, the Institute for Security Studies. They put these reports together.

This report I picked up not here in South Africa, this report I picked up in Europe. I noticed it and I noticed it specifically because it said Hotspot Policing for Murder and Robbery: Cape Town, a case study. They are studying what we are doing in the Safety Plan internationally.

An HON MEMBER: Teach them, teach them!

The PREMIER: You are laughing? You are laughing? Unbelievable!
[Interjections.]

The second one is how to map violence without police data. Why are they asking that question because our police data here in South Africa, is pathetic. It is pathetic. It is like a history lesson six months too late. But the data that we use comes from our Department of Health. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, can you please take your seat. Hon member, is that a point of order? [Interjections.] Order, hon members, there is an hon member on the floor.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): It is not a point of order. I just want ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Then why are you rising, hon member.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): I want to put a question to the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier. Okay, I will ask the hon Premier if he is prepared to take a question.

The PREMIER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: The hon Premier is prepared. Please pose your question.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Thank you, hon Premier. My question is that you explain to us this book and this book which you are talking about is not our [Indistinct.][Laughter.] and now we are interested of what you are talking about. How would you assist us to make sure your information can be circulated to us. Thank you. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Draw him a ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

An HON MEMBER: ...please, please, please do not join the DA.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Thank you to the hon Klaas. I am going to refer you to the Leader of Government Business. You need another workshop, but if you want this detail ...[Interjections.] if you want this detail it is called Google. I think you have got it on your phone. Just Google ISS, Institute for Security Studies Reports ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...on Cape Town and the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. My apologies. Hon Bakubaku-Vos, is that a point of order?

Ms N BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): I think so.

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order? [Laughter.]

Ms N BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): I want to ask the hon Premier. Do you know that people are dying out there?

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Ms N BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): People from our townships ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Please, take your seat, hon Bakubaku-Vos. Do not worry, I have already switched off your microphone. Please take your seat. [Laughter.] Hon members ...[Interjections.] hon members, this is a very serious debate. There are citizens watching and hon members that made inputs today. All these frivolous points of orders I am not going to entertain any longer. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I know the hon Bakubaku-Vos did not ask a question, but she said do I know that people are dying.

Hon Speaker, the whole reason why we have a Safety Plan, the whole reason why we have a Safety Plan is because people are dying. The whole reason we have a Safety Plan is because I think that while unemployment is shocking and education outcomes are shocking, and the trains do not work, and the debt service costs are going through the roof. All of those things are where the ANC have failed the citizens of this country so dismally.

The thing that hurts us the most: am I aware that people are dying. I wonder if the hon member knows that 27 000 people – 27 000 people in this country were murdered last year. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Do you care?

The PREMIER: And then she says: Do I care? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: And where is it you?

The PREMIER: Does the ANC care because I promise you, year after year it gets worse and worse and worse ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You do not care!

The PREMIER: ...and the Minister in charge of policing in this country should have been fired a long time ago. [Interjections.] Every single year ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...on his watch ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ...murders just keep getting worse. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

The PREMIER: And as a member of the ANC, you should hang your head ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...in shame!

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Bakubaku-Vos ...[Interjections.] hon Bakubaku-Vos, I am now warning you. [Interjections.] Can you please not have a dialogue with the hon Premier, I mean between you and the hon Premier, and hon Premier, can I please remind you to speak through me. [Interjections.] Hon Bakubaku-Vos, you made a point, a note. The hon Premier responded. This cannot continue in this vein. Hon Bakubaku-Vos, this is my last warning and request to you. Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I am covered by you. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, you may continue and can I please remind you to speak through me and not directly to the hon member.

An HON MEMBER: The hon Premier is also shouting at us.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

An HON MEMBER: He is shouting at us.

The SPEAKER: Order!

An HON MEMBER: He wants to shout saying orders.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Premier, please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: He wants to shout ...[Interjection.] giving orders
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, are you done with your interjections?
[Interjections.] Hon Premier, you may take the podium.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I apologise if I raised my voice, but I promise you, I get really agitated around how many people lose their lives in this province every single year. It is totally unacceptable and all have to really work damn hard to make sure that we bring down that murder rate. It is unacceptable.

So, I will not spend too more time on these reports, but to the hon member Klaas, there is also evidence-based policing for South Africa ...[Interjections.]

which is another good one for you to read. And then, of course, read this one which is not only just from the ISS, but it is also SALGA who put this report together on specifically the Safety Plan and what is making a difference in many people's lives in the highest crime hotspots in this province.

If you want to also ask for a further independent analysis, go and speak to Dr Redpath and she will also tell you exactly what is happening where these investments are taking place, and we are really trying to make a big difference in the crime rates of this province.

But I can assure you that through the small sample that we have shown here and how we are able to make a difference, when we get power devolved to us in policing, we will show South Africa that we can really make a huge dent in lowering the murder rates, in changing the crime levels [Interjections.] because we are committed and serious about making sure that safety – safety becomes the basis of how people live their lives here in the Western Cape.

If we get safety right, hon Speaker, if we get energy right, two areas that our citizens are totally failed by the National Government, we can then take that unemployment rate of ours which is the lowest in South Africa and we can bring it way down, lower than ever, ever before. And I truly believe that the projects and the programmes that we have started 15 years ago in this province, followed on by the Third Term now of this Democratic Alliance elected Government in this province.

We continue with these plans of safety and energy, changing the education outcomes for the better. Making sure we give better and better, and more efficient and more technology-abled healthcare. Making sure that social development makes a big difference in those lives of people who really need it the most. That we intervene and we enable, and we make sure that the economy can grow, investments continue. We will not just have a 20% unemployment rate we will have a 10% unemployment rate and even lower than that. And that is what this Government is all about.

This might be the final State of the Province Address that I am making in this term, but I really look forward, hon Speaker, to making the first State of the Province Address in four months' time, after this election in this province where we will not only be in this province implementing these policies. These policies will be able to be implemented in other provinces across South Africa because voters in those provinces are going to choose like the voters in this province made a choice years ago, made a choice to change the ANC power, the ANC power in those provinces. And then together, we will make sure that we build a better South Africa. [Interjections.]

But at the same time, the Democratic Alliance and its coalition partners are going to save South Africa because the ANC is going to be voted out at a national level as well. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members. Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, the debate and the input to the debate is concluded. Hon Nkondlo!

Hon Nkondlo, hon Minister Mbombo, the debate is finished. You can take your discussion outside of the Chamber.

Hon members, that concludes the Debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address. Hon members and guests are requested to remain standing in their place while the procession leaves the Chamber. Guests must please remain seated while the hon members leave the Chamber. Hon members, hon guests, that concludes the business for the day. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 14:51.