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THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2023

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Good afternoon, hon members. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been our practice to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House from here in the Chamber, with the Presiding Officer and the Table staff, and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have been accordingly amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings.

The hon members experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting are requested to contact the WCPP ICT colleagues who will assist to resolve

their connectivity challenges.

The quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of the unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system, who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020. Members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order. The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance.

In instances where these Directives do not cover a particular eventuality, the Standing Rules must be applied and in instances where the Standing Rules cannot be applied the Ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Members, all microphones have been muted. However, for those members participating in the Sitting via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to use the raise-hand functionality of the system when you desire to raise a point of order, and I will recognise you. When a hon member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point or rise on a point of order, such hon member may address the Presiding Officer, as expected, but must mute their microphones when they have completed speaking.

Hon members are requested to please ensure that the microphones are

unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them; when they are done speaking to please mute their microphones.

The media have also been granted access to the MS Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP. However, members of the press may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. If an individual, who is not a member of the House activates their microphone and video camera, such an individual will be exited from the Sitting immediately.

For this Sitting hon members, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber, as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House, must please access the Language Translation Services via a second device, and if you have earphones available, please use them for the Language Translation Services.

Hon members, I would like to remind you that no interjections are allowed during these hybrid Sittings and to this end I draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, we will now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I recognised the hon, the Minister of Agriculture, Minister Meyer.

†'n AGBARE LID: Hoor, hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

## INTERPELLATIONS

### 1. Mr A P van der Westhuizen asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What will be the expected effect of the formalisation of the cannabis industry on agriculture in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. In 2021 Minister Thoko Didiza declared hemp as an agricultural crop and permitting moved to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and licences for medicinal cannabis are now issued by SAHPRA, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority. In the same year in 2021, the National Cannabis Master Plan was launched and provided the Guide for Provinces to develop their own plans aligned to the pillars of the National Plan, and therefore, in line with this, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture commissioned a study to look into this particular matter and the Department of Agriculture has now completed the study to look into the current and future scenarios for the production and the processing and the export of cannabis and hemp in the agricultural sector during the late 2022, and this study was completed two months ago in the month of February. The Western Cape Cannabis Framework and Implementation Plan was launched on 28 March, on my Budget Day, and the compilation of this plan involved extensive stakeholder engagement across many spheres, including other provincial departments, and, as I have

indicated already, hon Speaker, I will now take this plan to the Western Cape Cabinet for adoption with the implementation plan. Once the Cabinet approves the plan, I have already indicated then through the Chairperson of the Standing Committee that we be invited to the Standing Committee to go into the details of the plan as a new subsector in the Western Cape, formally now linked to the Department of Agriculture based on the proclamation from the National Minister to also declare hemp as an agricultural product, permitting it also to move to the Department, National Department of Agriculture, and, by virtue of that, also to the Provincial Department of Agriculture. So, after tabling it, discussing it within the Standing Committee, we are very happy to answer some further questions. As I mentioned, this is a new industry, and we would be very happy also to engage with the Standing Committee and the further industry in this particular regard.

Now the policy, hon Speaker, the policy, the legislative and regulatory context is now changing rapidly, both in South Africa and internationally, as perceptions and associated policies are now shifting towards medicinal and recreational cannabis as well as industrial hemp. I view it as a new subsector. Like my colleague, the hon member Marran, I view this as a new subsector and we have to explore all the opportunities for job creation in the economy in the Western Cape and one of the key characteristics of this framework is that it will change the regulatory landscape in a transversal nature. I welcome it, and this is a new industry and we will support.

I was in this week, hon Speaker, in a discussion also with commercial agriculture, and it is clear that commercial agriculture certainly will not go into full scale in this particular space... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please wrap up for your first; that is the end of your first input.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, on that note, I take a seat.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister, I now see the hon Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Agbare Speaker, deur u aan die Minister, Minister, ons soek altyd geleenthede vir nuwe landbouprodukte, vir werkskepping, vir waardetoevoeging. Wat is u Departement se ervaring van die paar mense wat alreeds met verlof op kommersiële skaal tans met cannabis en hemp boer? Is dit vir hulle 'n winsgewende industrie, stel hulle belang om uit te brei, of is daar miskien dalk meer van drome en hersenskimme en so 'n bietjie misterie rondom die boerdery met cannabis en hemp, en as ek daarby mag voeg, u het verlede week gesê dat dit 'n taamlike water-intensiewe gewas is, wat 800 millimeter water of meer in 'n jaar verlang en dus, in die grootste dele van ons provinsie, kunsmatige besproeiing sal verg. Hoe affekteer dit die moontlike winsgewendheid en

potensiaal van hierdie as 'n nuwe landbouprodukt? Baie dankie.

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister, Minister, we are always looking for opportunities for new agricultural products, for job creation, and to add value. What is your Department's experience of the few people who with consent are already farming on a commercial scale with cannabis and hemp? Is it a profitable industry for them, are they interested in expanding, or are there probably more dreams and hallucinations and a bit of mystery surrounding the farming with cannabis and hemp, and if I may add thereto, you said last week that it is quite a water-intensive crop, requiring 800 millimetres of water in the largest parts of our province, and will therefore will require artificial irrigation. How does it affect the possible profitability and potential of this new agricultural product? Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Dankie, agbare Van der Westhuizen. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van der Westhuizen.] I now see the hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, Speaker, and good afternoon to the Premier, MECs and members present. Speaker, according to the National Cannabis Master Plan, the cannabis industry is estimated to be at R28 billion. With such a lucrative industry, the Western Cape can tap into and unlock an extensive economic and energy, especially in our rural areas of this province. We must be able to integrate such new initiatives into rural development. The cannabis and hemp sector has a number of challenges that this currently faces. Some of the interventions, we will expect, must address:

- High barriers for new entrances, especially black entrance;
- Negative public perceptions about the use of cannabis;
- Seed supply challenges, where farmers are at risk of being sold poor quality seed with low germination percentages;
- Manufacturing challenges;
- Research and development;
- Proliferation of unregulated cannabis products;
- Fragmentation of this industry;
- Market challenges and market concentration where the challenge for Government will be how to avoid such a situation where big corporations might try to dominate the whole dagga and hemp value chain at the expense of rural communities that have been growing these crops for hundreds and hundreds of years.
- To conduct the activities, all enterprises and organisations involved in the breeding, multiplication and sale of cannabis seeds must be registered and have legal permit seeds for the export market, as well as seed for local markets, should be evaluated for quality and viability.
- Black farmers will require assistance with cultivar choices; cultivation management, pest and disease control; harvesting and post-harvest practises.
- Farmers who engage in the cannabis industry require dedicated funding. Financial assistance may take the form of grants, loans, equity or a combination of the three.

We wish to see these interventions being implemented... [Interjection.]



The SPEAKER: Hon Marran, can I please ask that you wrap up?

Mr P MARRAN: We wish to see these interventions being implemented in the Western Cape in line with the National Cannabis Master Plan. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Dankie, agbare Speaker, deur u aan Minister Meyer. Minister Meyer, die Wes-Kaap het alreeds een produk, 'n baie belangrike uitvoerproduk, 'n produk wat baie werksgeleenthede skep in die wynbedryf. Ek verwys hier na hierdie wynbedryf wat ongelukkig ook as een van sy newe-effekte al 'n klomp sosiale euwels veroorsaak het en vir baie mense groot hartseer besorg het en hier praat mense nou nog van die dopstelsel, u weet, hier word gedurig nog verwysings daarna gemaak alhoewel dit al vir jare verbode is, en ek wens so die mense wat daarna verwys wil, as hulle weet van gevalle waar dit nog voorkom, wel uiteindelik klagtes gaan lê by die polisie, maar om terug te kom by my vraag, Minister Meyer. Tot watter mate is u besorg dat die meer vrylike verbouing van cannabis weliswaar onder die vaandel van “vir medisinale gebruik” dalk ook kan bydra tot 'n nuwe sosiale euwel in die Wes-Kaap en dat dit uiteindelik weer die begroting van ons Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling en al die instellings wat hulle bedryf, onder druk mag plaas. Baie dankie.

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker, through you to Minister Meyer. Minister Meyer, the Western Cspe already has one product, a

very important export product, a product that creates many job opportunities in the wine industry. I'm referring here to this wine industry as one that has caused people a lot of grief and here people still talk about the *dopstelsel*, you know, a lot of reference is still made here although it has been banned for years, and I wish the people referring to that, would when they know of cases where it still happens, eventually lay charges with the police, but to get back to my question, Minister Meyer. To what extent are you concerned that the more free cultivation of cannabis under the banner of medicinal use may also contribute to a new social evil in the Western Cape and that it will eventually again put pressure on our Department of Social Development and all the institutions they are running. Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Dankie, agbare Van der Westhuizen. Agb Minister?

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van der Westhuizen. Hon Minister?]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Speaker, en aan ons twee lede, ek wil sê, agb member Marran, vir die eerste keer in hierdie Huis stem ek 100% met u insette saam. Ons het mekaar uiteindelik gevind! [Tussenwerpsels.]

Baie dankie vir u bydrae want dit is op hierdie basis wat ons die land kan vorentoe neem dat ons mekaar moet vind. Dankie vir jou insette... [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Speaker, and to our two members, I want to say, hon member Marran, for the first time in this House I agree 100% with your input. We have found each other finally! [Interjections.]

Thank you for your contribution because it is on this basis that we can take this country forward and that we have to find each other. Thank you for your input... [Interjections.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Hoor, hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Dankie. Ons gaan beweeg daarnatoe.

[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you. We are going to move there. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members, order! Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Maar ek wil die lid bedank ook vir sy rooi ligte wat hy uitgestuur het in terme van seker maak dat die mense wat tradisioneel in hierdie bedryf was, dat ons vir hulle moet beskerm. Ek neem absoluut kennis en ek sien uit dat agbare Marran ook 'n verdere gesprek met ons het tydens die voorlegging aan die Staande Komitee.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: But I want to thank the member also for his red lights that he sent out in terms of assuring that the people who have traditionally been in this industry, that we have to protect them. I am absolutely taking notice and I'm looking forward for hon Marran to also have a further discussion with us during the submission to the Standing

Committee.]

I can find almost no disagreement with the content of what he proposes and he envisages.

The hon member, the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Van der Westhuizen, absolutely correct, in terms of the cannabis production licensing, what the landscape is, what the potential is, what is happening, and are there any major risks also from a social perspective?

Now we know that traditionally cannabis in the Western Cape is not at the scale like other provinces with a long history of small farmers, such as Pondoland in the Eastern Cape in KZN, where it is estimated that there are many thousands of small-scale growers, and in the Western Cape traditionally communities do nevertheless grow for their own use and subsistence in all areas of the province, particularly in the West Coast towns, throughout the Cape Winelands, the Southern Cape being the best known areas for the production also of dagga for mass-adult-use market, and I think since this is a new industry, the word “abuse” is the grammatical construct of “abnormal use.” Anything that you abnormally use, you are abusing it, and I want to encourage the citizens of the Western Cape not to abnormally use it and so particularly, for the medicinal value, scientifically, empirical evidence suggests that there are value in this, but there is always a danger in any new industry that there are certain people that will abuse it and we will certainly not want to see the budget of Social Development to increase. We want to see

a reduction in the budget of Social Development because if the budget increases it means the problems increase, and so we will work with our sister Department of Health and our sister Department of Community Safety. We will work with our sister Department of Social Development to particularly address the issues that the hon member has raised and there are risk in this particular regard, but as there is now a new Policy Legislation Regulatory Framework, we want to make sure that this is governed well through a Hemp and Cannabis Production Governance Framework so that we can also regulate it like all other industries. So I am concerned that people may abuse it, but I see more the production market, and as hon member Marran has indicated the huge value, R28 billion in the South African economy, and the huge potential in creating jobs. Yesterday this Cabinet of the Western Cape adopted the Growth for Jobs Strategy, and I will want to contribute to make sure that we create jobs in the Western Cape and I believe that a Cannabis Framework will go a long way in doing that.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please wrap up. Your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I am very scared of the Chief Whip, so I will sit down. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellation 1.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Interpellation 2 and I see the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

**2. Mr M K Sayed asked the Minister of Education:**

With regard to the number of schools in the province that have acting principals:

- (a) What is the impact of not filling these positions permanently and
- (b) What measures are in place to mitigate this impact?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking the hon member for raising this topic, which of course, deals with the importance of principals as leaders in our schools. I am sure the members will be aware that when you come across a great school, you can be sure that there is a great principal. That is why it is so important to find the right person for the job and not to rush the process. It is also why we are the only province to conduct competency assessments for candidates nominated by schools for the appointment as permanent principals. This adds about two to three weeks of the recruitment process, but I am sure the House will agree that it is a vital step to take to ensure that we appoint capable candidates to lead our schools.

Furthermore, for members who are perhaps not aware of how principals are appointed, School Governing Bodies are responsible for the recruitment and

selection process and the submission of nominations for appointments. The Department provides guidance on due dates for the finalisation of the process, but of course this is subject to the availability of SGBs to conclude the recruitment process within the specified timeframes.

The process is roughly as follows. First, an advert is placed in a vacancy list and there are approximately four weeks for candidates to submit an application. The applications are then made to the relevant SGB, which then undertakes the process to nominate a candidate. The following steps take place within the remit of the SGB and the timeframe is dependent on the availability of the SGB to complete each process.

Of course, an SGB meeting is set up to process the shortlist. The shortlist meeting is held. Interviews, of course, take place, an Interview Committee is convened to decide which nominee is nominated. Nominees, of course, undergo the competency assessment to which I have referred. An SGB meeting is then held to ratify the nominee and all the required documentation is then uploaded by the SGB.

Our Department then proceeds to quality assurance and looks over the content of the nomination; finalising the vetting, and then of course, routing the nomination for approval for the post. It is a detailed process. It is a detailed process that takes a bit of time, but must be followed properly.

It should also be noted that we only appoint principals from the start of the

quarter so that the school they are moving from is not unduly disrupted. During this time, a school cannot of course be left leaderless, so we appoint an acting principal or a contract principal into that post, while the permanent post is being filled.

Acting appointments are, of course, also a great way of developing leadership talent from within a school, and so to the member's question, the impact on school functioning, of course, is minimised, through the appointment of an acting principal, while the important process to appoint a principal is underway. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Minister, I now see the hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I want to thank the Minister for his response and we do agree with the Minister on the need for us to have principals and to have strong principals at our schools and we also appreciate the process that the Minister has outlined and I think we see the importance of that particular process.

In a written reply, however, to my question that was posed in September last year, the MEC stated that the vacancy rate annually for principal and deputy principal posts was 10% and that the legislation does allow for the appointment of principals who are acting and deputy principals who are acting, to ensure that the school management team posts are filled with zero impact on teaching and learning. As of September 2022, there were a total of



323 and 481 vacant posts for principals and deputy principals respectively in the Western Cape. In certain schools, Speaker, such as Bloekombos Primary School in the Metro East District, the post for the deputy principal position has been vacant since 2018, before we were even sworn in, in this particular term.

At Lwandle High School in member Nkondlo's constituency, the Department took a subject adviser to act as the principal. Member Nkondlo has raised this issue with the Department. I have also raised the issue with the Department and the councillor Diniso has also raised the issue with the Department.

The DA has had a hand in destabilising schools in our vulnerable areas through the failure to fill these positions and not exercising political oversight over the Department in doing so. By his Department's own admission in our budget deliberations last month in this particular Chamber, the failure to permanently fill these positions leads to weakening of school functionality and causes instability, which in turn impacts negatively on learning.

MEC Maynier's Department's School Basic Functionality Tool, which is used to measure the improvement of school functionality levels over time, uses a 10-point functionality criteria which includes schools having permanent principals leading a unified School Management Team (SMT), as well as filling of all vacancies and or having contingency plans for vacant posts. It is

thus no surprise that only 415 schools out of the 1049 schools that were sampled in the 2021/2022 academic year met all the requirements, while 634 schools failed to meet all the requirements. The failure to fill vacancies of school principals is causing instability at schools.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, can you... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of your first contribution. I now see hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, to the Minister, I want to find out... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: With regards to the reasons principals are leaving their posts, and with so many senior principals approaching retirement age, is the Department concerned about the retirement wave that has been identified by researchers, which has been experienced amongst teachers amongst the coming decade... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: ...and in this light, Speaker, I would also like to find out what skills and development are offered to acting principals, especially when they enter the positions, and, as the Laingsburg Constituency Head, this is actually quite really close to my heart because the previous principal at the Laingsburg High School threatened to leave year after year after year and things were not going well under his term at the time, and when he finally left after a very angry Western Cape Provincial Parliament Education visit, which I requested by the then Chairperson, member Lorraine Botha, and she came and then all of a sudden the principal left after, I think being very scared of the member at the time, and it was under the acting principal's leadership and with the support of the community, without bringing politics into the situation, that all of a sudden Laingsburg High School became then the next year one of the most improved schools in the province, and member Minister Schäfer at the time actually invited me to that. [Interjection.] And I also want to find out whether the WCED does have a pipeline... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: ...in order for upcoming teachers and also those who identify potential leadership qualities so that we are able to upskill and develop those people who could become principals in the future. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. I now see hon Cassiem on the hybrid system. Hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, Chairperson. I am sorry, Speaker, apologies. The issue of the Western Cape schools operating without permanent fulltime principals create instability, as to what it would have been or rather seen with at the events at Heathrow High School, as an example, last year. It also brings about uncertainty among learners, educators, the School Governing Councils (SGCs) and parents in so far as the short term and long term goals of the schools are concerned, so as much as it is not desirable to chop and change the principals it is equally undesirable to have a school that does not know the future of an acting principal, and it would make sense to have an acting principal at the school for a short period, standing in, in a case where the principal is on sick leave or attending to a family emergency. However, it does not make sense for schools to go for years operating with acting principals in situations where the former principal went on retirement and even in a case where principals step down or are being dismissed. So the Province need to really, the Province needs a proactive Department rather of Education that as a working succession plan in place as soon as it becomes aware that a number of principals are due for retirement.

The interview process to follow up those principal posts must take place a few months before that actual retirement, so having said that, my question is, do we have any schools in the province in which the actual principal has retired and thereafter there is a temporary principal who acts in the capacity for more than six months or more, or for more than a year? If so, what is taking the Department so long to fill up those posts if they knew a long time

ago that the principal is due for retirement and, more so, which regions has the majority of schools led by acting principals. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I now see hon Christians who is also joining us on the hybrid system. Hon Christian.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, I was covered from the previous speakers, but I am just thinking another question, can the Minister tell us, where we have acting principals in positions at schools, are their performance the same as principals that are entrenched principals that have been with the school, principals that are really leading from the front? When you look at the acting, acting is only acting for the meantime, there is no certainty, no guarantee that that person will be appointed. So it means the heart and soul attitude is most probably not into the school. Just the example, at Crestway High School that we visited not so long ago on an oversight visit, it was shocking to see the results of that particular school and they had an acting principal there. Mathematics was a small portion, 15 children, pupils were in the mathematics class and not a single child got over 50%; accountancy, 17 children in the accountancy class; not one child got over 50%. I want to know from the Minister, the results of the acting principals, is it on par with principals that are out there, leading by example, setting the pace, by acting, who do not know if they are going to get the position or not. I just want to agree with the previous speakers, when a person resigns immediately, it is difficult to plan, but when a person reaches retirement there should be plans in place so that the process of advertising and the

school governing body, all of that should conclude when that principal goes on retirement. Thank you, speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians, hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Allow me to thank member Christians for those inputs. I think that further underlines the concerning situation that we are in, and the MEC needs to tell us the reasons as to why we have got such a high rate of acting principals and acting deputy principals, and we know he has outlined processes, but we want reasons beyond the process. What is happening on the ground and what are the mitigating moves that are going to be put into place by his Department?

Hon Speaker, we also usually witness in this House the seriousness of matters such as these at hand, it is yet again reduced to a political game by the DA in this Chamber. There is no political will to address the matter and ensure that all schools have permanent principals and other Senior Management Teams (SMTs) which affect the functionality of schools.

There is a decline in overall academic performance, as member Christians has pointed out. As member Cassiem has also alluded to, the Heathfield High situation is another case in point. The school has declined by 18% in its matric pass rate ever since the persecution and kangaroo court against Principal Neumann. The unprecedented deployment of Metro Police, Tactical Order Police to deal with learner discipline at the school is another case in point. There has been a loss of parent and teacher confidence also at

Heathfield High School.

The Neumann persecution has also had a social psychological impact on many learners, and we understand the matter is now also still underway, but it must be concluded. What we have witnessed in many instances where there are vacancies for principals and their deputies, is that staff are jockeying for promotion and in turn not acting in the best interest of the school, but in self-interest. We reiterate again our demand for the frivolous charges against Principal Neumann to be dropped and for his immediate reinstatement. These things did not happen when member Dugmore was the MEC for Education, when member Gabru was the MEC for education during the period of the African National Congress. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Order! Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Other cases, name one instance where that happened. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Other cases where the DA Administration failed... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...to intervene effectively include the De Kruine Secondary School in Touws River, where the Deputy Principal is allegedly acting principal and running the school as she wants after the principal left unceremoniously in 2021. The Department has failed to intervene. We have spoken to the Department and they failed to intervene. Hon Speaker, in closing, our MEC must tell us what causes the mixed reactions when it comes to the ethical code of conduct of some principals and teachers versus others. The stark contrasts in the handling of the cases ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please conclude your sentence.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I will do that, of Ned Doman's principal, the Rhodes High principal, Zwaanswyk's principal, former Golden [inaudible, speaking simultaneously].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): to enjoy the Department's protection, compared to [Inaudible, microphone muted.]

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Sayed. Hon Sayed, please take your seat.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...but a few examples. Thank you. [Time



expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, when I ask that you take your seat, you must please do so, because I will cut the microphone in order to make sure that we all are treated equally in the House. Hon Minister, I now see you, Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Speaker. I must obviously thank all the members for their contribution to the interpellation, which of course focused on key leadership positions, and I must emphasise that it is absolutely key that we get the right person and that we do not rush the process.

Now in response to a few members' positions, let me begin with the hon Cameron Dugmore's incumbency in the Education portfolio. I of course studied it carefully and I was advised that his crowning achievement, Speaker, was to do a handstand, while Minister of Education, at a school, much to the horror of the principals and pupils attending. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] Now when we come to the... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Order members, Minister, order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Perhaps he could do one now to see if he is still up to it. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Minister, can I please caution you, please speak to the Chair, and hon members please settle down. Hon Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. Speaker, the hon Leader of the Opposition was a much younger man then, but perhaps he would consider doing a handstand now and telling us whether he is still up to the job. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Give us some handstands!

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Speaker, I think the hon Khalid Sayed must be careful of making himself vulnerable to exaggeration, for the few of us or the few among us who read the *Cape Times*, I noticed this morning that he had elevated minor hairline cracks at schools to major structural defects, which of course I think at least when it comes to school build diminishes the hon member's credibility, which of course was already diminished when he opposed the additional allocation of a R100 million to build more schools... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Order!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...giving access to education for learners in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Minister, you can continue. Order, members! Minister, you can continue.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker, I am certainly not finished. I am just beginning.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, Chair, the Minister is misleading the House. He must read the newspaper properly, maybe I must print it for him next time... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Sayed, that is not a point... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I will deliver the newspaper to his office the next Sitting... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please do not... [Interjections.] To explain your point of order, that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. I note that the hon Khalid Sayed is one of the very few members who reads the *Cape Times* in this House. I would be delighted to receive a copy. Now... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Minister, you can continue. Please speak to me.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on the question of exaggeration, in fact, there are 237 acting principals, but permanent candidates for 80 of those posts have already been appointed, which means that in effect we have 150 posts to fill, and most of those of course are currently in a process with School Governing Bodies (SGBs).

We of course keep a close eye on those timelines so that we can assist, as I described, in great detail, so that we can assist SGBs to complete their processes, which, if the hon member, and I know that percentages are not his strong point, it is roughly about 10% of principals, which is not high, and of course I am advised is quite normal.

Then the hon Deidré Baartman, of course we are sort of not too concerned about the retirement wave because we have made a concerted effort, of course, to employ younger teachers, and certainly if you look at our teachers under the age of 30, they have really increased quite significantly and the majority of our teachers, 63% of course are under the age of 30.

The hon Cassiem, I do not have the details to which you refer, but you are welcome to put a written question, and I have to say I must compliment the member. She is starting to make a lot more sense on Education than the EFF

Military High Command, who, as you know, tried to shut down schools on a school holiday during their shutdown in the Western Cape. [Laughter.] The hon... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, your time has expired. Please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, thank you very much, that concludes Interpellation 2.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members, that concludes Interpellation number 2. Interpellation number 3 has been withdrawn so that brings us to the end of Interpellations.

[Interpellation number 3 withdrawn.]

The SPEAKER: We will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper in terms of Rule 202. Hon members, I wish to advise you that once the hon Premier or hon Minister has started reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for this Sitting of the House to indicate that they want to ask a follow-up question or

indicate it in the House. There are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper, will have the first opportunity for a follow-up, and thereafter other hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask follow-up questions.

With that being said, I now recognise the hon Premier for Question 1.

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

### **New Questions to the Premier:**

#### **1. Mr T M Klaas asked the Premier:**

With regard to the announced power packs for poor households:

- (1) Whether these power packs are also going to be given to communities in informal settlements that do not have access to electricity; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether he or his Department has asked for assistance or contributions of resources from the National Government so that this initiative can reach as many poor households as possible; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Klaas for the question. The first part of the question, we have allocated R60 million to this project in our own budget to roll out 100 000 packs at an estimated cost of around R600.00 each. Obviously I say “estimated” because the design and of course the procurement process will eventually end up with giving us what that number will be.

The selection criteria for the packs are still under discussion and will affect the distribution approach. However, it is a non-negotiable priority that low Living Standard Measure (LSM) households, residents who do not have the means and are struggling most due to load-shedding, are the target audience of these energy packs.

As the Provincial Government it is essential that the most vulnerable residents form part of the planning of our initiative and that they are rolled out where they will have the greatest impact.

Speaker, items that are being considered for the inclusion in the emergency power packs are: a rechargeable portable light that can also do cell-phone charging, or perhaps it is a cell phone charging pack; also possibly a hot cold food bag or something to make sure that when you do not have refrigeration or you do not have heating capability because of the blackout that you are able to deal with either keeping things cold or warming things up, and specifically for me, I think moving into the winter months that is really going

to be critical for the warming things up.

We understand that there are technicalities in the same households and they do not have power perhaps to charge these devices, so these are being taken into account that this is a challenge that we are mindful of and we anticipate the rollout to occur now in Quarter 2.

Then the second part of the question, Eskom has been bailed out to the tune of nearly R500 billion, and despite National Treasury throwing money at the ailing energy producer, loadshedding continues to increase, making it harder for most of our poor residents to find a job, get to work and care for their families. This is a spectacular failure on the part of the National Government run by the ANC. In fact for 2023, for all but one day in March, we have had loadshedding every single day this year.

We as the Western Cape Government have chosen to step in and that is where this allocation has been made of R1,1 billion for the next three years on our Energy Plan, which will see the residents and businesses increasingly protected from loadshedding.

On the packs we will be reaching out to the Western Cape municipalities to ask them to partner us. In actual fact this process is already underway and our officials along with PTM along with the MMs have already been engaging on this. We have already been engaging the business sector to also partner with us on it. I have already had a meeting with the Minister of Energy, Dr



Ramokgopa, where our full plan has been given to him so that he can also apply his mind with regards to all of them, not just what kind of support they might be prepared to give us on enabling the poorest households in our province but having a look at all of the projects and where we can find each other. I am actually waiting for his reply on that. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Klaas, the first opportunity, hon Klaas, and then I have hon Fry, and then hon Dugmore in that order. Hon Klaas.

MR T KLAAS: Thank you Speaker. If your Government cares for the poor as you always claim, and with the knowledge that the problem is some of the poor people living in a formal settlement who have never had electricity at all, why did your Government not act earlier in providing these vulnerable people with power packs a long time ago? Also, how do we know that these power packs your Government is planning to distribute are not going to end up in well-off households where people can easily afford to buy them without any assistance from Government? Moreover, what criteria will your Department use to make sure that these power packs end up in households where they are needed the most – that is the poor households. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Klaas. Hon members, I just want to remind you that you are entitled to ask one follow-up question. I counted three in that submission and I did not want to stop the hon member, but Premier, I am going to leave it over to you to decide how you are going to

answer that, but members, please note you are entitled to one follow-up question. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I think the first part was generally dealt with in my question, but I think the part of the question that the hon Klaas asks is a really critical question, because when you make power packs like this available or whatever is going to end up in the pack, a heating system, whatever it is going to be, you have to make sure that it is going to end up where it is needed most. That is why it is put in place, and of course we have got to make sure that we are using various database systems on how to analyse who these individuals or these families or these households are. So of course we have the Stats SA data, we have Local Government data that looks at indigent households, and that does not differentiate between whether it is a legal informal settlement or a Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) house, or even an illegal informal settlement, and one of the big problems is especially when you are rolling out electricity, it is depending on who the land is owned by, it is difficult for municipalities to actually invest and roll out as it is difficult for the National Government and Eskom to roll out energy on other people's property and not on property that belongs to perhaps the municipality or Government or those citizens. But it is a critical question and that is part of the process of procurement because the last thing in the world that I would like is to see these packs being abused. We need them to be able to give relief to the most vulnerable in our society. That is the whole idea of it. How do we make sure that we are protecting the most vulnerable? These are the people that are running out of money for

candles. These are people that are running out of any capability of looking after their families. I mean they are being so punished that they cannot find a Sassa grant payment because the Post Office is being liquidated. Some of them are three – I think as Minister Fernandez was talking in Cabinet the other day, sometimes three months and they have not actually received their Sassa payments. These are the most vulnerable people in our society, and here is another intervention to say how can we help? How can we make sure that your daughter or your son who is writing matric, who, when you wake up in the morning, does not have any electricity to enable them to get up and go to school, and tonight when they need to study, you have run out of money to even buy a candle for them to study. You are setting them up to fail and that is why we are putting this in place. But that is why the process is critical. The analysis of what is feasible within the system that is going to work, going to have longevity in the pack itself, and then of course is it going to end up in the right place and how do we make sure that it ends up in the right place.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon members, hon Kama on the hybrid system, I have noted your hand. That will be the fourth question for Question 1. Hon Fry, hon Dugmore and hon Kama, so in that order. Hon Fry, I recognise you.

MR C FRY: Thank you, hon Speaker. The question is to the Premier, what additional steps have been taken to collaborate with the private sector to maximise the positive impact of this initiative on the reliance of the residents

who need it most? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Fry. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Thank you very much and thank you to the hon Fry. I think that is also a critical question and obviously we are busy doing the analysis through Local Government, ourselves, Stats SA, etcetera, to decide or to identify the number of households. The initial number given to me was about 250 000. That means the 100 000 that we planned for is too short, and that is why I personally, along with the Director General of the Province and my adviser, and the lead of our Energy Council, Mr Alwie Lester, all three of us have engaged through the business platform. The JSE listed companies that are based in this region, we have already engaged them, and said: "Are you able to come in as a partner?" And, I mean, the word out there is whoever in the private sector would like to add as a partner to this programme, use their CSI money, a portion of their CSI money, because I think this is really stepping in where people are needing it most and especially as we move into winter and there has been a good positive response from these businesses. So, the hon Fry, yes, so far we have started those engagements and we are also open to further engagements along with the engagement that we are also having with the municipalities.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much,

Deputy Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier that given that the majority of financial pressure exerted on the poor in our province, arises from the fact that because they are in arrears on, for instance a water bill, that when they go and purchase electricity for the amount of say R100, they are penalised by the City of Cape Town and others and can only in effect buy R10.00 worth of electricity. So would you, are you prepared to make a statement in the interests of the poor of this province that that practice of docking electricity purchases by the poor is something that you are opposed to?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you to the hon Dugmore for that question, and obviously, I mean he is well aware that anybody who sits in this category registers with their local authority or the municipality into the indigent space. It is interesting that in actual fact the announcement in this current budget, because he did not refer to any of the other local authorities other than the City of Cape Town, that in actual fact this budget of the City of Cape Town is actually extending the range of free services offered, free services offered to these very specific households, but of course it is also interesting to see that they have offered that across the board to not only the most vulnerable, but to the next two or three layers of LSM levels, making sure that it is actually easier to live in this city versus to live in other cities.  
[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You did not answer the

question.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I now see hon Kama on the hybrid system. Hon Kama please, I recognise you.

MR M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and let me also appreciate the questions from member Klaas, and I think the fundamental question that member Klaas even asked the Speaker on his follow-up question, is that, yes we understand that we are dealing with the crisis of loadshedding, but the poor that we were talking about in this province, we are talking about people, because of many circumstances even what member Dugmore mentioned of the electricity cards and what not, due to financial pressures in these poor families end up not having electricity, so whether there is loadshedding or not, they still have a challenge of access to being provided with electricity, and the question therefore is to the Premier, what is Government doing in terms of ensuring for a long-term sustainability, the people at least have reasonable access to having electricity at an affordable price and ensuring that we are a government that protects the poor, and how far is this Government willing to go in that regard?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kama. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I want to say in affordability further than any other government across South Africa, number 1. Number 2, as far as I know this is the only programme for indigent households in energy relief

packs in South Africa at the moment, even though I have already given it to the Minister of Energy or electricity in our country, to say how do we make sure we get this rolled out further, and giving him our whole plan, because absolutely, I think this is such a critical failure and has the worst impact on the very poorest of the poor in South Africa, the very poorest of the poor, and it is a tragedy that for so long, so many years, that the ANC have not managed to secure energy for all South Africans, and most importantly for the poorest of the poor, because that is where it is hurting the most. Go and have a look at where the jobs are being lost and the interesting thing is that ...[Interjections].

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: ... it is in the very City of Cape Town that it is the only municipality that is already mitigating this risk, and it is going to be interesting to see what happens over time because quite frankly the ANC has failed the poorest of the poor again, because they cannot keep the lights on.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier – is that a point of order? My apologies, hon Premier, that was not a point of order, you may continue.

Alright, the hon Premier has concluded. That brings us to the end of Question 1. Hon members, we will now deal with questions that were standing over from Thursday, 13 April.

So the next two questions, Question 2 and 6, are from 13 April. I now see the hon Minister, Minister Allen.

*Questions standing over from Thursday, 13 April 2023, as agreed to by the House:*

**2. Ms A P Bans to ask Mr R I Allen, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:**

(a) How far is his Department from achieving the target to halve the murder rate by 2029 and (b) how will the R50 million budget reduction for the LEAP programme contribute to this?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon Speaker. I also wish to thank hon members of this particular House that due to unavailability last week, and I was at my MINMEC, which was cancelled a number of times before it was finally scheduled in, I was unable to be here, but I am delighted that these questions were able to stand over.

I also appreciate a question from the hon member which is very specific, hon Speaker, and this particular question deals with a target that has been set in terms of the murder rate that we need to achieve by 2029.

Hon Speaker, it is a target that many government leaders will never want to commit to. However, we have a brave and we have an ambitious Premier



here in the Western Cape, who has actually set a target because we do not see this merely as a number, we see it as people and we remain bias towards people, so definitely we want to reduce the murder rate.

So let me read the first line:

"Murder in the last financial year increased by 26,1%."

It is not easy to state that figure, so let me state it again:

Murder in the last financial year has increased by 26,1% nationally and by 6,8% in the Western Cape. Murder then is on an increasing trajectory across our country. However, here in the Western Cape we are the only province that have recorded a single digit percentage increase in murder for this particular financial year. Murder in the Western Cape increased at a much lower rate, suggesting that circumstances are different in this particular province than elsewhere in the country.

Hon Speaker, I also confirm that this particular question has a number of graphs and tables and it will also then be submitted for the record.

The Western Cape Government has invested in the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan Project as a means to increase the law enforcement footprint in those precincts which record amongst the highest number of

murders in our province. LEAP is currently deployed to 13 areas in the Metro, as well as a reaction unit which is deployed in areas based on need.

Hon Speaker, there is another graph in this particular parliamentary reply and in five of the stations where LEAP is deployed, we have actually seen reductions, but I want to be categorically clear. We are not seeing this merely as a number, it represents people, it represents family, it represents pain in many of our communities. So we remain committed to reducing the murder rate in the five areas where there are LEAP officers, the additional boots on the ground, where we have seen strides being made. It ranges from 1,9% reductions, all the way to 39,9% reductions, and the 39,9% reduction is specifically in the Philippi East area.

That particular table shows that while murder increased by 6,8% in the Western Cape in the last financial year, murder in the areas where LEAP is deployed, we are collectively seeing strides being made. Over the three years from 2019/2020 to the 2021/2022 financial year, murder increased at a higher rate of 5,4%, compared with the increase provincially of 3,4%.

It should be noted, hon Speaker, that LEAP was deployed in these areas incrementally and some of them have had the benefit of LEAP deployments for a longer period of time. The Province will continue, hon Speaker, to promote the use of data and evidence to ensure that the deployment of LEAP is made to areas where it is needed the most. The Department in alignment with the Safety Plan, as well as the target for halving the murder rate here in

the Western Cape and with the City of Cape Town, instituted activities that cannot be carried out by the South African Police Service as increased visible policing, because we have seen we are 20 years behind in the actual resource allocation that we need from the SAPS.

We are also making sure that the deployment of LEAP is earmarked to be data-driven based on the most recent homicide data. All LEAP members are deployed in accordance with the SAPS crime pattern analysis which forms part of the joint planning between LEAP commanders and station commanders at a local level.

Since inception of the programme in February 2020, LEAP members were deployed into five particular areas: Bishop Lavis, Delft, Khayelitsha, Nyanga and Philippi, which is the Hanover Park area. The following areas were added from 2021 to date, which is Mitchells Plain, Mfuleni, Kraaifontein, Gugulethu, Atlantis, Philippi East, Harare and Samora Machel. A reaction team was established in July 2021 to assist with flareups of violence in areas, to assist the permanently deployed LEAP members by increasing the number of boots on the ground. With the establishment of this particular unit there was no longer a need to decrease deployment numbers in other areas when extra assistance was needed.

Therefore, hon Speaker, LEAP is deployed to 13 identified areas experiencing rampant violence in addition to the reaction team which is currently deployed in Manenberg, bringing the total to 14. The operational

strategy uses available data and statistics provided during the weekly engages with the City of Cape Town to plan, execute, monitor and coordinate deployment.

This approach allows for monitoring and evaluation for the purposes of increasing the effectiveness of LEAP and to ensure continuous improvement. The operational approach is executed in an integrated manner with all internal and external operational role-players in each of the identified policing areas through the area-based teams. The dominant LEAP arrests relate to drugs and liquor-related arrests. It shows that LEAP operations are directly impacting on the key causal factors of violence and murder, which are drugs and alcohol, which have been consistently reported to be the case with regards to alcohol and drugs within our top 10 homicide communities, and that definitely leads to an increase in our murder rate as well.

LEAP operations will continue in its contribution of halving the murder rate by regulating and reducing the dealing of drugs, liquor, gun confiscations and related crimes within these communities.

Part (b) of that particular question is specific reference to the R50 million reduction. I want to state for the record the R50 million will not affect service delivery for the following reasons: this is a co-funding agreement with the City of Cape Town, who also contribute to the LEAP. It should also be noted that a further R10 million has been allocated for the establishment of LEAP stations. In effect this means that LEAP allocation is R360 million

for the current financial year. The additional funds demonstrate the Department's forward thinking in ensuring that community members have access to a physical LEAP structure to directly engage LEAP officers should they have the need to do so or feel uncomfortable in approaching the South African Police Service.

Hon Speaker, we will never want to politicise and I would want to literally quote Khalid Sayed who quoted earlier on that we must stop playing this political games. We are dealing with people. The hon Premier has made a bold statement. The hon Premier has made a bold statement to put money in order to help and assist the South African Police Service. [Interjections.]

I am so delighted at last week during MINMEC it became extremely clear that places like the Western Cape and Gauteng was also noted, that were contributing and helping the South African Police Service as the lead agency. So yes, we are making strides. [Interjections.] In five of the stations we are seeing reductions. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, hon members – hon member Dugmore. Order hon members.

So hon member Bans will have the first opportunity, then hon member Kama, hon member Christians and hon member Bosman, in that order.

Hon member Kama, I see you. Hon Minister Simmers and hon member

Marran, can you please allow the member on the floor to have an opportunity.

[Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, the incident last week in Ocean View was a stark reminder of how the MEC and his Government are not caring about the people of the Cape Flats. What was more painful was to read a statement by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Community Safety, where he speaks of parliamentary oversight, knowing that there will be no committee between now up until the end of June for Community Safety.

However, the question is we are spending millions annually on the Safety Plan, we are spending millions on NHWs. How much of these funds will go out to the Ocean View community? How much support is the Department through the Safety Plan giving to the Ocean View community? If I can just get a specific answer on that one. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. Hon Minister, Minister Allen.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon member Bans, for that particular follow-up question.

We have noted that that particular murder, mass murder in Ocean View was

during loadshedding. It is a stark reminder once again ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... how difficult it can be for our SAPS members and for our law enforcement agencies. So I will provide a detailed reply to hon member Bans, hon Speaker, on specific reference to the Ocean View question. [Interjections.] Thank you.

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

Hon members, can I please ask you to settle down. Hon member Kama is the next person to pose his follow-up question and he is on the hybrid system. Hon member Kama.

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I think the question is linked to the target that Government would have set for itself when it pronounced the Safety Plan and the aim, the target being that of halving the murder rate by 2029, and perhaps what we are interested in getting from the MEC is an understanding of is Government still promising the people of the Western Cape that it is committed or putting up plans that will ensure that we get to half the murder rate by 2029?

Because as hon member Bans is saying that, and as the MEC would know, crime is a moving target. So our approach should have an integrated approach. Now is the MEC convinced that by 2029 we would have halved the murder rate while we have this decrease and targets are set out of an analysis that would have been made, and to just now move away from them would be a betrayal to the citizens of the province. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon Speaker.

I have caught some of the comment and some of the questions, I will answer this in this particular fashion, through you to hon member Kama, we remain, our conviction, that we are needing to step up, we are needing to put extra boots on the ground, considering the severe under-resourcing in our province.

We have seen the benefit of LEAP, we have seen the benefit of what we are doing in Community Safety, in Police Oversight, that is actually strengthening the hand of the South African Police Service. We remain a key partner to the South African Police Service as the lead agency to fight crime, but we are wanting to give no particular department, no entity, a free pass. We want to make sure that the work that Correctional Services is doing is actually leading towards safer communities. The work that each and every department in the Western Cape is doing it, that the City of Cape Town is



doing and across our province is doing.

So that is, that remains our aim and it is very bold and it is very ambitious when the hon Premier made that particular commitment to actually put a target to it, but I think if we are needing to be honest with ourselves, here we have a Premier that is bold, ambitious and he put a target to it, but if all of us must take the time to reflect on it, that does not automatically mean, hon Speaker, that we are okay with 50% of our people being murdered in our province.

So unfortunately we would ideally want to live in a world where there are no murders, where our people's lives are not taken by unscrupulous gangsters, or where there is gender-based violence that leads to murders, we would never want to see that in our society. So we have put that particular target and we will do everything in our power to work with all role-players and work with our Opposition to ensure that we ultimately reach that particular target, and I am looking forward to actually working more closely with our o\Opposition members because we are wanting to work together, and in 2029 we can all say we have reached that particular target to ensure that our residents and our young people can live in a world where they can be whatever they want to be. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Allen.

I now see hon member Christians, he is also on the hybrid system.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Just a question, I just want to latch onto hon member Bans. Last night I was out in Ocean View because of the problems in Ocean View. Hon Minister, look, you are and the Province is committed to halving the murder rate, but this mass murder of six people, it is – you know, it is unacceptable.

The question that I have is I saw now, now again six people were killed and the two accused that appeared were - it was struck off the roll because they did not appear. Their legal lawyer said that they did not appear within 48 hours. So that brings more attention to the community, knowing six people were killed and now the two accused are walking free.

I want the hon Minister to maybe assure us today that the Court Watching Briefs will assist in that matter, because it just brings more tension in the community and from that more murders or assaults or stuff can occur. I am very concerned and that is why I was last night there with a team just to go speak to the community, but that is very concerning. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much.

I appreciate the input and the question from hon member Christians. I can confirm that as of this morning I have already written to the DPP, Advocate Nicola Bell, to request that particular intervention from the NPA.

I have also written to General Patekile in this regard. We have seen that that particular motive in the Ocean View killing is gang-related. However, we remain committed to make sure that the Court Watching Briefs were monitored as well and I will also, via the office and the Ministry request that correspondence be made available to this Standing Committee Chairperson so that can also be circulated to all members, because we are wanting to foster these relationships and we have engaged the NPA.

The 48 hour rule and to bring a suspect in, is a standard procedure and it does bring me and it – †dit maak n mens hartseer – [it saddens one] - if the 48 hour rule was not adhered to, which is a straightforward undertaking that should have happened, but we have already in our oversight role taken that particular matter up and have formally written, like I have said, to the DPP and the PC in this regard. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

The last opportunity is hon member Bosman. Hon Bans, I did see your hand, but that was unfortunately after hon member Bosman. Hon member Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, through you. In the Department and the LEAP programme's quest to half the murder rate, we know that big strides have been made to remove illegal firearms off the streets of the Western Cape. If the Minister can perhaps elaborate on how many guns have been confiscated by LEAP officers, and if you can perhaps translate that into how many murders have potentially been prevented in the Western Cape through the work of LEAP?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon ...[intervenes] hon Minister.  
[Interjections.]

Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon member Bosman, for that particular question.

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: For  
this current ...

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: For  
the financial year ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can I just, before you continue, I trust that your answer will not be in anticipation of the following question on the Question Paper. So I just want to caution you to anticipation and the rule of anticipation.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon Speaker, for your guidance. I will answer it in straightforward terms.

That in the financial year 2022/2023, 174 firearms was confiscated directly by LEAP officers. Studies have consistently showed that one illegal firearm potentially contribute to 12 murders and I will ask that the Minister of Education do the actual calculation on 174 times 12 and provide that to hon member Bosman. [Interjections.]

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

Hon members, that brings us to the end of that question that was stood over.  
[Interjections.] Order, hon members!

We are now moving on to Question 6 on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] I now see hon Minister, Minister Allen. [Interjections.]

**6. Mr G Bosman to ask Mr R I Allen, Minister of Police Oversight and**

**Community Safety:**

With regard to confiscations of a large number of illegal firearms by LEAP officers in recent months:

- (1) (a) What is the procedure for disposing of these firearms and (b) what procedures, if any, are in place to ensure that these firearms do not find their way back into the hands of criminals;
- (2) whether the current method for disposing of illegal firearms could be improved; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether there are any instances in which the same illegal firearms have been confiscated more than once; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you so much, hon Speaker.

I do appreciate this particular question as it relates to the number of illegal firearms by LEAP officers that have been taken off our streets. The first part of the question, the search and seizure procedures in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act apply. All recovered firearms are taken to the local South African Police Service station where it must be booked into the SAP13. It then immediately becomes the responsibility of the South African Police Service.

The SAPS, who is the owner of this particular process, must answer this particular question and we have already escalated that to the SAPS. The

Department is currently also in the process of making that information available to you.

Part (2) is the SAPS disposes of the firearms in two particular ways. Where the firearm is identifiable it is returned to the original owner. Where the firearm is unidentifiable, which means the serial number is filed off, it is destroyed through the various SAPS processes. I can confirm that I have had an engagement with the South African Police Service on 24 February and a subsequent letter was received on 10 March, which we are quite excited about regarding the development of a process where we will have a dedicated firearm destruction site here in the Western Cape. We have received written confirmation from the South African Police Service that they are keen in the Western Cape to ensure that that particular process comes to fruition, and we have now taken it up with National as there is a certain directive where we need approval in that regard.

The Question (3). We have also directed to the SAPS forensic lab who inspects and test all recovered firearms, especially where there is a serial number that is missing. As soon as that information becomes available I will make it available to the administration for circulation.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Before I see hon member Bosman, I just want to advise members that the order will be as follows: hon member Bosman, hon member Christians, hon

member Bans and hon member Kama, and that will bring us to the end of those four opportunities. Hon member Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, through you to the hon Minister. Hon Minister, we know that it has been years since the Western Cape has had a dedicated firearm destruction site, and currently firearms are being transported to Pretoria, as we have been told by both the provincial SAPS and national SAPS. They cannot trust the integrity of the process in the Western Cape.

I welcome that you have said that there is a conversation to bring back a dedicated site, but can I ask if any work is being done to ensure that the site identified in the Western Cape is not the same Kuils River site that is next to the Gupta-owned scrapyard, where we know multiple firearms were taken from the scrapyard that were owned by the ANC's, the Gupta family, and [Interjections.] then caught back on the streets?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bosman. Hon Minister.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, is the hon member Bosman willing to take a question?



The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, hon [Interjections.] – order, hon members! Hon member Sayed, hon member Bosman is not on the floor. [Interjections.]

I now – so [Interjections.] – hon Premier, hon members, please settle down. That is not a point of order and I am not going to ask hon member Bosman if he is prepared to take a question because he is not on the floor.

Hon Minister, I see you. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon Speaker.

I can confirm that the site made reference to by hon member Bosman is not the site that we are having engagement around with the South African Police Service. However, I am permitted, based on this particular letter that is signed by the Police Commissioner, I will quote parts of it, that we have come to the agreement that the crushing of firearms and the risk associated thereto, and the transportation, will be extremely low should it be here in the Western Cape.

We have visited Saldana Steel specifically with senior management from the South African Police Service. I have written to subject at a national level because for that procedure to take place here in the province we would need

permission in terms of National Instruction 6 of 2020 where permission should be given by National via the Divisional Commissioner of Visible Policing and Operations for such a deviation, and we will press on in that regard to make sure that the associated risk with transporting illegal firearms and confiscated firearms bi-annually up to Pretoria, is eliminated so that all guns can ultimately then lead to a place where it is ultimately destroyed and does not land back in our communities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

I now see hon member Christians.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, we also welcome the dedicated destruction site for the Western Cape because the Standing Committee did engage the police on that matter.

Hon Minister, if you can tell us, we were very concerned about the guns leaving Cape Town to the destruction site in Gauteng and are we assured that the number of firearms leaving this province is the same number of firearms being destroyed in Gauteng?

I think that is a major, major worry, because we know, I cannot understand that some of these weapons, I am not saying from that destruction, but some of the weapons that were so to say confiscated, kill multiple, are involved with multiple shootings. It is very concerning. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much, hon member Christians.

I can confirm in my engagements with the South African Police Service for the financial year 2022/2023 there were two particular shipments of weapons that were transported to Pretoria. I have received verbal communication at this stage, that there were no firearms that, during that particular Western Cape consignment, had reached our streets again illegally.

However, I would be more than happy to provide hon member Christians with a detailed reply that I will engage SAPS on as well, but I can confirm that we have been very diligent and I want to thank the Committee Chairperson for their diligence in this regards as well because we have received confirmation, or there was at least an appetite already since 2019, even before 2019, for a dedicated firearm destruction site, and I firmly believe that should more powers and policy directives and direction be given to our province, decisions like this could have been readily made by a Premier that is innovative and committed towards making sure that our province is safer. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon member Bans.

Ms A P BANS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

It is a known fact that the DA's latest tactic to push for devolution of policing functions to the Western Cape through is calling for establishment of centres to destroy these firearms in provinces.

My question, hon Speaker, is should we expect creation of these centres in the Western Cape through the Safety Plan like we have seen with the establishment of LEAP police stations here in the Western Cape? I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I am so sorry, I did not catch the question. [Interjections.]

Because I would not want to say something ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you speak to me and not get into dialogue [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: So sorry, I just missed the last part of the question.

The SPEAKER: Right. Please take your seat.

Hon Bans, I will allow you that opportunity to repose your question.

Ms A P BANS: I am going to look at the MEC.

The SPEAKER: No, please look at me and speak to me. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members!

Ms A P BANS: It is a known fact that the DA's latest tactic to push for devolution of policing functions to the Western Cape is through calling for the establishment of centres to destroy these firearms in provinces.

My question therefore is should we expect creation of these centres in the Western Cape through the Safety Plan like we have seen with the establishment of the LEAP police stations in the Western Cape? I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans.

Hon Minister, did you get that question? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Yes, thank you so much, hon member Bans, for that particular question.

I want to state for the record that the Deputy Minister indicated, and I would be more than welcome, hon Speaker, to make the recording available to you, which you could then circulate to hon member Bans as well, where the Deputy Minister of Police, stating for the record, that he is perfectly, that he is welcoming the call for a dedicated firearm destruction site here in our province [Applause.], and that he would do everything in his power to press ahead, and that recording was publicly available via the NCOP briefing that happened in 2020 already, and since then we have actually seen further traction.

So 2020 February the Deputy Minister, via a parliamentary question that I posed in the NCOP, confirmed that the Deputy National Minister of Police and, hon Speaker, maybe you can direct which political party that person belongs to, but he ultimately directed that there should be an appetite for the call, because in the Western Cape we believe in a contest of ideas, we believe in having an argument, and we are wanting to for that particular arguments to always land towards what is in the best interests of people.

I also welcome sentiments coming out of MINMEC where there is a call for a new policing model ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... from other provinces. [Applause.]

So it is not where the message is coming from, it is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... the merit of the argument, and the call for devolution is gaining ground, and we will continue with that because we want policing closer to the people, and we support the Premier's call in that regard, and we obviously will press on towards doing everything in our power, from LEAP stations to LEAP members, and further actions that we will take during this particular year, because we definitely need a new policing model, and I am so delighted that we have a Deputy Minister of Police that has echoed the sentiments, to eliminate the risk associated to firearms landing back in our streets, that the Western Cape, which is a big contributor to all illegal firearms confiscated, should actually have a dedicated firearm destruction site here in our province. Thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

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

Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

Order, hon members.

The next person is hon member Kama. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I want to get an understanding, hon Speaker, because, and I thank the response that was given by the MEC to the first and the second follow-up, because it is true that the Committee was discussing and we had a presentation of SAPS in the community around this issue, that they had sites that have been identified, and that they are akin and looking towards to having a destruction site here in the province that will also minimise the risk of what members are raising.

Now I want to get an understanding, hon Speaker, because the Committee now is not meeting and we have heard from hon member Bans it is not going to meet up until June. Will the MEC be having engagements with the Department, with SAPS, around this matter where members, or even if it is an issue of oversight, where members can be able to go in and pressure towards having a site that is going to be able to destruct in the province and we know that it will be done by the South African Police Service itself? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Kama.

Hon Minister, I trust you got that questions?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you so much.

I trust that I have heard correctly. Hon Speaker, we are looking at all potential options in this regard because we are wanting to make sure that our



Government actually save money in the long run. If we consider that guns are transported bi-annually, that is a human resource, but it is also a vehicle resource that is out of the province for a period of time. Bi-annually also there is risk associated to it should one firearm not reach Pretoria.

So we are looking, hon Speaker, through you to hon member Kama, we are looking at all possibilities to make sure that those guns are ultimately destroyed because what we have seen and studies have shown, like I have said, one illegal gun could potentially kill 12 to 14 people.

So we would never want that particular thing to happen. So we have given – the discussions are around hydraulic pressing to be installed at the Bellville South Central Store, but also with regards to either the burning or the melting of firearms and even the crushing of firearms, so that we eliminate and mitigate all associated risk thereto and we will definitely keep the Standing Committee up to date in that regard. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question 6 that stood over from 13 April. We now move over to Question 2 under new questions. I see the Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Mbombo. [Interjections.]

*New questions:*

**2. Mr T M Klaas to ask Dr N Mombo, Minister of Health and Wellness:**

With regard to the Presidential Youth Employment Stimulus to the Western Cape and the 1 600 job opportunities that were created by the Provincial Department of Health in 2021/22:

- (1) (i) How many of these were permanent posts and (ii) how many of these were internships;
- (2) whether her Department deems internships as employment opportunities of training opportunities?

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to hon member Klaas for the question.

The first part that he is asking, how many permanent posts in regard to the Presidential Youth Employment Stimulus to the Western Cape are interns or permanent posts. Indeed the 1 600 are internships that are under the structured youth development opportunities, and the other part of the question is about whether the Department deems internships as employment opportunities or training opportunities.

In this context, according to the EPWP definition, all these opportunities for these youth programmes are recorded as work opportunities or job creation, and also from the DPSA side, they also talk about these as developmental opportunities.

Just to add is that although we are talking about 1 600, which include also

other internships coming from our Department or Directorate of Engineering, in relation to the artisans, the overall internships that we have in the Department during this period it was 2 227. Thank you, hon member.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Hon members, I will now allow hon member Klaas to pose the first follow-up.

Mr M T KLAAS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

In a situation where a Youth Employment Stimulus is provided for any given financial year, what steps does your Government take to make sure that those employed due to it, continue to keep their posts or even beyond, even during the financial year in which the stimulus is not available? Thank you.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, in a recent reply by MEC Wenger to hon member Kama, she highlighted that youth unemployment is about 32% and over 98% of this is constituted by African and Coloured youth.

So is there a strategy of using Government employment initiative to target specifically and address the crisis of Coloured and African people in the province? Thank you.

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

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE: Thank you, hon member.

Again if we are specifically looking at this particular programme, which is the majority of some of the youth, coming from the Premier Advancement Youth Enrichment Programme as well. So it is about those young people who are coming for the internship, others are coming for learnership.

So it means that there is a feeder system. So it depends on what is there in the system. Currently for this particular question for the 1 600. When you categorise according to what you have asked, 42,65% were African. 56,5% were Coloureds. Because it actually focuses on those youth from the poorest background, and for all other categories it was zero point something.

So it depends what is out there from the pool and those will have applied, but what I know that from the Premier's side plus also as said by the departments, they always have these career exhibitions, inviting different schools across the province so that they could be able to apply when there is a need, even when they come out of the programme for the employment opportunities again they invite even the businesses where these young people could be able to apply, but generally for us we are influenced by what is there in the pool. Also what is it that we Health can absorb, for example, with a call centre,

with the admin assistants, with the laundry assistants and all of those, which are maybe in other departments, it could be different but for us, who are also using, I did make an example of the pharmacy interns and the pharmacy assistants, and the mortuary and all of those kinds of other stuff, they are the ones that we have taken.

Actually we have even taken a part of the learnership, the social workers, clinical psychologists, which previously we could not be able to do, and it is really sad after those two years, if you have extended to two years, to inform us, although it is meant for 12 months, that now they have to be out of the programme and become jobless. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members.

I saw hon member Baartman and I saw hon member Nkondlo. Colleagues, there are 43 seconds left of questions. So I am not going to allow any further follow-ups, because it is not fair to pose your question if you cannot get a response.

So that, hon members, will bring us to the end for Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.]

Hon members, we now move on to Questions to the Premier without Notice. As per Rule 204 I just want to remind members of two follow-ups by the member posing the question, which relates to the original question to the

reply.

The first question to the Premier without notice, as per Rule 204, is the hon member Marran.

### **Questions to the Premier without Notice**

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, hon Speaker, through you.

Hon Premier, recently in the City of Cape Town one of your councillors, Malusi Booi, was dismissed from his post as a Maco member and it seems because of the seriousness of that particular matter. The leader of the DA in the Province, the hon member Simmers, also suspended the membership of that particular person.

My question to you, hon Premier, does this Provincial Department of Infrastructure do business with gangsters?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, and thank you very much to the hon member Marran for that question, and it is interesting because I think it is in the public domain, I have already once seen that specific case where police have asked for, or gone into that specific MMCs office, taken computers, etcetera, and also from an official.

Within days of that happening and getting that information, the hon Minister Simmers will concur that I called for a meeting between our legal teams and the hon Minister Simmers to say I need to find out do we have any instance where this is happening in our Government. I have formally written to General Patekile and said to him, "General, I noticed what is happening in the City of Cape Town. It is of grave concern to me."

I think, as the hon member knows, the same kind of allegations are made through a court process in our police system, where they say gangsters are infiltrating our policing system, and there again we have also put processes in place to really go and have a look because absolutely it cannot be allowed that a gangster can be doing business with the state, or that a gangster can sit at the top table of our policing management system.

Of course in that meeting, and this is where it becomes very interesting, specifically in the case that is also in the public domain, there are these allegations of a contract, where they say it is the wife of a gangster and there again I asked the question, I said so if this is true, what can we do about it? And the first thing we have got to do is look at the rule of law and our legal team. I have asked him to go and investigate, to say at what stage can we put systems in place that could verify this?

At the moment the system is that there must be a judgment in a court of law that says this person is a gangster operating in the system and has been

charged and found guilty thereof, and this is the real difficulty in the system.

So I have actually asked our Department to go and have a look at whether there are any companies that could be in this category. I have asked the legal team to go and have a look at what is it that would actually raise these concerns and then what can we do about it? Obviously if it is a convicted person, well, then there are mechanisms that you can deal with it immediately. If there are not and just allegations, this is where it becomes difficult, but of course we need to have a look at that and see if we can put policy and rules in place that can make sure that we do not create any opportunity whatsoever that gangsters can be seen to be doing business with Government.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

Hon member Marran, you have now an opportunity to pose a follow-up, your first one.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, hon Speaker, and as I have said that the seriousness of the allegation was of such kind where the person was dismissed as a Maco member, and also his membership was terminated – not terminated, suspended by his party.

Now in the engagement, and it was in newspapers, the Mayor, with the Hawks, they mentioned two companies, which are linked to gangsters. I just



wanted to make this point, but also the previous MEC for Human Settlements came out publicly, the same as Malusi Booi, that when they arrived, being appointed as MEC and also as MMC, these companies were already doing business with this Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town, and I will hear from you, in your response that these persons have not been found guilty in a court of law and therefore regarded as gangsters.

What action is the Premier taking, going to take, to ensure that this Provincial Government does not do business with gangs?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Marran. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and obviously these questions [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, my apologies. Is your microphone on?

The PREMIER: Now it is.

The SPEAKER: There we go.

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The PREMIER: And I will say again, thank you very much, hon member Marran, and obviously quite a lot of the detail in the statement before the question came out, deals with obviously another sphere of government and I would imagine that in actual fact the councillors, [Interjections.] I think the ANC have got competent councillors in the City of Cape Town, that they are actually taking their role very seriously. [Interjections.]

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

The PREMIER: And are looking at this matter in the City. The second thing is, ja, it is quite interesting when I am listening to the hon member because I have also read that statement from the previous MEC, saying that even when he was appointed. It would be interesting to see whether this company started doing business with this Government when ANC was in power in this province. [Interjections.] That could actually be the fact, but it will be interesting. Maybe we should go and dig that far back and see.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Answer the question!

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: I am hearing the interjections saying, "Answer the question," and I actually did answer it the first time I answered his first part of the question, but I will say it again, that I have engaged formally with the Minister of Infrastructure, with his administration and the legal team in our

Government, to say that I need an investigation to go and have a look at those specific companies that they mentioned, and go and have a look at how these contracts are awarded and whether there is any tangible linkage and what we can do about it.

So I have done that and then added to that, as I have said earlier, that I have also written to the Police Commissioner in the province, General Patekile, to say that I am aware that in the City there have been meetings between the investigations unit on this case and the Municipality, and I have said that our Government is available to meet with that team at any stage because we really want to make sure that we find ways in which we deal with this decisively, and I will say that again, decisively.

I also would like to say to the hon member Marran, who seems to know a fair amount about this, that I also would request if he has any detail that could be used in this case by the police services, that he also makes that available to this investigation.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: I am not a gangster. [Interjections.] I never was and never will be.

An HON MEMBER: No one has ever said that.

Mr P MARRAN: And I am not doing deals with gangsters. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: The ANC ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... members, there was a hon member on the floor. Hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: We can assure you, hon Speaker, when the ANC was governing this province up until 2019, we have not done business with these companies. I even do not think that those companies have existed at that time.

Hon Premier, now that you have basically said that you have asked for an investigation into – and I believe this, the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, when can we expect the terms of reference of this investigation that you have asked for? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ... photographs of party congresses with gangsters with ANC T-shirts on at those party congresses. So he must not come and say things like that here. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Show us! Where is [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: I also want to say that ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I also want to say that ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members!  
[Interjections.] Hon members – hon Premier, please take your seat.  
[Interjections.]

Hon members, the hon Premier is responding to questions posed. You had an opportunity to pose your questions, the Premier must now respond. Please allow the Premier an opportunity to respond.

Hon Premier, over to you. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: But the question was what are the terms of reference for the investigation. There are not terms of reference for this investigation. I have had a meeting with the officials, with the Minister concerned and our legal teams, and the procurement teams are busy looking at which companies, what kind of contracts there are with the current names, and we also will then from

there, once we have got that detail back, actually look at whether there is anything we can do about it within the current framework, or can we rewrite procurement processes to make sure that this does not happen. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: There are terms of reference.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

Hon members, that is the end of the first Question to the Premier without Notice. I now see the hon member Kaizer-Philander. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you very much, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

†Die HOOFSWEEP [DA]: Agb Speaker, ek glo dat my vraag aan die agb Premier vanmiddag nie veel konteks nodig het nie, want dit is in die belang van elke inwoner van hierdie land, dit is in die belang van elke inwoner van die Wes-Kaap.

Agb Speaker, en dis nie 'n politiese vraag vanmiddag nie, maar dit is 'n vraag wat regtigwaar, ek glo, die nodige ...

[The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Hon Speaker, I believe that my question to the hon Premier this afternoon does not require much context, because it is in the interest of every citizen of this country, it is in the interest of every citizen of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, and it's not a political question this afternoon, but it's a question that really, I believe, the necessary ...]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, please take your seat.

Hon member Dugmore, is that a point of order? So what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Point of order. We are on Questions to the Premier. So far, after a minute of speaking, we have not heard a question. If I can ask you please to ask the hon Chief Whip to ask a question. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, I will listen carefully.

Hon Chief Whip, over to you. Please pose your question.

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and as a mother we have to face the reality, that after a long day of work you are unable to go and cook for your family.

When you enter your town this evening it will be complete darkness as if it is doomsday, and I thank God that I live in a municipality run by the DA, that has got traffic lights at the major intersections because ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, please pose your question.

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, my question to the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... hon Premier this afternoon, what progress has the Western Cape Government made to make the Western Cape the first loadshedding free province in this country? [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and obviously this question, I mean you could hear from the hon member, and I think that is exactly what citizens feel across this country every single day; part of it was the question asked by the hon member Klaas earlier today about what kind of



interventions.

Now the interesting thing is that normally provinces do not do this, but we have been forced into doing this. I want to say that, I mean obviously we have got the R1,1 billion plan, and how that is going to help different local authorities.

I also want to say that it is very interesting to see once that intent has been put out there and that we are engaging through our local governments, pulling them all together. It does not matter which political party runs them, every single municipality in this province, saying what are we going to do to make sure that we mitigate this risk as quickly as possible, to bring about as much change as possible for our citizens, because as the hon member says, mothers in our province are setting their alarms for 3 o'clock in the morning because they have got to get prepared for the morning before the 4 o'clock loadshedding kicks in, because they know that day after day they wake up in the morning, preparing the children for school when there are no lights. It is a total, total failure of the ANC and now provinces have to step in, and this province.

And I think with our full plan, what is interesting for me is that we, since October last year, started to concretise this plan, put an Energy Council together, put a budget together, announced that budget. That budget is now in play. Part of the conversation earlier in Questions to Parliament how we are helping indigent households.

This question following through, how do we make sure that we have got municipalities that are first in South Africa to be loadshedding-free. And I want to say that for me, before I get to those individual municipalities, the interesting thing is how those municipalities are now just like us, starting to put budgets aside for this crisis ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Well, there is a cost ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: For this crisis.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He cannot answer that.

The PREMIER: And ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order. The hon Premier is on the floor.

The PREMIER: And this Province putting R1,1-billion aside ...[Interjections.] The budget now announced by the City of Cape Town for energy relief at R2,3-billion. You see what is happening in George, in Mossel Bay, in Saldanha Bay, in Stellenbosch and so, across our municipalities you are starting to see the budgets come out and the work that is being done. So, we are probably seeing ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: ...somewhere between five ...[Interjections.] and six ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. I rise on Rule 39, and I think as the poser of this question, I have a right to hear what the hon Premier's response is. If the ANC does not like what they hear, they do not have to listen ...[Interjections.] but I believe the residents of the Western Cape also want to hear what the hon Premier wants to say. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I get your point. Thank you very much. Hon members, ...[Interjections.] can I please ask ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]... the Premier.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon members, there are Questions to

the Premier without Notice. It is done according to the Rules. The hon member posed a question; the hon Premier is now responding. Interjections are allowed but should not drown out the speaker. Can I please ask that you allow the hon Premier to complete or allow the hon Premier the opportunity to answer the question.

Now, if you do not like what is being said, I mean I cannot rule on that, but what I can rule on is to maintain the decorum of this House. So, can I please ask that you work with me in order for us to conclude this part of this session. Hon Sayed, I have seen your hand, but I am still on the floor, so please take your seat. Hon members, can you please work with me in order for us to get through this section. Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker, thank you very much. According to Rule 39 it says:

“A member may not converse aloud during the debate.”

I did not hear ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...anybody conversing aloud. What I heard were normal interjections. I could hear the hon Premier clearly. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon member Philander is even sitting closer to the hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...than what I am.

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjections.] Hon Sayed, hon members, I have made a ruling on that. Can I please ask that you do not drown out the speaker on the floor. Interjections are allowed but should not drown out the speaker and should not affect the decorum of the House. [Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon Windvogel. Hon Premier, you may proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. So obviously, the question is about municipalities or the Province becoming, mitigating risk of loadshedding. And already, Cape Town is far ahead of any other city in South Africa.

I think what we are seeing, which is very interesting for me, is the almost competitive nature, competitiveness nature of Local Government. So, seeing the innovative stuff that is happening in George at the moment is really cool. It is nice to see the piloting of projects on wheeling and energy trading and

of course, that municipalities themselves have even last year and the year before, been investing in mitigation programmes, in making sure that they are getting to use less and less energy in a process of getting themselves as energy efficient as possible.

I think for us, for me the first thing that is really going to give a clear indication over and above helping indigent households, which I do not want to repeat as we have had that in an earlier question, is the IRP. So now, for the first time, a province will have an IRP and that will give real clarity down to municipal levels, what kind of energy is needed. I think linked to the IRP will be the pooled buying possibilities and the grid system itself and of course, there are all these various programmes that are within this plan that is going to help us mitigate this risk, to make sure that we end loadshedding.

But the interesting thing is, this brings me to the numbers game; and, I remember taking part in the debate in the National Assembly and looking at this absolute crisis in South Africa in numbers' forms. And, you know that as of today, we have had since September last year one – oh, three days since September last year. Three days without loadshedding in South Africa. Can you believe that number? Three days. We have got three Ministers and we have not had; we have only had three days without loadshedding. That is just unacceptable.

But of course, the biggest problems that we have are we have had over five

and a half thousand days of loadshedding since 2008. And we have had more than 3 000 days since the President was actually appointed as the responsible Minister for the Eskom war room. Years ago, that was his responsibility. And then, of course, since the President made those drastic announcements post the big blackouts that we saw in July last year that really shocked the country or did not shock the country because there was no power, but there are 260 days since that has ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, we have come to the end of Questions to the Premier, but I am going to allow you an opportunity to conclude.

The PREMIER: So, the problem is and the question is: loadshedding-free. And that is the task that we are all focused on day and night, the private sector, the municipalities and this Provincial Government, to make sure that we enable our citizens through these programmes within the next months and the next years to become loadshedding-free because it is the loadshedding that is killing jobs. It is the loadshedding ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ...that has been putting pressure on every single citizen in this province. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That, hon members, brings us to the end of Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204. Hon

members, we will now proceed to Members Statements as per Rule 145. I now recognise the DA.

## **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on Friday the Standing Committee on Education visited – ag sorry, this week, we visited the two schools on our programme. The two schools were Springdale Primary as well as Summerdale High School. We were quite amazed at the incredible pace of construction in terms of the number of days and that it has been built for 530 additional learners in total interspace in just a few months.

At Springdale Primary, seven new fully furnished classrooms were built at a cost of R9,7-million, which include the professional fees and the VAT taxes, providing space for a maximum of 280 learners. Four of these are being used for Grade 7 learners as they prepare for their transition to secondary schooling, which came from the High School that we also visited. The remaining three will be used for special education and support programmes, including the Wordworks Literacy Programme, teaching for learners with special education needs and lay-counselling to assist members in need. Principal Brown at the school reported that the members of the SGB at the school had called the classrooms:

“Manna from heaven”



And that they are:

“Elated...”

...at their new facilities.

At Summerdale High School they received five classrooms with the space of a maximum of 250 learners and these were built at a cost of R7,2-million, including the professional fees and VAT taxes. And they will be used for Grade 10 and Grade 11 students. The Acting Principal Baartman – yes, the same surname, but I do not know if we are family; and it is not because there is not a principal, Principal Van Rooi was sick – reported that they invited the community members in the area to view the new classrooms and they had been so impressed by the new facilities that they had asked the school if there could be upgrades at the existing facilities completed in the exact same manner. I am very elated for the fact that because it is a curriculum extension school with new grades coming, that there will be new classrooms as well.

And as the DA, we would like to congratulate the Hon Minister and the Department on coming together, on doing what this Government does best and that is getting things done. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. I now see the ANC, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. On behalf of the African National Congress, I wish to congratulate President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa for the overwhelming success of last week's Investment Conference. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: President Ramaphosa has been able to surpass his initial target of securing ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...R1,2-trillion ...[Interjections.] in investment in five years, by ensuring that R1,5-trillion is pumped into our country's economy, as well as the Western Cape economy.

This is the type of leadership that South Africa needs at the moment and this is the type of leadership that the Western Cape actually yearns for. In fact, this investment conference promises so much for the Western Cape, if only our Local Department of Economic Development and Tourism would grab these opportunities. In addressing the conference last week, the President pointed out that the digital economy was one of the many sectors that benefitted immensely from this investment drive and that over R200-billion has been secured for the telecommunications sector.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon members on my righthand side, there is an hon member ...[Interjections.] Hon Dugmore, my apologies. Please take your seat. Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor. The hon members on my right, can you please afford the hon member on the floor an opportunity to deliver his Member Statement ...[Interjection.]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Die waarheid maak seer.  
[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The truth hurts.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, please speak to me.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: In addressing the conference last week, hon Speaker, the President pointed out the issue of the digital economy and there were over R200-billion secured in this sector of telecommunications. At the same time, the President noted the potential the Investment Conference had for job creation and that the fund would soon launch a new model for demand-led skills development, which will provide R800-million to fund training for unemployed young people with digital skills.

President Ramaphosa does not just promise, he delivers. [Interjections.] This is not about PR, but it is about substance. We have seen that ...[Interjections.] Witzenberg, in form of Wolseley, has already benefitted from a massive investment in our own province ...[Interjections.] which we

assisted with the Belgians to make that happen. Having beaten his own target by over 25%, President Ramaphosa has set a new target of R2-trillion by 2028.

The ANC would not wait for hon Premier Winde to go on an investment drive because it will never happen. Rather, he went on an investment drive in 2018 when he was the MEC, but then instead of positioning the whole province, he simply went to position on city – Cape Town – to investors. The DA will never achieve the kind of quality of investment that the ANC National Government has been able to achieve since 2020. We say: phambili, Ramaphosa, phambili and that is why ...[Interjections.] [Laughter.] that is why [Applause.] ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon Dugmore, please ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is why ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...the African National Congress will exceed 50% plus 5 [Laughter.] in 2024. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. [Applause.] Hon members.

[Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon members! Okay, hon members, enough now. We have come to the end of that Member Statement. I now will afford the EFF an opportunity. The EFF? Hon members, the EFF is on the hybrid system. Please settle down in the Chamber. [Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, hon member Klaas is supposed to read out the statement, but I have got his statement with me if I am allowed to read it. I am not sure what happened to him.

The SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon Cassiem, you may continue. It is allocated to the political party and not to an individual member. So, you may continue.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): The Economic Freedom Fighters is shocked and dismayed ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Sorry, sorry, hon Speaker. Sorry, hon Speaker.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Okay, no problem. I will – okay, sure.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon Klaas.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Sorry, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Hallo.

The SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? [Laughter.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): No, it is not a point of order. I just apologised because my ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members in the Chamber, please ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): ...my phone did not want to ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...allow me. I cannot hear the hon member. [Interjections.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): *Ja*, I am apologising because my phone did not want to open. I am sorry for my colleague for interrupting him. I can continue. Thank you. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, okay. Hon members in the Chamber. Hon Klaas, I need to, for the record, rule that that is not a point of order. You may continue. My apologies, hon Cassiem.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): The Economic Freedom Fighters are shocked and dismayed by the murder of a businessman and a community activist, Loyiso Nkohla, who was shot and killed by assassination in Philippi on Monday

morning, 17 April 2023. Those who were close to comrade Nkohla in his lifetime, describe him as someone who was courageous, fearless and ready to take a risk in order to advance the interest of poor and struggling communities.

The circumstances surrounding the murder of comrade Nkohla is a constant reminder of the environment in which we live in, especially in the Western Cape townships where crime and murder continue unabated and remain the order of the day. Our poor people are being exploited on a daily basis by marauding gangs belonging to criminal syndicates, who continue to demand protection fees from them in a situation where the victim must choose between giving in to their demands or face death.

All this takes place under the full watch of the powers that be in government, who continue to watch mercilessly and idly as they refuse to spend resource on our people and only reserve those resources for themselves in a form of VIP protection services. Those in power ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, please conclude your sentence.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Having said that, the EFF would like to extend heartfelt condolences to the family of comrade Nkohla, as well as those communities who benefitted from his activities and leadership. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Klaas. I now see the Democratic

Alliance.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, loadshedding is a crisis deeply rooted in the ANC's mismanagement and has severely hampered infrastructure projects across the Western Cape. Unreliable electricity supply is a direct consequence of the National Government's failure to address energy issues. It disrupts construction projects, raises their costs and extends completion timelines for critical infrastructure projects. Residents are now denied from accessing essential services on time due to power shortages.

Hon Speaker, rolling blackouts have worsened community safety concerns through the heightened risk of fire accidents, particularly in informal settlements reliant on alternative energy sources during power outages, such as candles. The detrimental impact of loadshedding ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Ms L M MASEKO: ...on human settlements ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Maseko, my apologies. Please take a seat. Hon Bans, is that a point of order?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Yes, yes, hon Speaker, but I am withdrawing. I was seeing while the hon member was on the floor, we had an hon member there



not speaking, having his video on. I wanted to call order on that thing.

The SPEAKER: Okay, my apologies ...[Interjection.] Thank you. Please, sit down. Hon Maseko, my apologies for interrupting you. You may continue.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Apology accepted. The detrimental impact of loadshedding on human settlements projects obstructs the Western Cape Government's service delivery efforts and that is a fact. The Provincial Department of Infrastructure in response to the energy crisis, exacerbated by the ANC's mismanagement, has been proactively implementing energy initiatives to ensure a sustainable and energy resilient future for the province.

Hon Speaker, the Provincial Infrastructure Department has committed R61,9-million towards various energy initiatives in their 2023/2024 financial year. This significant investment demonstrates the Department's dedication to addressing the energy challenges faced by the province. The funds will support energy efficiency programmes for public and private buildings, promoting the adoption of energy-saving technologies to reduce energy consumption. R24-million has been designated for the installation of solar geysers in 976 households. This initiative not only promotes the use of clean energy, but also alleviates the financial burden of energy costs ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Maseko, please conclude.

Ms L M MASEKO: ...on vulnerable communities. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure remains dedicated to advancing energy initiatives, despite the challenges presented by the ANC-led National Government. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Maseko. I now recognise GOOD.

Mr S N AUGUST (GOOD): Hon Speaker, no statement from us.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it boggles the mind that ten municipalities in the Western Cape have not been ringfenced to receive Conditional Grants for 2023. National Treasury has stopped more than R60-million in Conditional Grants.

According to the National Minister of Finance, the affected municipalities have failed to meet objectives, namely the Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management Grant, the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, the Municipal Road Asset Management Systems Grant and the Integrated Electrification Programme Grant. These municipalities guilty of not achieving these objectives are Overstrand, Cape Winelands, Cederberg, Witzenberg, Cape Winelands, Bito, Saldanha Bay, Kannaland, Knysna and Beaufort West. Hon Speaker, this is not acceptable and requires action by the Minister of Local

Government in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I now see the ANC.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, communities play a pivotal role in the fight against crime. This was displayed by the ANC during its tenure of governance in the province through various successful programmes in partnership with communities like the Bambanani Against Crime Initiative as well as giving sufficient support to CPFs. [Interjections.] The 2008/2009 Annual Reports show that the Western Cape recorded a whopping 23,9% decrease in ratio of murder reported. That was at the time of Bambanani. The ANC did not spend R1-billion to achieve this. It was through giving communities a meaningful role to play on crime prevention: take lessons. This is still possible even today if only the DA listens to our advice.

The Safety Plan must prioritise addressing the causative factors of crime. It must prioritise investment towards addressing environmental design issues which makes the environment conducive to crime and the weakening of sabotage to CPFs must end, hon Speaker. Despite the Western Cape facing serious challenges of gun violence, extortion and other violent crimes, the role of communities in addressing these crimes has not been clearly defined and stipulated. Therefore, the ongoing senseless killings of innocent civilians, Government officials, and political leaders due to extortion, should be placed solely on the DA's doorstep. Learn from the ANC and prioritise the

role of communities in the fight against crime. [Interjections.]

We are calling on the hon Premier to institute an urgent investigation into the allegations of collusion between the DA's administration and gangs in the province, like he did when there were similar allegations against SAPS. We are merely calling for consistency. That is all. I thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bans. [Applause.] I now see the Democratic Alliance. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. The Democratic Alliance, hon Sileku. [Interjections.]

Mnr I M SILEKU (DA): † Agb Speaker, baie dankie vir die geleentheid. Goeie middag. [Mr I M SILEKU: Hon Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Good afternoon]. Hon Speaker, South Africa's energy crisis deepens. Responsible governance must be implemented at all levels of government to address the looming Eskom grid collapse. ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): The Democratic Alliance, recognising the urgency of the situation, sent out [2:21:06] application to all other provincial CoGTA departments to test their preparedness for a disaster like a total grid collapse. †Raai, raai, wat was die antwoord? Ons was nie ge-shock nie. [Guess, guess, what was the reply? We were not shocked.] None of them could

provide us with a Disaster Management Plan. [Interjections.] It is not surprising that only the DA-led Western Cape has a comprehensive Disaster Management Plan in place, to deal with such crises.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Department of Local Government has developed a 48-page document, outlining an integrated contingency plan in case of a major electricity disruption. Moreover, the Province is planning to distribute emergency loadshedding kits to 100 000 indigent households across the province, at a cost of R60-million. And, hon Speaker, the majority of municipalities in the Western Cape do, indeed, have indigent policies. So, the data is already there. We know which households will benefit.

The DA-run Western Cape is leading the way in dealing with the ANC-created crisis, setting a perfect example for provinces to follow. We are determined to continue fighting for South Africans so that if the ANC's self-made disaster of total electrical grid collapse occurs, we will have proper methodical plans in place to deal with any crisis and prevent being flung into yet another declared State of Disaster caused by our beloved ANC that is dying. Hon Speaker, true leadership is evidence in the Western Cape. We do not need to learn from a dying ANC. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sileku. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Sileku. The Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is [Inaudible.]

pride after accolades were heaped on Dr Corné Mulder, the Freedom Front Plus Chief Whip, Western Cape Leader and Chairman of the Gauteng Metro Coalition, by a prominent political commentator and businessman, Rob Hersov, recently. He described Dr Mulder as an incredible man with heaps of political savvy and strong Christian conservative principles. But in contrast, he noted that under the ANC, this country was currently run by a criminal cartel that allowed a convicted serial rapist and killer, Bester, to escape ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...from prison, organised transit heists and destroyed electricity pylons in Pretoria. He concluded that the President has appointed a useless Cabinet and that South Africa deserves better. We call on South Africans to wake up and rid this country of the ANC ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...which is destructive, before it destroys whatever is still left of a once prosperous, vibrant economy, while ANC cadres ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...live in corrupt luxury. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Hon members, I now see Al Jama-Ah. What is your point of order, hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: A point of order. I just want to ask did...[Interjection.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much ...[Audio distorted.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Marais, did he see what we ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, I just need to. Al Jama-Ah, please note there is a point of order. I will recognise you now.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): [Audio distorted.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, I am on the floor. [Interjections.] I will allow you an opportunity. The hon member Brinkhuis, my apologies. I will recognise you now. Hon Dugmore, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, once again,

we do not want to disrupt the protocol of this House, but as we indicated last time, every time hon Marais speaks, whether virtually, we will hold these up. Not to disrespect the decorum of the House, but to send a clear message that racism cannot be tolerated.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Okay, that is not a point of order. Hon Brinkhuis, I now recognise you ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): You are a racist man. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjections.] hon members ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: We do not address ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, please settle down. I now see hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. As from tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, about 2-billion Muslims throughout the world will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr after bidding farewell to the holy month of Ramadan, a month of spiritual upliftment and social activism to assist the less fortunate. It is obligatory on Muslims to give charity before the day of Eid by donating money, food, clothing to the less fortunate so they, too, can enjoy this day of celebration. Thousands of pots



of food will be cooked which will be distributed to the needy.

The holy Prophet Mohammad *sallallahu alaihi wasallam*, may Allah's [Inaudible.] peace and blessings always be upon him, says this divine feast should be used to help the needy and the oppressed. Hence, we have seen the recent show of solidarity for the oppressed and dispossessed Palestinians, Kashmiris in India and all other oppressed communities throughout the world. In conclusion, Al Jama-Ah calls on all Muslims in our country to foster bonds of unity. They should also ignite amongst all the marginalised people. So, we pray that the Eid prayers nurture and boost that unity in such a manner that it restores all the suppressed and downtrodden communities' dignity. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr G PRETORIUS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, last week a man was bitten by a Cape cobra in Noordhoek. In a province with six species of venomous snakes, this is not an uncommon occurrence, but this time there was no ready supply of antivenom to treat him. This is a fact that should worry all of us in this House. Antivenom is a lifesaving medication and the shortage of it poses an unacceptable risk to the health of our province.

Unfortunately, hon Speaker, the blame for this situation must be laid solely at the feet of the National Minister of Health. Our Department has spent

months trying to acquire more antivenom, but these have been severely hampered by the massive order backlog at the National Government controlled South African Vaccine Producers, the only producers of monovalent antivenom in South Africa. Authorities have blamed loadshedding for delays in production. Yet another example of the ANC's ongoing power cuts scuppering efforts to public health in South Africa.

But, hon Speaker, these excuses do not remedy the situation on the ground. Minister Phaahla has claimed that he is:

“Monitoring...”

...the growing backlog of orders. But this course of action simply does not cut it. Minister Phaahla and the South African Vaccine Producers should be taking urgent action to remedy this situation. If they do not, the consequences could be dire, and people may lose their lives in entirely foreseeable and preventable circumstances. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6) I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present, an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish. [Interjections.] Okay, it does not look like that. That brings us to the end of Member Statements.

## **MOTIONS**

The SPEAKER: Hon members, in terms of Rule 151, all Notices of Motions by hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

### **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the eradication of pit latrines at schools nationally.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

The SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 150, we now move on to Motions without Notice. I would like to inform the hon members that in terms of Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolences and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 11 April 2023. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolences, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority. I have been informed by the Programming Authority meeting of 11 April 2023, political parties did submit the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting

of the House.

I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members' names who have accordingly been submitted and approved. The following members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon D M Baartman, hon D America, hon F C Christians, hon R Windvogel, hon M Kama, hon P Z Lekker, hon A P Bans. Hon members, I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House.

#### **MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the learners and teachers of the Protea Heights Academy, the Wesbank Secondary School, the Spine Road High School and the Bredasdorp High School who took part in the SITA CSR Robotics Challenge; notes that the competition saw learners from across the country showcase their innovative and ingenious designs, which ranged from a robotic bin that automatically separates recyclable metal to a wearable device to assist blind learners; congratulates especially teacher Mr Donald Cook and Grade 9 learners Zoë Coetzee, Anzia Coetzee, Mande Mari Darby and John William Shepherd of the Bredasdorp High School who designed an automated cart to keep elderly people who have fallen supplied with prescription medication; notes that

this design took second place overall in the competition, winning R600 000 in cyber laboratory equipment for their school; and notes that the dedication, hard work and intelligence of the learners from these schools are inspiring and gives one hope for a better future for the Western Cape.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr D AMERICA: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Traffic Services for their commendable efforts in ensuring road safety during the Easter holidays; and commends them for their exceptional work in preventing any fatal crashes from occurring in the Western Cape.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Elana Solomon who graduated with her Master's degree from Stellenbosch University; notes that it was reported (*IOL News*, 30 March 2023, Jolene Mariah-Magaraj) that her hearing disability did not deter her from achieving her goals; notes that she plans to use her degree to empower the lives of children with hearing disabilities; and salutes her achievement and wishes her well for her

future endeavours.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I move without notice:

That the House notes and commends the World Transplant Games Federation, a UK-based non-profit organisation, that aims to promote amateur sport among organ transplant recipients, living donors and donor families; notes further and lauds the organisation for hosting the largest sporting event for organ transplant recipients in the world, which will take place from 15 to 21 April 2023 in Perth, Australia; notes that Malmesbury's 39-year-old transplant patient, Brandley Arendse, has been selected to represent South Africa against other organ transplant recipients in the 30–39 age group in the 100-metre sprint race in the track and field competition; and congratulates and wishes him well.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr M KAMA: I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Luphiwana Mark Mayambela on the successful completion of his Irish Football Association UEFA B Diploma; notes that, before this, Mayambela had obtained the CAF coaching licence; and wishes one of Khayelitsha's and Cape Town's

brightest stars well as he continues to rise and to equip himself on his new coaching journey.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing away of Mzwakhe Manayo, the leader of the organised workers of SAMWU and the civic movement; and commiserates with his family and loved ones.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms A P BANS: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) in the Western Cape after doing a tremendous job in arresting eight suspects in George for the theft of funds from the South Cape Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in

each individual's name as if that hon member had read that aloud.

I will now afford the opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that 30 minutes per Standing Rule 150(2)(d) will start now. I recognise the hon – my apologies, the hon Murray.

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the untimely passing of journalist Graig-Lee Smith; notes that Mr Smith was a kind and gentle soul, and that his was a tragic loss, a loss of a young and talented person; recognises the passion he displayed for his work and that his passing will be felt in the Afrikaans and South African journalism industry more broadly; notes further the service he gave to the residents of the Western Cape Government in promoting accountability and transparency in governance, through his work; highlights the importance of addressing psychosocial issues, particularly among our young people and that this House relays its sentiments to the family of the deceased during this painful time. Rest in peace, Graig. We know that God has another angel among him now.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*



The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Murray. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Baartman.

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

That the House notes with great concern the reductions to the Western Cape's Provincial Equitable Share Health component; notes that when the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness provides home-care to our most needy citizens, this care is not considered at all in PES calculations; that it reject the system whereby capable governments are penalised for serving the interest of the people and incompetent governments are rewarded with additional funding; and finally notes that the PES formula is flawed and must be reviewed in order to ensure the Western Cape receives its fair share and can continue to provide quality services to the people of this province. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: I want it.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, there is. There is.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the hon Klaas.

Mr T M KLAAS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that Zwelihle Public Clinic in Hermanus is on the brink of collapse as it is failing to execute its service delivery duties; the clinic experiences long queues on a daily basis and the majority of these patients are turned away by the staff at the clinic due to inadequate staff at the facility; nurses and staff at the clinic complained that they are overworked and are unable to attend to every patient as the Western Cape Department of Health does not want to hire more staff to assist patients at this clinic; EFF calls on the Western Cape Minister of Health to attend to this issue as a matter of urgency and to also make sure that we have clinics operating 24/7. Cities such as Ekurhuleni in Gauteng have clinics operating for 24 hours Monday to Saturday, whilst the Western Cape Department of Health spends most of its time bragging about clean audits and not responding to the patients' needs. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

...[Interjections.] are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. [Interjections.] There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon Dugmore. [Interjections.] Hon members, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Ms Desiree Ellis, who hails from the Western Cape, on being awarded the national order, the Order of Ikhamanga in Gold, for her sustained encouragement to and advancement of women to succeed in their respective fields after she herself contributed excellently to the field of football; and further, that this House congratulates long-standing ANC activist and member, Keith Gottschalk, on being awarded the same order but in Silver. Mr Gottschalk, as the notation points out, used ‘his creativity to draw critical attention to oppressive and unjust laws through performative political poetry; work that motivated many to fight for liberation’, while some on the opposite side of this House supported the apartheid system.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: ...being moved without notice? [Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections? Hon members, just answer the question. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Thank you very much, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes with deep shock and sadness the brutal murder of former ANC councillor and ANC Youth League leader and human rights activist Loyiso Nkohla. Nkohla was shot dead during a meeting at

Philippi train station in Cape Town relating to the relocation of people who have moved onto the Central Line railway. He will be remembered for his selfless contribution to the struggle of the most vulnerable and as a leader of Ses'khona, the Ses'khona movement, he fought for dignified sanitation for residents of Cape Town's informal settlements and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and comrades in arms and calls on all spheres of government to work together to build safer communities in the province. Vulnerable communities in the Western Cape have lost a hero, fearless fighter for justice and equality, and a selfless leader. Thank you.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is no objection, motion agreed to. I now see hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and is shocked at the decision taken by the City to not replace the street lighting along Baden Powell Drive in Strandfontein. Since the lights went off in that area, the area has been a crime scene. Bodies are found almost daily, [Interjections.] motorists are hijacked and assaulted; Strandfontein crime-fighters (CPF) have promised to fight the City for this decision and negligence. Former

Mayor Dan Plato promised to improve lighting on the lamps at this time, due to the repeat cases of vandalism and continued replacement of infrastructure is not feasible. We demand the City to fix the lights, as this is a danger to society. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bans. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

Hon MEMBERS: Ja.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice. The Secretary will now read the First Order of the Day.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY**

The SECRETARY: Consideration and Finalisation of the Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Bill [B 5B-2021]. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet members, all colleagues in the House. The purpose of the Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Bill is to provide for the planning, the creation, design, construction, maintenance, control, management, regulation, upgrading and the rehabilitation of roads, railway lines, and related transport infrastructure in the Western Cape, and for other matters connected therewith. It is therefore, as the Minister of Infrastructure, that I table the Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Bill for consideration and finalisation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, as there is no list of speakers, I will afford parties an opportunity to speak for a maximum of three minutes each, if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The ANC notes and welcomes this initiative which will lead towards the promulgation of the Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Bill and eventually, into an Act. Transport is vital to the well-functioning of economic activities, and it is key to ensuring social wellbeing and cohesion of populations where it brings together the input used in the production of goods and services and getting outputs from the production process to consumers. The Bill was first published on 20 July 2021.

For exceedingly long time, this province has been without a proper Provincial

Transport Infrastructure Act, and this will go a very long way in solving some of the problems faced within the road and transport infrastructure of the province. The first public meeting for public participation and consultation was held in George and was very poorly attended. With only two public hearings where the second was hybrid, held in Cape Town in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, as well as MS Teams and on YouTube for public – and also, hon Speaker, originally there were four public hearings that were meant, but eventually, they were only cut into two – this poor public participation during the public hearings is a concern.

In the Public Participation Model of the Parliament of South Africa, it is stated that the intention of public participation and involvement in democratic processes is primarily to influence a decision-making process that reflects the will of the people. Certainly, the will of the people of the Western Cape is not reflected in this manner and this deters the two-way communication process with the goal of reaching better and more acceptable decisions of the Province.

Hon Speaker, for future references and experience, the Western Cape Provincial Government should put in more effort towards the mobilisation of the public to be involved in the process of formulating the Bills of our Province. We hope that the hon MEC for Mobility as well as Infrastructure will make sure that this is actually happening when an opportunity prevails itself. And we believe that they are going to take this advice as this is a cornerstone to making the best decision for the citizens of the province. We,



as the ANC, support this Bill. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Mvimbi. I now recognise the EFF.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. The importance of legislation is to offer comprehensive legislative framework, determine rights and responsibilities and the relevant authority. However, legislation on its own can be compared to a frame which still requires to be supplemented by regulation, and then followed by the actual implementation and execution. Without the execution of the policy framework and its regulations, legislation remains useless as in real life where we have a plethora of legislation invoking government to do something as far as service delivery is concerned, but then there is nothing done.

In the Western Cape, there is a serious need for investments in road infrastructure in order to enhance the transport road network. As things stand, there is a high volume of traffic congestion during peak hours in the ordinary business day in the Metro. The majority of people spend most of the early hours of the mornings stuck in traffic, resulting in them arriving late at work or opening businesses late. This means that a lot of productive time and energy is being lost on the road and consequently, this affects human productivity from the morning up until knockoff time and further, has an adverse effect on the economy. A commuter from Khayelitsha whose shift starts at 8:00 and finishes at 5:00 must be on the road at 5 AM in order to

avoid traffic and being late for work, and if they arrive at 6:00 in town, they still have to wait an extra two hours doing nothing before their actual shift starts.

So, this is evident that the Province needs to build more road infrastructure that will also accommodate public transport and enhance safety. Moreso, so far as the Bill is concerned, we take note of the road subsidies from the Province to municipalities, but we also ask for the monitoring of those funds to make sure that they are spent for the purposes in which they were given. When it comes to joint administration of the roads, we hope that there will be urgency when it comes to the renaming of the roads. The Province must play a leading role to make sure that the offensive colonial and apartheid street names are changed and replaced with those reflecting the new public order. The Western Cape can no longer afford to have street named after racist individuals who subjected black and coloured people into slavery and other forms of abuse.

In completion, as the EFF, we hope that the spirit of the cooperative government depicted in the Bill will be positive and progressive. We also hope that service delivery will not be hampered by endless consultations between the Province and municipalities. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I now recognise GOOD.  
Hon August? I am going to continue. I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP welcomes and supports the Bill because we believe transport plays an integral part when it comes to the Western Cape economy. But hon Speaker, I do not know if it is true or not, but I have heard from people that because of the transport issues that we have in Cape Town, many people choose to remain in Cape Town and not use transport going home because of the inefficiency and unreliability of transport. So, this is definite. And I need to agree that a lot was done to have the people at the public hearings. WhatsApps and all of those things were done. It is a pity that people did not come out because we need the buy-in of our people to make this work. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): I am just waiting for Cameron Dugmore's placard ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable [Laughter.] hon members.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Okay.

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, you may continue. [Laughter.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, sir. Hon Speaker, I believe that this is something to be welcomed. It is long overdue. But the main issue here is are

we going to continue bringing people to the work or taking the work where the people are, so that there is less congestion on our roads. Cape Town has become a cul-de-sac. You come to Cape Town to park.

And I hope this Bill will introduce new methodology in terms of road transport. We must go back to rail transport. There is too much emphasis on road transport which leads to our roads being destroyed by heavy trucks carting goods instead of the trains and railways doing it. So, if they can address this, if this is the idea behind the Bill and regulating taxis which have become a virtual army. They burn any competition's transport on our roads, whether they are busses or lorries. If it is not a taxi it gets burned and unless we address this issue, no amount of legislation will see that there is a better mode of transport, more safe, more acceptable to the public.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I now see Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Speaker. Al Jama-Ah has no declaration. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have been informed by the Table staff that hon August is experiencing technical difficulties, so I am going to continue with the Democratic Alliance.

An HON MEMBER: He is still [Inaudible.].

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I forgive some of our hon members who made declarations without even knowing what is in the Bill. I can understand that [Interjections.] [Laughter.] hon Cassiem was not here at the time when we discussed the legislation, but hon Christians and hon Marais, they do not have the foggiest idea what this Bill is all about. [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

Needless to say, hon Speaker, the DA in the Western Cape ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America? Hon America, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip. My apologies, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, it is, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] Hon member America is casting aspersions that some of the hon members of this House do not know what they are dealing with today and he has specific ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor. Hon Chief Whip, please speak to me.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He specifically ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: I will protect you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...mentioned the name of hon member Cassiem and

I want you to rule on that fact because he is casting aspersions.

The SPEAKER: Hon America, can I please caution you to not cast aspersion or [Interjections.] casting aspersions on any hon member of the House is not parliamentary and will not be tolerated. Can I please ask that you continue with your speech.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Noted, hon Speaker.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, my hand is up.

The SPEAKER: Hon Christians, is that a point of order?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Yes, hon Speaker. I am sitting with the Bill in front of me but because I do not sit on the Committee, you try to cover what you can. But the hon member must stop criticising other hon members. Our thinking is not his thinking.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon Christians. I note your point of order. I have ruled on a similar point of order. I have cautioned the hon member to please stick to the Order of the Day, and please do not cast any aspersions on any hon member of this House. Thank you.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, noted. Hon Speaker, the DA in the Western Cape fully supports the Provincial Transport Infrastructure

Bill. The importance of collaboration between the Provincial Government and municipalities in managing road and transportation infrastructure participation cannot be overstated. The Bill seeks to address critical issues such as the management and approval of infrastructure related operations, the designation of provincial public transport infrastructure and the creation of a legal framework that enables the Province to manage infrastructure effectively. The approval of this Bill will determine the direction of innovative transportation infrastructure in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, with the passing of this Bill we can expect to see improved transportation infrastructure that will benefit all commuters in the Western Cape. I urge all hon members of this Western Cape Provincial Parliament to support this Bill and when doing so, we will demonstrate our commitment to the development of our transportation infrastructure and improving the lives of our citizens.

Hon Speaker, allow me to thank the members of the Standing Committee, hon Mvimbi, hon August, for their continued support and inputs in making this Bill a better Bill ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America, can you please ...[Interjection.]

Mr D AMERICA (DA): ...particularly hon Van der Westhuizen.

The SPEAKER: Hon America, can you please conclude. Your time, your

three minutes has expired. Please conclude.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): No, she was [Inaudible.]. Okay, this man is interrupting me, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon America, please speak to me.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Hon Speaker, I will continue. Thank you. I repeat. Hon Speaker, allow me to thank the members of the Standing Committee, hon Mvimbi, hon August, for their inputs in making this Bill a better Bill, particularly the hon Van der Westhuizen for his invaluable contribution. This gratitude is also extended to the members of the public, municipalities ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America, can you please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Is it three minutes? [Interjections.] Okay, thank you, hon Speaker. Lastly, I wish to thank Ms Jackie Gooch, HOD of Infrastructure, Mr Carl October, Ms Amanda Dissel from the Premier's Office and all the colleagues in the Department of Infrastructure and Mobility for their dedication and hard work in making this Bill possible. Lastly, hon Speaker, the Bill is the first of its kind ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America, please take your seat. That ...[Interjection.]



Mr D AMERICA (DA): ...in South Africa with the passing ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America, I have asked you to conclude twice already. Please take your seat. I now recognise the Minister, hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you to all the hon members who were audible and in the House for the support. But obviously, pursuant to the extensive public participation as referred to by the Standing Committee Chairperson to now see the Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Bill [Inaudible.] gone through the House which will I believe, be received. I am looking forward to the hon Premier assenting to it to becoming to an active law in the province. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members and hon Minister, that concludes the debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill. I have to announce that there are currently 36 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. Are there any objections to the Approval of the Principle and the Finalisation of the Bill?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. The Principle and the Finalisation of the Bill is therefore approved. The Secretary will read the

Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Provincial Transport Infrastructure Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Bill will be sent to the hon Premier for assent. Hon members, that concludes the business for the House for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will be exited from this Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:10.