
THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

[Virtual online sitting held through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: You may all be seated. Order, hon members, and welcome to this important sitting of the House. Order, hon members. Hon members, having just had the privilege of opening our proceedings today with a multi-denominational prayer, and mindful of the most cherished basic human rights of freedom, especially the freedom of religion, I would like to recognise the ongoing conflict between the people of Israel and the people of Palestine, and the resultant and tragic loss of life.

Hon members, please join me in observing a moment of silence to mourn this loss of life on both sides of the conflict, and to pray for a speedy and

amicable solution to this very complex and of course a protracted dispute between Israel and Palestine.

Hon members, while we mourn the loss of life due to this dispute, we equally mourn the tragic loss of life of 13 lives due to the tragic mass shooting that have occurred in Khayelitsha recently. Will the hon members kindly join me in observing a moment of silence in this regard. Let us please rise.

May their souls rest in peace. Please be seated. Thank you.

Thank you, hon members. We are going to proceed in the same fashion as we conduct our meetings that we pursue virtually, especially given the fact that we have got a hybrid session. I recognise the hon members in the virtual platform. I must say that I am sitting here with my right of the House with the hon Premier, hon member Van der Westhuizen, hon Minister Bredell, hon Minister Simmers and hon member Baartman. Thank you very much for making sure that the Speaker does not sit here alone. It is humbling to have you present here.

So the hon members in the virtual platform, please do not speak unless you have been recognised by the Presiding Officer, and of course we do so in line with the Directives issues by me since the beginning of lockdown, and we continue to do so even at this day and age. May I request also the members that are joining us from the Fourth Estate, the members of the media, please do not activate your microphones and do not activate your cameras. You only

do so joining us because you are part of the important task of democracy and ensuring that there are checks and balances and press freedom.

So you must do your business, conduct your affairs consistent with what you do when you are otherwise seated here up in the gallery. So that is the manner in which you are connected here today.

Hon members, I am going to also further request that the hon members who wish to raise a point of order, please do so orderly and there is a chamber, there is a chatroom where you can also indicate that you want to speak and the Presiding Officer will recognise you.

At this point thank you very much, the Deputy Speaker will take here forward. I will see you again later. Is the Deputy Speaker ready? Alright.

Chief Whip, I recognise you.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

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

That notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), precedence be given to the Subject for Discussion.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections? No objections? Agreed to. Thank you very much, hon members, I am now going to give an opportunity to the Deputy Speaker to take here forward. I will see you later, thank you.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good afternoon, hon members. We will now proceed with the subject for discussion in the name of hon member America.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

The status of local municipalities in the Western Cape

Mr D AMERICA: Good afternoon, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank you for agreeing to this debate, but it is appropriate for us at this stage to pause and assess where we are insofar as the state of municipalities in the Western Cape. I want to quote the words that were immortalised by Charles Dickens in his novel “*A tale of two cities*”:

“We live in the best of times and the worst of times.”

Sadly some of our people are living in the best of towns and others live in the

worst of towns.

Allow me to challenge the ANC to offer one example of a municipality governed by them, that offers a better life for all. With loadshedding upon us it is only testimony of ANC mismanagement, but again reminds us of those municipalities in the Western Cape that have outstanding debts with Eskom. They are all governed by the ANC. Let us not forget the outstanding debts of ANC municipalities of Beaufort West, Cederberg, Kannaland and Matzikama. In total the collective debt owed is nearly over R1 million. No DA-run municipality in the Western Cape owes Eskom any money.

When the ANC wanted to actually spend its money in the right areas in Kannaland, there is no money left to do so. After being under financial administration since 2018, the Kannaland Municipality, with an ANC/ICOSA coalition, was willing to spend R735 million on a questionable electricity outsourcing deal. If it were not for Minister Bredell's action, this highly problematic scheme would have plunged the municipality into turmoil and cemented a future of decline.

Despite our relentless efforts, hon Deputy Speaker, to root out corruption and maladministration, our tasks are often frustrated by municipalities not under DA control. A recent example, the ANC controlled Matzikama Municipality proceeded to appoint an acting municipal manager who had been released on bail and stand accused of fraud, corruption and money laundering. This is in addition to the SIU investigation for alleged PPE corruption.

In the Cederberg Municipality the SIU found that the ANC has appointed a municipal manager who had been charged with defeating the ends of justice, allegedly instructed municipal employees not to cooperate with investigations.

This is in addition to the corruption and fraud charges laid against a former Speaker who happens to be a member of this House, the Legislature, and the mismanagement does not stop there.

Beaufort West is the worst performing administration in the province, with a rating of just 18%. This explains why the Department of Human Settlements had to send a second letter of demand for the immediate return of R1,9 million it provided so that external toilets could be upgraded in the area.

In these towns our people live in the worst of towns under ANC governance. Where our people live in the best of towns, they are all governed by the DA.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Ratings Africa's recent report shows that the City of Cape Town remains South Africa's only metropolitan municipality to be in good standing and financially sustainable. Aside from Cape Town, National Government would need to spend over R50 billion to cover the cash deficits across municipalities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is committed to promote dignity

amongst our people. We continue to provide a series of safety nets for those in the need and make sure that the rights to basic services remain intact.

In the Western Cape our municipalities lead in all consumer unit metrics relating to receiving free basic water, electricity, sewerage and sanitation and solid waste management services. This shows that we are a caring government, despite what the Opposition might say. Not only does this prove that our administrations are efficient and deliver on its promise, but further shows the commitment to caring and propos governance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, many people have lost hope and due to poverty, have been deprived of their dignity. To this end the City of Cape Town continues its COVID-19 relief to communities. Over the past year the City of Cape Town has allocated more than R39 million to an emergency food relief programme, going above and beyond their municipal mandate to assist those who have fallen on hard times due to the global pandemic and national lockdown. Over 262 soup kitchens have benefited from this programme, and more than 200,000 residents now receive a warm meal daily.

Hon Deputy Speaker, following the storms in the Overberg, much needed support in the form of road rehabilitation, emergency service and humanitarian support, came from our local and district municipalities, in partnerships with Agri Western Cape, the private sector, Gift of the Givers and residents, and ensured that those who were worst affected by the storms, received much needed assistance, and that casualties were kept to an absolute

minimum.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the sad reality in Local Government is that there are a number of allegations relating to fraud, corruption and maladministration being reported. To strengthen the capacity to investigate and expedite investigations into allegations of fraud and corruption, an additional R8,6 million over the medium-term is budgeted by the Provincial Department.

As a result of our zero-tolerance approach to corruption, 45% of the country's clean audits is concentrated within the Western Cape. The Auditor-General explains that this success is owed to proper processes of checks and balances, and we are formalising administrations and is reinforced by the presence of decisive leadership and practices which work to prevent corruption.

Hon Deputy Speaker, heading to the polls later this year, residents have one of the most important decisions to make. If we are to properly recover from this pandemic and look towards a more hopeful future, the decision is not just about loyalty to one brand, it is equally not about continuing with tradition, or being lured by unattainable promises by smaller parties. Rather it is about making a mark that serves to build a courageous legacy for our children, starting right at the grassroots of government. How each of us votes this year contributes to our recovery ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off [Inaudible.]

Mr D AMERICA: ... across communities, neighbourhoods and at all municipalities. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Loud and clear, hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, thank you very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes this debate today on Local Government in our province, but we are disturbed that the very member who brings this debate, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Local Government, hon member America, is the very person who has unlawfully and constitutionally refused to convene the Standing Committee to discuss the Bredell dossier that has been provided to him, which contains very serious allegations of unlawful interference by himself and his Department in the affairs of Local Government, and also alleged collusion with certain members of the Hawks.

Hon Deputy Speaker and Premier, this is scandalous. We appeal to you to

intervene and protect the right of this Legislature to perform its oversight role. We give notice that we will ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... approach the ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member, there is a point of order. Hon member Wenger, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Could you advise, according to the Rules, if one member would like to wish, or would like to inform the House of any improper motives of another member, that that should be done by a substantive motion? Would you assist us in that respect?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is quite correct. Hon member Dugmore, you do know the Rules, that you do have to bring a substantive motion if there is any accusation of maladministration or any collusion whatsoever, to the House, please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Are you referring to the allegations against hon member America, which are very serious and scandalous? Or are you referring to the allegations against MEC Bredell, which are equally serious?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am referring to hon member America, hon member Dugmore, because you need to bring a substantive motion with regards to that accusation you have made.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITIONS: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of hon Minister Bredell, that has already been debated in this House. Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. So, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to also indicate that we are now forced to ask the National Council of Provinces to hold a public hearing on the Bredell dossier and request that the NCOP summons hon member America to explain his shameful behaviour.

It is clear that since the beginning of the Sixth Administration we have highlighted the need for attention to be given to our municipalities, which remain at the coalface of the delivery of basic services to our people, but there should be little doubt that this debate today on Local Government is merely, as hon member America has proved, a petty, point-scoring exercise.

Let me be very clear from the side of the ANC, that any official or any councillor or any public rep who breaches the law, should face the full might of the law, obviously having the right to defend themselves in a court of law, and that is our position.

He also makes a snide comment and I notice, hon Deputy Speaker, that the Chief Whip did not object to his snide comment about hon member Danville Smith, and it is public knowledge that Danville Smith has followed the ANC guidelines, he has stepped aside and he will defend himself in the court case that he is facing, and that is where the truth will come out. That was clearly also a case of attempting to cast aspersions on another member.

I see the Chief Whip has raised another point of order, I hope my time is being respected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Chief Whip, is that a new hand?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): It is, but it is not a point of order. I would like to know if the hon member will take a question?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have it, hon Chief Whip. You may proceed, hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon member America comes to this House and basically misleads this House by claiming R735 million on an energy project in Kannaland. Everyone knows that no contracts had been signed at the time of the court case brought by MEC

Bredell, and in fact NCOP members and members of this House will tell you that since the recovery plan in the Kannaland Municipality, the finances there have been stabilised.

In fact there were more people appointed in the office of the DA Speaker in Kannaland than there were appointed when a new coalition between the ANC and ICOSA took over, and we have suddenly seen this energy project is being supported, which is basically money for consultants that will not produce a kilowatt of power, and suddenly, having championed this notion of the energy project in Kannaland, it is suddenly now something that no one wants to touch, including hon member Baartman, who was very actively in support of that project at one stage.

So let us then actually look at the facts. It is not surprising that the DA continues to lose by-elections. We support clean audits, but actually what hon member America is missing is the actual impact on the poor, rural and urban working-class people of this – you can go into Khayelitsha now and to Philippi, you look at the absolute flooding. The fact is that the City has not replaced storm water drainage. Why did he not, for instance, talk about the DA councillor who basically was going to be arrested by the Hawks for alleged corruption in regard to food parcels? He does not mention that. He does not mention that Xanthea Limberg, who clearly cannot prove what is on her CV. She has not been suspended, but hon member Madikizela is no longer even a member of this House. What about the Mayor of Saldanha who still has not produced his so-called MBA? He remains in his office.

This is a party of double standards that protects one cabal, mainly the cabal of the elite and privileged and mainly white members of the DA and has a different set of rules at Local Government. That is the kind of DA that we are dealing with. We know that we had a mere reprimand by the hon Premier in regard to MEC Bredell's behaviour and the finding of the Public Protector in regard to unethical behaviour, and when a mere two months later the hon Premier was faced with a finding by the same Public Protector against another member of his Cabinet, to have wilfully made false and misleading statements to this House, there was again no censure from the Premier or the Speaker for that matter. Instead, the Premier taking drastic steps against his former MEC Madikizela, suspended him.

It is clear that we have referred to hon member Limberg, and the DA, through hon member America, has the audacity to come into this House and try and convince us that they are an ethical party. It is a joke, hon member America. The people can see it and that is why the DA in this province and elsewhere is a sinking ship. It is a sinking ship because it wants to talk about clean audits, but fails to clean up Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha, fails to deal with failing infrastructure and now, because of the questions we are asking in this House, the City of Cape Town does not even want to respond to those questions that we put to MEC Bredell. This just shows like you, hon member America, you do not want accountability, you do not want oversight, but you will see ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Dugmore, take your seat. What is your point of order, Chief Whip?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am seated, I am seated, I am seated.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): The hon member ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am seated. I am seated.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, I know, thank you. Thank you. Over to you, hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you. I would like to raise a point of order that the hon member Sayed is often on the floor for, and to remind hon member Dugmore that he should not refer to a member as “you”, but rather via the Chair, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I trust hon Dugmore, a seasoned politician, will be able to continue doing so, thank you very much. Hon member Dugmore, may I also just ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, I was referring to hon member America, whose disgraceful conduct in this House, in failing to

honour oversight, is the matter that I have been raising. I want to then talk about ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, I was just busy. I am sure you did not hear me, but I just want to heed the call on Rule 60, which is the reflection upon decisions that have already been made in the House in less than six months.

We have concluded the matter on hon Minister Anton Bredell, so please do take care. Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. With due respect, the dossier on MEC Bredell, hon Minister Bredell, which has been presented to hon member America and he has been asked to convene a hearing, contains a whole lot of other information which he refuses to convene the Committee to discuss. That is the point I am making.

So those issues have not been discussed in this House. We have heard the silence in regard to the Swellendam Council. Once again, a DA Mayor Myburgh, that they took a decision on wind turbines in the Swellendam area, and there was utter silence from two DA councillors in particular because they had interests in the farms where the turbines were going to be elected. They did not declare those interests. Silence from MEC Bredell.

If this DA administration was serious about lifestyle audits, they would do them for DA mayors as well. Yet we have heard utter silence on these matters. In Theewaterskloof the same DA shenanigans continue with DA nepotism and cronyism through the appointments of consultants and acting municipal managers. MEC Bredell refuses to act when there was no quorum when the Theewaterskloof municipal manager was appointed and once again this is a situation, hon members and hon Deputy Speaker, where a better qualified, more experienced black female candidate was not appointed, compared to the person who was appointed, who happens to be white and male, but the MEC refuses to look at the issue of the quorum in regard to this particular appointment.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you can just finish off. Thank you very much. I now recognise ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon

Premier, hon Cabinet colleagues, hon members present and hon guests who are also logged virtually.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a more appropriate topic one could not have asked for and it is for this reason that I would really like to thank the sponsor, hon member Derrick America, for proposing this debate which I ...[Inaudible.] remind certain hon members it is about the status of local municipalities in the Western Cape. †Nie sekere lede in die DA nie, moet ek benadruk. [Not certain members in the DA, I have to emphasise.]

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, the majority of municipalities in the Western Cape have and continue to show that they are head and shoulders above what is being experienced by many citizens across the country.

†Ons almal weet die beste munisipaliteit in die land is natuurlik van ons provinsie. Om meer spesifiek te wees van die Suid-Kaap en sy naam is Mosselbaai. Wie is aan bewind, en net vir ingeval sekeres nog wonder wie aan bewind is, die Demokratiese Alliansie, 'n party wat weet hoe om te regeer sonder om te lieg en te bedrieg. 'n Party vir wie die mense van die provinsie en die land werklik saak maak, en ten alle tye 'n prioriteit voor is.

Terloops, hierdie is ook die munisipaliteit waar een van ons vlagskip-behuisingsprojekte tans ontwikkel word, naamlik die Mountain View Projek.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[We all know the best municipality in the country is of course from our province. To be more specific, from the Southern Cape and its name is Mossel Bay. Who is in charge, and just in case some are still wondering who is in charge, the Democratic Alliance, a party that knows how to govern without lying and deceiving. A party to which the people of the province and the country really matter, and to whom they are a priority at all times.

By the way, this is also the municipality where one of our flagship housing projects are currently being developed, namely the Mountain View Project.]

This project, which commenced in July 2019, with a budget of R297 million, forms part of our integrated residential development programme. It will ensure that the lives of more than 1,000 people, which exclude the extended families, will be improved when it is completed by July 2022. These housing opportunities, where people from all walks of life, creeds, cultures, languages, sexual orientations and with different incomes, will live together in one community.

†Die inwoners van Mosselbaai word saamgebring deur hierdie projek, agbare Adjunkspeaker, omdat daar noue samewerking is tussen die Provinsiale Regering en die welbestuurde plaaslike DA-beheerde munisipaliteit, onder andere. Ons albei weet en verstaan as vennote dat dit oor die inwoners gaan en nie oor ons eie belang nie, soos ongelukkig in baie ANC-beheerde

munisipaliteite.

So kan ek verder ook voorbeelde maak van George en Swellendam waar ons juis onlangs huise oorhandig het. Grootmaatsdienste was wel 'n kwessie op George, maar dit was en word steeds aangespreek, want beide munisipaliteite is daarop ingestel om ons mense se lewens te verbeter.

Kaap Agulhas is nog 'n uitstekende voorbeeld en met hulle word die uitgestelde eienaarskap-loodsprogram tans getoets.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, baie ander ongelooflike voorbeelde kan van my tong afvloei, maar wat hier saak maak is dat wanneer daar tussen die verskillende regeringsfere saamgewerk word, word vordering gemaak, dienste word gelewer vir almal, en die standaard van die inwoners se lewens verbeter onmiddellik en drasties.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The citizens of Mossel Bay are unified by this project, hon Deputy Speaker, because there is close cooperation between the Provincial Government and the well-governed local DA-controlled municipality, amongst other things. We both know and realise as partners that it is about the citizens and not our own interest, as unfortunately is the case in many ANC-controlled municipalities.]

So I can further also quote examples of George and Swellendam where we have recently handed over houses. Large scale services were indeed an issue in George, but it was and is still being addressed, because both municipalities are focussed on improving the lives of our people.

Cape Agulhas is another excellent example and with them the postponed ownership launch programme is currently being tested.

Hon Deputy Speaker, many other unbelievable examples can flow from my tongue, but what matters here is when there is cooperation between the different spheres of government, progress is made, services are rendered for all, and the standard of the citizens' lives improves immediately and drastically.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, sadly the same cannot be said for a few municipalities in this province. Just in the past financial year we have seen how the likes of Matzikama could not spend a single cent, even though they had an allocation of R5 million for housing. Housing opportunities in that municipality are lost, †en raai wie regeer daar? Die ANC. [and guess who governs there? The ANC.]

In Cederberg, whose Council since 2019 I have really tried to engage with, could only spend in the last financial year a mere 18%. Their target was to deliver 100 top structures. How many was delivered? †Raai wat? Nul. Wie regeer? Die ANC. [Guess what? Zero. Who governs? The ANC.]

Bitou is another municipality where the expenditure was 32% and they could only deliver 27 top structure out of a target of 112, and guess who the majority party there is in the coalition? The ANC.

In fact all the municipalities that are lagging behind in the delivery of housing opportunities across our province, are led by the ANC, or where the ANC is the majority coalition partner, and this is a fact, because where they do govern there is a lack of capacity, a lack for coordination within their municipalities, because they cannot even provide for bulk infrastructure ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: ... required to unlock human settlement development.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Minister. Can I ask who is – sorry, my computer has gone on hold if you can just sort that out. Who is on the point of order? Hon member Sayed, there I see you, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, it is member Sayed. Sorry, it was not a point of order, my mistake, it is a question. I want to ask a question to the hon Minister Simmers, on who voted for the ANC now recently in Bitou? Is he willing to take a question?

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

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Put it in writing, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put it in writing, hon member Sayed. Thank you very much ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Will do ...[Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... you may proceed, hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, and where the ANC governs, we also see poor contract management. The implications thereof are late submissions of applications and supporting documentation to enable that Human Settlements can evaluate and assess projects for their readiness or even for approval.

Everything that you would require the local authority to have in place, they do not have in place. They do not even have the ability to govern in the bulk of their municipalities.

†My advies aan hierdie ANC en ANC-koalisie, vrot-appelbeheerde munisipaliteite wat ons provinsie se naam swak maak, is kom steek 'n bietjie kers op by ons en leer hoe om te regeer, maar julle wil nie eers verder gaan kyk nie. Op die Weskus is die Breede Rivier Munisipaliteit, u het Swartland.

Hulle kan vir u wys hoe om te regeer en hoe om u munisipaliteit-areas om te draai. Loer ook dalk sommer bietjie daar in by Drakenstein, Stellenbosch of Witzenberg. Daar kan u baie, baie lesse leer hoe om goed op tyd ook in te dien in die belang van die mense.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[My advice to these ANC and ANC coalition, rotten apple controlled municipalities that give our province a poor name, is come and get advice from us, and learn how to govern, but you do not want to even go and look further. On the West Coast is the Breede Rivier Municipality, you have Swartland. They can show you how to govern and turn around your municipality areas. Perhaps also have a look there by Drakenstein, Stellenbosch or Witzenberg. There you can learn many, many lessons on how to submit things on time in the interest of the people.]

As you can see, hon Deputy Speaker, through our collective efforts with our partners in Local Government, we are ensuring that our people can ultimately benefit from where we forge ahead together.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as a government and as a Provincial Government here, but also with our partners in Local Government, we have consistently demonstrated our ability to deliver and perform, and at times outperform targets. This is something we remain committed to, as our priority is the people of the Western Cape, †nie ons sakke met tenders nie. [not our pockets

with tenders.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA difference is that we actually do deliver. †Ons sit en dagdream nie en dink nuwe planne uit nie. [We do not sit and daydream and think of new plans.] I would like to say to the residents across this province that you can experience a similar difference and an improvement in your lives. Let us rid ourselves from the ANC, its alliance partners and those alike. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it really astounds me that the speakers from the DA ignore what has happened in Atlantis today on a debate about Local Government.

It astounds me that they do not deviate from their speech and deal with a food-relief scheme scandal that I alerted the Premier and the MEC for Local Government in April last year about, and it is now coming to play today, the day that we are debating the state of the Western Cape municipalities, and in which the DA speakers would like to brag about the City of Cape Town's feeding scheme. The same feeding scheme that is under investigation for fraud and money laundering.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when the AG released his last municipal audit results report, he said that we should focus on how firm steps are going to be taken to restore the integrity of these institutions, but in this province we have an MEC responsible for Local Government who has demonstrated over and over again that he is not prepared to take firm steps if this does not align with the interest of his party.

In fact, the MEC was found to have undermined the integrity of the George Municipality when he interfered on behalf of the DA, in the appointment of a senior manager, and the MEC was not prepared to take firm steps when his own mayor of Oudtshoorn was reporting corruption and maladministration. The MEC protected the municipal manager, fired the mayor, and tried to convince the DA caucus to suggest to him that he places the municipality under administration, and we observed lately that the MEC is permitting the City of Cape Town to refuse to answer questions about good governance.

The correlation between the failure of integrity and the failure and inability to take firm steps and the failure of leadership, is plain for all to see, where we see that the three municipalities who are contributing the most to irregular expenditure in this province, are the City of Cape Town with R950 million; George with R621 million, and Oudtshoorn with R170 million. The three municipalities that the MEC will not intervene in. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron, your time is up. Thank you very much. I now recognise hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I was going to start with telling the House about the Rating Africa report, which indicates that for the past five years the Western Cape has essentially scored the highest out of all provinces when it comes to financial sustainability, and, hon Deputy Speaker, I was going to go on in a lengthy debate later on about the new green vehicles in terms of energy and the vehicles, that the DTIC has put a new green paper out, and to encourage residents to submit their comments for these electric vehicles, but given that we are now on the issue of the Kannaland energy project, hon Deputy Speaker, I would just like to remind colleagues that in my first communication about Kannaland, and I quote, I indicated that:

“We must continue to monitor this development when it comes to the InovaSure project.”

And if colleagues remember correctly, in SCOPA, and Minister Bredell was at that SCOPA meeting, I was quoted to say:

“Why would Kannaland Municipality, which is under administration, want to continue with a project that they know they do not have the finances or capacity for to implement?”

And the reason that there is no contract is because the Court said that you cannot sign the contract.

So I am not sure if the hon member Dugmore, hon Deputy Speaker, knows how court procedures work, but perhaps, hon Deputy Speaker, listening and reading are skills, but with that, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to speak about the new Municipal Energy Resilience Project which the Department of Economic Development and Tourism with the Department of Local Government has launched with our respective municipalities, and it is critical that energy security is brought to the Western Cape to protect and support our local businesses, and this is why, through the MER Project, the Province has allocated R48,8 million over the MTF period, with another R20 million ring-fenced in the Provincial Reserves, so that the Western Cape can become the first province to beat loadshedding. This is a provincial intervention which aims to support local governments in the Western Cape to buy ...[Inaudible.] produce their own ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: ... electricity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: A minute, hon member Baartman. Who is raising a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is member Dugmore, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: My point of order is I would like to ask whether hon member Baartman would accept a question about how many kilowatts of power are going to be produced by these municipalities?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Baartman, would you like to answer the question?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I will answer the question. If hon member Dugmore attends some of the committee meetings on time and not ask the same questions that his colleagues already asked and answered, he would know that in terms of the MER Project the experts have now been appointed to assist the following municipalities with their respective documentation ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Answer the question!

Ms D M BAARTMAN: [Inaudible.] No, hon Deputy Speaker, I am busy answering my question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please, order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Answer the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon member Baartman has the freedom to answer as she so wishes in terms of her question. I cannot intervene on that, hon member Dugmore. You may proceed, hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: These municipalities are Drakenstein, Mossel Bay, Overstrand, Saldanha Bay, Stellenbosch and Swartland, as well as the City of Cape Town Metro.

Now one cannot just implement an IPP, it takes time to implement that IPP and you need resources and capacity to ensure that your documents are in order, that your application is correct, that you have the technical expertise and the ability to implement, unlike ANC municipalities across South Africa we do not just implement and then find out we do not have the ability to do so. We first make sure our research and evidence are correct, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Baartman, just take a seat for a second. I see hon member Mitchell. Is your hand up? And the I see hon member Nkondlo.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to raise a point of order, and hon member Dugmore has done it and before him hon member Sayed as well.

They proceed to ask the question, whether the member has indicated that they

would accept or take the question. Can I please ask that you rule and caution all members to not continue in that fashion, because otherwise we make a mockery of the Rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, noted, hon Deputy Chief Whip. Hon member Sayed, you will have to wait, I see hon member Nkondlo first. Hon member Nkondlo, what is your point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO: No, it is also asking a question in the interest of listening as a skill. If hon member Baartman can answer how many kilowatts will be produced from these municipalities that she has read.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, we are not going to do a Q & A now, we are in the middle of a debate. So I really do not want this to be a test subject on whether we are conveying the amount of knowledge or not. We are in the middle of a debate and hon member Baartman has the freedom and privilege to argue her point in whatever matter she so chooses.

So I am going to overrule that. I note what hon Deputy Chief Whip is saying, and I am now recognising hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for recognising me. Hon Deputy Speaker, just on what the hon Deputy Chief Whip had said, just a point of correction, and I think you need to listen carefully as to how myself and hon member Dugmore crafted what we said.

We did not go ahead and ask the questions. We asked if we can ask a question about a particular matter.

So we need to really listen attentively before we want to drive the Chair of the session towards a particular ruling. Let us listen attentively and then make a determination, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I fully understand what you are saying, hon member Sayed, but if hon member Baartman chooses to ignore the way you asked the question and answer it in her own way, she has the rights and privileges to do that.

So I cannot rule on her not answering you in the way you may perceive. You may proceed, hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and again listening is a skill. If one does not know whether one can implement an IP ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Baartman, I do apologise, there are two hands up. I am going to take hon member Mackenzie first, so, hon member Fernandez, I apologise if you were first, I have not seen. Hon member Mackenzie?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you. Hon member

Nkondlo did exactly the same thing which hon member Sayed is now saying he did not do. When one asks a question you ask if you can ask a question, not include the question in that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Absolutely noted, thank you very much. Hon member Fernandez? Order!

The MINISTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me loud and clear?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I think on a point of order the Rules are very clear. The question is put, “Will the member take a question?” It stops there. You do not go on and ask the question. Once the member has indicated, “Yes, I will ...” ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: On a point of order ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... “... or no I will not ...” ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... then you proceed

...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: On a point of order.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... and you ask the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, you cannot shout over the microphone. I am listening to hon member Fernandez. You may proceed, hon Minister.

Ms N D NKONDLO: But you are not recognising me. I have said “point of order”, you are not recognising me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because we have a Minister in the middle of a conversation. If you put your hand up I will recognise you. I would like hon Minister Fernandez to finish what she is saying, thank you.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. My point was just the question. The hon member has to put the question which says, “Will the hon member take a question – period.” Then the hon member has the right to say yes or no, and then the question gets posed.

The question cannot be weaved into, “Will the hon member take a question?” and then the question actually gets asked. That is irregular in terms of the

Rules.

So I do think you need to rule on it because it is a trend that is surfacing and there are regular members who pose their questions in such a way that even though the other member says no, the question is still hanging in the air.

So it requires a ruling, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right. Hon member Nkondlo, I see your hand up.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker, what are the Rules saying on a matter that you have already ruled on? You are allowing both hon member Mackenzie and now hon Minister Fernandez to continue on a matter that you have already ruled on, and I think this is out of order and demonstrates bias from yourself, because already the matter was ruled on and you continue allowing them to raise their hands and speak on a matter that you have ruled on, unless there is a change of Rules?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, I have not actually ruled on it. I said, "I noted," to the Deputy Chief Whip, but I will rule on that now. That we will no longer pose questions to the members who are speaking without allowing a pause for members to be able to answer a yes or a no.

I would like to proceed, otherwise we are going to be wasting a lot of time.

May I proceed and allow – hon member Marais, I see your hand is up?

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I think we should get order in this House. If a member breaks the Rule and he did not ask whether a Minister will take a question, it means whatever he asked should not be an official question, not agreed to by the speaker and it should not be in Hansard then.

So I want to request the Chair to rule on this. If I get up and accuse you of something or ask a question without having got permission to ask it from that member or the Chair, does it have the right to appear in Hansard, or should it be left out?

†Me D M BAARTMAN: O, dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker, maar regtigwaar,
[Ms D M BAARTMAN: Oh, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, but really,] listening is a skill. You see, hon Deputy Speaker, unlike ANC municipalities across this country, research and evidence for DA municipalities are important. If *tante* Sarah Municipality goes and just implements an IPP, then I can tell you how many kilowatts it is going to be, but along the line your public participation, your contracts, what the technical details are in terms of the experts, are going to be wrong. You cannot just put up an IPP overnight. In the DA municipalities we do things right and that is why we have the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, to ensure that we do things right.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA in the Western Cape remains committed to leveraging every opportunity for economic recovery and growth of the Western Cape economy in order to support the growth of jobs, to support

dignity and the safety of all residents in the province, and when it comes to the opportunities that are available to us, I would like to encourage every resident, to encourage every stakeholder, whether in the public or the private sector in the Western Cape, to submit their comments and views on the recently released DTIC Auto Green Paper on the advancement of new energy vehicles in South Africa, which will focus on the production of electric vehicles.

The Mossel Bay Municipality has already started years ago doing research on creating an environment for electric vehicles in order to grow their local economy.

In Laingsburg Municipality you already have a Jaguar electric vehicle charging point on the N1 there in front of the Wimpy. So let us as communities submit our comments on this paper.

Hon Deputy Speaker, further when it comes to our municipalities we are committed to skills and we are committed to ensure that the informal trading sector is able to have the freedom of trade.

On 6 November 2020 the BPO Academy at the College of Cape Town launched its official opening, which aimed to provide opportunities for young people to gain the necessary skills to graduate into exciting careers within the BPO sector, a fast-growing sector. The first of its kind and endorsed by the server, SETA.

The City of Cape Town specifically is also supporting the BPO sector and this academy by contributing R55 million over the next three years, for jobs, training and placement in call centre companies, which has led to the launch of the BPO Academy as well. The sector created 7,354 additional jobs in the Western Cape last year and is one of only two sectors that was able to do so.

The Provincial Government is further working with its work and skills programme, creating 1,166 full-time jobs in the BPO sector, and has allocated an additional R98,9 million over the MTEF period, to provide 3,000 unemployed youth with learning opportunities in the sector.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to go further and congratulate the City of Cape Town because recently, when it comes to our informal traders, municipalities in the Western Cape have been partnering to uplift and empower this important sector. The City of Cape Town Council has recently approved a revised informal trading plan for the Athlone CBD, and this revised plan will see 72 informal trading opportunities being created along Old Klipfontein Road. This plan will support a vibrant local economy and further economic growth in the area, and I welcome Alderman Twigg from the City of Cape Town's comments that:

“Informal trading provides an income to those who are unemployed and affords locals with the freedom to support either local or traditional, formal sector retail options.”

And I wholeheartedly support the view of this sector.

Further, hon Deputy Speaker, recently in my own constituency in Laingsburg the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has completed the building of an informal trading centre, which houses four very proud local informal traders from the community, and containerised versions have also already been built or are almost completed within the Witzenberg and Cape Agulhas areas, and to Minister Maynier, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, he must please come and visit Siena Lottering and Katriena van Wyk †wat vetplantjies en roosbome verkoop; Ester Mouton wat verskillende houtmeubels en kunsvlyte verkoo[p; George Meyer wat skilderye verkoop en wat graag jongmense wil leer om te skilder, en Madeleine Van Wyk ...[Tussenwerpsels.] [who sells succulents and rose bushes; Ester Mouton who sells different wood furniture and works of arts and crafts; George Meyer who sells paintings and who wants to teach the youth to paint, and Madelaine van Wyk ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off ...[Interjections.]

†Me D M BAARTMAN: ... wat ietsie van alles verkoop.

[Ms D M BAARTMAN: ... who sells something of everything]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Baartman. I

now recognise hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, this important debate is critical for the advancement of the people of the Western Cape.

The state of the municipalities is not a block-ticking exercise, but it is about the lives of our people on the ground, and the question must be asked: has the lives of our people improved? Sadly not.

As the ACDP in the Western Cape, we cannot believe that there are still people in this province and in the City of Cape Town, still on a waiting list, hoping to get a house for more than 20 years. How do we bring back dignity to our people? People are losing hope because they do not see the improvement of their lives; they do not see the difference.

Municipalities are at the coalface of service delivery and yet every day we get barricades in the streets; service delivery protests – why? Because they are unhappy that they are not getting the services that us owe to them.

The ACDP offers a difference on how to build this broken system. The ACDP offers leaders in this Local Government elections, that are God-fearing, servant leaders that will put the people first. The state of municipalities with clean audits does not improve the lives of the vulnerable. They want to see service delivery.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this province needs a fresh start, it needs an ACDP start. This province and the City of Cape Town are spending billions and billions of rands on the safety of our people, yet our people are not safe. We just saw 13 people being killed in Khayelitsha. People are not safe. The people of the Western Cape deserve better and they deserve an ACDP Government.

We, as the ACDP, know how to serve. Put the ANC and the DA together and we will govern better than both of them. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, political parties are the agents of the State and they are not the State itself. This is my view as a member of the Freedom Front Plus, and that of an imminent political scientist, because a healthy State is one that succeeded in putting the general interest and the economy first before the particular interest of their party. That should play no role in service delivery.

[Inaudible.] in South Africa ...[Inaudible.] is a direct indictment of those parties who ignored the urgent needs of its citizens and served rather particular selfish needs of its party members and of this, both the DA and ANC are guilty. They are playing tennis with the corrupt ball. The one hits the ball at the opposing side, only to be returned to them again.

Cadre deployment has given party loyalty higher ratings than levels of competencies. It has prevented drastic action to be taken against councillors who are corrupt. This has caused immense suffering to the poor and desperate shack dwellers waiting on municipal services.

At present ratepayers are experiencing high electricity and water tariffs, poor street lighting and potholes in roads, but these are considered mere collateral damage by a failed State called South Africa. We are a failed State; we are rated 85th in the world because we cannot even meet the economic welfare needs of our people.

Voters will hopefully be the final judge and turn the situation around in the October elections. The Freedom Front Plus promises to revolutionise local government if we are victorious in the October elections.

The DA must be reminded before they boast, that in the land of the blind the man with one eye may be king, but definitely not the best ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you ...[Inaudible.] hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can.

Mr P MARRAN: Because I am experiencing some difficulties with reception, but let me continue, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, members and officials present. What a shame for ...[Inaudible.] or municipalities to deteriorate in this province. Shame on the DA for not caring at all for the ordinary people in the Western Cape. Shame on the croneious, corruptive, capturous, complacent and racist DA for allowing basic service delivery to crumble while openly giving priority to those in leafy suburbs. Shame on the deceptive DA to milk billions of rands from hard-pressed people in one of the most difficult times in modern world history with one of the first pandemics of its sort where people are negatively affected, but on the DA's so-called Day Zero Watch, it is allowing massive water tariffs and electricity profits to be amassed unduly to subsidise the rich without giving anything back in return to the poorer communities. It is unethical.

The unscrupulous DA milks people from giant amounts at a time that many can ill afford it. The so-called DA flagship, Cape Town, has issued multiple municipal bonds ...[Inaudible.] pretence of upgrading infrastructure for water services, yet large quantities of sweet water is, after expensive

cleaning, released into the sea without reuse or storage of the scarce resource.

When the City fathers and mothers with bulky pockets bulging with cash milk National Government to pay for ...[Inaudible.] taking the ...[Inaudible.] why billions of rands worth of water is poured into the sea again. Is this because Cape Town's people are so eager and easy to be robbed of billions of their hard-earned rands?

This daylight robbery by the DA is done by the party without a conscience, as it abuses a basic need to scoop what it can from residents, without scruples and feeling guilty. In fact, feeling nothing. That is the bleeding liberals at heart; lots of hot air but hollow of substance, and it proves once more that the DA cannot be trusted. All it can do is to tick the bookkeeping boxes in ...[Inaudible.] profits it robs from the poor, while it turns the ...[Inaudible.] into a ...[Inaudible.] friendly only for and to the rich and famous; a playground for the world's super rich.

This party of the privileged and pretenders struts along as it postulates to be a saviour of people. The best thing to Local Government and deceives voters ...[Inaudible.] angel, but it is a wolf disguised as a lamb. It is not a Robin Hood robbing from the rich to feed the poor. It is deceiving ...[Inaudible.] of those that uses and abuses the poor to make life easier for the rich. It only protects its own ...[Inaudible.] against unmasking for if that happens then people will see the DA as a party held together by some that believes in lies,

more lies and DA lies.

Some of the lies, hon Deputy Speaker, is when the MEC of Housing have spoken about the poor delivery of houses within the ANC municipalities. He must speak about the Transhex Project in Breede Valley, where the municipality and the province have only delivered less than 20 houses over a period of three years. He must speak about that ...[Inaudible.] municipality who have in the previous financial year failed to provide a housing plan for that municipality. The MEC must not come and speak lies.

Shame on the DA, shame ...[Inaudible.] Arendse and Dirk Smit to destabilise and interfere within the Cape municipalities. Shame on the DA who do not spend the billions of informal settlements upgrading meant for the poor. Shame on the DA for its huge test of ...[Inaudible.] gear and hardware which is only used to fight the poor. Shame on the heartless DA. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear, hear-hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise hon Minister Bredell.

An HON MEMBER: Step aside!

The MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, members of the Legislature, ladies and gentlemen.

There are none so blind as those who choose not to see. The truth is inconvenient to the members of the ANC, and its inconvenience stems from the fact that the representatives of the ANC are not in politics for the good of the poor or the marginalised. They are in politics for their own benefit. They are in politics to enrich themselves and that is why they ignore the facts that are inconvenient.

Tell me if I am wrong, show me an ANC politician who sends their children to poor rural schools, or who send their parents to a public hospital in the Eastern Cape. Instead, we have ANC Ministers who sit in Caspiers as the police spray the poor and disabled with water cannons as they queue for R350 SASSA grants. What a disgrace.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I see the ANC in this province preaching to everyone how unified they are. This is a party who cannot even decide who their leader in the province is. They cannot elect their leaders, they have been run by a task team for years.

Another interesting thing, the ANC keeps going on about how they are tackling corruption and praising the Zondo Commission and seeing members step aside. Why are the corrupt members not in jail, hon Deputy Speaker? It

must be pointed out that the Zondo Commission is not a court. More than a billion rand has been spent over the past four years on this Commission and not one person is in jail. The ANC knows only the SIU and the NPA can put people in jail.

So the ANC simply cuts the budget of the NPA by over R400 million to protect their own cadres not to go to jail, not be fired or kicked out. Step aside ...[Inaudible.] what a joke.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a few facts. It is a fact that every ANC-run municipality in this country has either already collapsed or is in a state of collapse. So show me the single ANC-run municipality that proves me wrong. Which ANC-run municipality in this country is an example of ANC excellence?

Fact 2: Every National Government-led parastatal is either bankrupt or broken or nearly there. Eskom, SAA, SABC, Denel, Prasa and even the Post Office. These are examples of ANC-led businesses. Be honest, tell the truth, is the ANC doing a good job? No. Do the lives of the oppressed and the marginalised matter to the ANC? No. Does the ANC deserve to be in charge of anything? No.

Fact 3: Do you know there remains an estimated 4,000 schools in the Eastern Cape where students must relieve themselves in pit toilets? The extent of raw sewerage flowing down the Vaal River in Gauteng has seen the Human Rights

Commission slam the Local and Provincial Government in that province. 45% of the people in Gauteng, more people than in the entire Western Cape, is reliant on that water for drinking.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in Gauteng the Isidumeni tragedy saw 143 vulnerable people, vulnerable and marginalised people, die. The causes, including starvation and neglect, the incident has been called the greatest cause of human rights violation in democratic South Africa. Who has been held accountable? Can the ANC tell us? No one.

South Africa, like the world, is in the grip of a COVID pandemic. To date the vaccine programme, managed by the ANC Government, has been a complete disaster. A third wave is upon us and South Africa has vaccinated fewer people than Zimbabwe. Even war-torn countries like Iraq and Afghanistan have vaccinated more people; what a disgrace.

Hon Deputy Speaker, but there is hope, there is real hope. Allow me ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Minister, there is a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order, Chair. From the input of the Minister, it does not seem as if the Minister is speaking to the topic of discussion ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... we are discussing Local Government ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... not Provincial and National Government ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, that is not a point of order. You do know that. You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: There is hope, real hope. Allow me to sketch the picture of hope. Hope based on the facts and stats.

In the Western Cape 25 municipalities, the only ones who are in arrears with Eskom, are a handful ANC municipalities. That is a fact. This province has received 18 clean audits in the past year and the Councils, which have performed worse? You guessed it.

Another fact, the delivery of free basic services to the poorest of the poor is highest in the Western Cape. This is a fact.

The difference between the Western Cape municipalities and every other province is like day and night. Hon Deputy Speaker, according to Stats South Africa, the unemployment rate in South Africa is 32,5%; the highest number since 2008. In the Eastern Cape it is more than 40%; in the Western Cape the rate is 21%, the lowest by far. It is not a surprise this province has seen our population growing by more than 650,000 people over the past five years. The continued meltdown in every other province in this country, in particular our neighbouring provinces, sees people moving to our largest towns and cities in desperation for opportunities. They realise in the Western Cape they have a real chance at a future. There are real opportunities here. Not only opportunities for the ANC and their friends and families.

Hon Deputy Speaker, municipalities in this province have been outperforming every other municipality in the country for years; that is a fact. Our municipalities have good roads, good infrastructure and generally good leadership that is held accountable, and every single independent report out there shows this. The list of achievements in this province is endless. We can go to the RSEP Programme in Vredenburg Walkways for the marginalised and poor to better their lives. Working spaces in Wesbank for the marginalised and poor. In Saldanha Bay we have seen the development of a Middelpas Box Park Business Centre. In Piketberg we have built a fully equipped gym for the marginalised and the poor. In Touws River a 5-a-side astro soccer pitch for the marginalised and the poor. Many other projects have been completed in towns such as Worcester, Malmesbury, Plettenberg Bay, Ceres, etcetera.

Since 2009 we have added nine new Tucson Centres to the 28 across this province. This benefits 1,3 million people who would otherwise battle to access the range of Government services due to remote rural locations.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is a disaster prone province and over the past 10 years we have prepared and built a system that is without parallel in Africa. We have seen an estimated 17,000 wildfires per year, and 95% of them we put out in the first hour. We have assisted our small municipalities in procuring purpose-built firefighting vehicles. Today we are the only province in this country who can boast that every town in this province has firefighting capacity that is equipped with modern equipment.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these are the facts, these are the inconvenient truths to the ANC. I could continue with many more examples and stories. These are the facts and need to be told. We are living in the time of desperation and we need to hold up examples of excellence and good governance. We need to celebrate the wins, we need to acknowledge when there are people and institutions in this country who do a good job. At the end of the day, if you are truly honest with yourself, there can be no doubt that Local Government and municipalities in this Western Cape are without compare.

I end by acknowledging and thanking our civil servants and our officials for their hard work over the past year and particularly our disaster officials and emergency response and nurses and doctors who are out there every day, protecting and helping people in the Western Cape against wildfires, floods

or COVID. You are the heroes, and we see you. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this subject. In terms of Rule 197 we now move over to Interpellations on the ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... Question Paper ...[interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I think you have missed my hand for a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I apologise, I did. What is your point of order, hon member Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, my point of order relates to the fact that you informed MEC Bredell that he had one minute left. I timed from that moment on, and there was at least three minutes that were given before the – and that is the type of bias that is simply not acceptable.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Could you please

...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... I did not inform ... [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... could be proved on the Hansard. So unfortunately you are incorrect, I did not give any time of a minute countdown.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay, we will check the Hansard, because I clearly heard you, hon Deputy Speaker ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may ... [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... saying, "You have one minute left."

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ja, and actually just confirmed by the Table staff, that Minister Bredell ended way before the end of his time. So you can certainly check that on the Hansard, there was no bias whatsoever, and I must just tell the members that I am actually quite lenient, bearing in mind that you are online, so I give you a couple of seconds every time. The Table staff can verify that. I am not biased around time.

[Debate concluded.]

We will now move over to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Minister Simmers.

INTERPELLATIONS

Housing opportunities: Winning Way in Milnerton

1. Mr B N Herron asked the Minister of Human Settlements:

In April 2020 he announced that 1 500 families living in overcrowded, unsafe and unhealthy conditions in Dunoon would be relocated to land situated in Winning Way in Milnerton by July 2020:

Whether the residents have been relocated; if not, why not; if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

Residents, hon member Herron, have not been relocated. Applications for rezoning and subdivision in terms of the Municipal Planning Bylaw was made to the City of Cape Town in May and June 2020. The applications were approved by the Municipal Planning Tribunal on 1 September 2020 and 3 November 2020 respectively, which means construction would only have

been possible to commence then.

The reason for the delay is due to appeals submitted by the Racing Park Owners Association, following rezoning application approvals by the MPT. The appeals in respect of the two approved rezoning applications were only heard on 9 March 2021 and 13 April 2021 respectfully. My Department is still awaiting decision on the two appeals; we may not commence with any work.

The construction commencement date can only be ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister ...

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: ... confirmed after the decision has been communicated by the Appeals ...[Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies, will you take a seat? Hon member Dugmore, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, my apologies, hon Deputy Speaker, it must have been a hand from the previous point of order. So I apologise for that, I will take my hand down.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, no problem. Sorry, hon Minister, you may proceed.

†DIE MINISTER VAN MENSLIKE NEDERSETTINGS: Dit gebeur met die beste van ons ...[onhoorbaar.]

[THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: It happens to the best of us...[Inaudible.]]

According to the hon member, in April 2020 I stated that residents would move in by July 2020. Where the hon member obtained this, only he would now. There is, however, a tendency, hon Deputy Speaker, from the hon member to mislead the public and utilising this House as that mechanism.

If approval was provided in September and November, how would July be feasible? †En hierdie was ...[onhoorbaar] by die Stad ...[onhoorbaar.] want ek weet. [And this was ...[Inaudible.] at the City ...[Inaudible.] because I know.]

It is therefore important to provide a timeline to the hon member so that he can understand where we are. On 28 March 2020 the National Minister of Human Settlements, Lindiwe Sisulu, announced that the Dunoon informal settlement will be dedensified.

On 28 March 2020 I indicated that this plan will now be initiated in August; pursuant to this, our processes immediately kicked in, which also ...[Inaudible.] various stakeholder engagements. Critical to point out, hon Deputy Speaker, that we were still under lockdown and the construction sector was not allowed to operate.

On 29 April I issued another press release stating that this sector should be allowed back as human settlements construction is critical if we are to swiftly, as part of our rapid informal settlement support and upgrade programme, complete the erection of our transitional units in the permanent residential areas.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, I apologise. Hon member Dugmore, is that another hand?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Are you going? Okay, thank you so much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, can you lower your hand please? Thank you. You may proceed, hon Minister Simmers.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: These PRAs will be established on pieces of land in Dunoon and the greater Kosovo areas, so the informal settlements in these areas can be reblocked.

On 30 June I issued another statement stating:

“The Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Anton Bredell, on 25 June 2020, approved the City of Cape Town’s application to deviate from the provision of Section 43(5)(d) of the Land Use Planning Act in terms of Section of 61 of the Western Cape Land Use Planning Act 3 of 2014 in response to the Department’s rezoning and consolidation application of Erf 35148 and Erven 35163 to 35170 Milnerton, and the rezoning and subdivision application of Erf 38368 Milnerton. This approval will allow for a shortened period for comments from 30 days to 10 days. Once this process has been concluded we can move full steam ahead with the development of the transitional residential units.”

It must be stated we are fully committed to see this development through as the well-being of our residents is our priority. Had it not been for this delay and the due processes required, we would have been far down the line in moving our people into these improved housing opportunities. Regrettably, we are not in a position to subvert processes. We are confident that the MPT’s decision will be upheld, which will allow us to finally commence with our processes. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Simmers. I am just trying to understand why our hon member Dugmore’s hand is still up? Unless he has not ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.] trying to, I have been trying to lower it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But I do not know, my hand – but let me try and lower it again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the IT to assist ...[Interjections.]

THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: There we are.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... thank you very much, hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I think it is off now, it is off.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No problem, thank you very much, hon member Dugmore. I now recognise hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the July 2020 date comes from the Minister himself as reported in Ground Up on 22 April. It is reported that:

“Simmers said 1,500 residents would move to the TRU in July.”

So that is where the reference to July 2020 comes from, but, hon Deputy Speaker, this Government has a very funny attitude to urgency. A racist attitude really about access to the City and it infects their approach to well-located land and decent housing. They are paralysed by their own fears and internal conflicts, and their decisions are sometimes influenced by the unseen hands of funders.

The fact that 14 months after an urgent need to provide decent housing to a community living in unacceptable conditions in Dunoon has still not been addressed, is a symptom of all of this.

In February 2018 the relocation of hundreds of families living in Siyahlahla became urgent. The urgency was described in official documents like this, and I quote:

“In order to secure the well-being of the Siyahlahla community and to ensure the service continuity of the Transnet railway line, which performs a strategic function in transporting waste to and from the Vissershok landfill site, an immediate relocation plan for these community members needs to be implemented.”

And it went on in other documents then at the same time in 2018:

“Given the urgency and the desperate conditions faced by the community, an immediate and effective solution is required to relocate

the community members that are currently occupying the area within the rail reserve.”

Yet they are still there, living in those desperate conditions. In April 2020 when the Corona-virus pandemic struck South Africa, this community had still not been housed or relocated. It was identified by both the National Minister of Human Settlements and the Provincial MEC, as overcrowded and a pandemic hotspot. Families living in desperate conditions in Dunoon were once again identified as needing an urgent solution, yet they are still there, living in those desperate conditions 14 months later.

This is not because there was not an immediate solution in 2018. The solution was present to this Government in 2018, “Use the City-owned land on Potsdam Road and make use of the emergency planning provisions in the planning bylaw,” but despite the urgency, this Government could not bring itself to provide the dignified housing they have been promising to build on Winning Way on the Potsdam Road site, because it was too close to Table View. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron, I now recognise hon member Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek vra graag deur u vir die agb lid Herron om vandag duidelik te sê of hy die Racing Park Owners Association wat onsuksesvol appèl aangeteken het teen die beoogde

ontwikkelings ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, through you I would like to ask the hon member Herron to today clearly say whether he denies the Racing Park Owners Association that unsuccessfully appealed against the proposed developments ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, can you just put your microphone on, and can you please start from the beginning for the record, thank you.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Ek vra graag deur u aan die agb lid Herron om vandag duidelik te sê of hy die Racing Park Owners Association, wat onsuksesvol appèl aangeteken het teen die beoogde ontwikkelings, en wie se een appèl selfs deur die Hof tersyde gestel is, daardie reg op appèl ontsê?

Ja, dit is jammer dat broodnodige prosesse en planne vertraag en soms ontspoor word deur lede van die gemeenskap. Die DA glo egter in die oppergesag van die reg, en ek vra graag deur u vir die agb lid Herron om in sy repliek duidelik aan te dui of hy inwoners daardie reg tot appèl wil ontsê. Sê asseblief vir hierdie Huis of u in u vorige posisie as raadslid vir Stad Kaapstad met ontwikkeling sou voortgaan te midde van apelle.

Die Grondwet van 1996 verwag van die Regering om die ongelykhede van die Regering van die verlede aan te spreek, maar die ANC, onder wie se rykmanstafel die agb lid Herron se partyleier verkies het om haar voete in te stoot, het deur korrupsie gesorg dat net 'n klein elite groepie super-ryk geword het, terwyl miljoene steeds onder die broodlyn leef; skande.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, daarom wil ek ook vandag deur u vir die agb lid Herron en sy ANC kollegas wat so krities daaroor is omdat daar in enkele gevalle duur grond teen markwaarde verkoop word en so geld genereer word vir ontwikkelings van lae-koste woonbuurte, vra glo u werklik dat 'n eenmalige geskenk vir 'n uitgesoekte paar mense beter is as om die geld te gebruik om die lewensomstandighede van honderde arm mense op 'n volhoubare wyse te verbeter? Ja of nee? Enkeles of die massa? Wat is u standpunt? Ek dank u.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, through you I would like to ask the hon member Herron to today clearly say whether he denies the Racing Park Owners Association, that unsuccessfully appealed against the proposed developments, and whose one appeal was even set aside by the Court, that right to appeal?

Yes, it is a pity that crucially necessary processes and plans are delayed and even derailed by members of the community. The DA, however, believes in the supreme authority of the law, and I would like to through you ask the hon

member Herron to indicate in his reply whether he wants to deny citizens that right to appeal. Please tell this House whether you in your previous position as Councillor for the City of Cape Town would have proceeded with development amidst appeals.

The Constitution of 1996 expects from the Government to address the inequalities of the government of the past, but the ANC, under whose rich man's table the hon member's party leader chose to push her feet, saw to it through corruption that only a small elite group becomes super rich, while millions are still living below the bread line; disgrace.

Hon Deputy Speaker, therefore I also through you ask the hon member Herron and his ANC colleagues who are so critical that in singular cases prime land is sold at market value and so generate money for developments of low-cost neighbourhoods, do you really believe that a once-off present for a few select people is better than using the money to improve the living conditions of hundreds of poor people in a sustainable manner? Yes or no? A few individuals or the masses? What is your standpoint? I thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid Van der Westhuizen. [The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen.] I now recognise hon member Lili.

Mr A LILI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as part of the National Government's efforts to combat the spread of COVID-

19 in densely populated communities, plans were put in place to urgently reblock overcrowded areas and relocate thousands of people. As part of this initiative about 1,500 families from Dunoon; 2,000 more from the greater Kosovo, were promised relocation to the transitional residential units in the Winning Way.

They were thousands of others from informal settlements ...[Inaudible.] and surrounds that were meant to relocate to other communities. In all these cases, not a single family was relocated because of ...[Inaudible.] and ineffective handling of these projects by the City and the Provincial Government.

It is yet another example of how the DA administration in the province has deliberately failed National Government's efforts to better our lives, people's lives. It cannot be correct that for over a year the process has been stuck in a rezoning application stage that is handled by the City, while the Dunoon Project Steering Committee has been promised that the project will start in June 2021.

The Department's ...[Inaudible.] has been honest that this be delayed by required rezoning application. More disappointing is that the Department has not even commenced with the beneficiaries' identification and administration processes. The DA has deliberately failed the people in this regard and will continue to do so until the people vote them out on October 2027.

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

Mr A LILI: Get out, Democratic Alliance, get out!

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

Mr A LILI: I thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Much appreciated, thank you. Hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, when I saw this interpellation, I was quite shocked because we speak about service delivery, we speak about all of these things, the DA Government in fact, and now we see if we speak, if a government speaks about caring for the people, then of course we must look at the conditions the people are living in. It is overcrowded, unsafe and unhealthy.

I really believe, I really believe, hon Deputy Speaker, if there is a will there is a way, and at the moment there is no will from the DA Government to relocate these people.

We cannot brag about what we are doing and the services we are rendering, and then when it comes to the health and the well-being of people, that nothing is being done.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, I am very concerned, and I want the Minister to give timelines as to when this problem is going to be sorted out. I thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Van der Westhuizen misses the point. This is not about processes, this is about an irrational decision to pursue the wrong piece of land when the City already owned land for housing a few hundred metres away.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Transparency International says that land is the new currency of corruption. This Government chose to avoid the Potsdam land site and purchased an unsuitable piece of land within a formalised industrial park, including a large, unusable wetland at three times the market value.

There is no basis, rational basis for purchasing the land in Winning Way and I submit it amounts to fruitless and wasteful expenditure. It raises legitimate questions about possible corruption. Despite the availability of the City-owned land on Potsdam Road, the Provincial Government instructed the HDA to acquire 14 of the 16 erven in the industrial park, at a price of R64,6 million. The two erven that were not purchased are critical servitudes without which the land is even more useless.

This land had already been offered to the City for the purpose of housing and

had been evaluated by the City's Urban Integration Department. In a memorandum dated 7 November 2017 the Director advised that of the 17,4 hectares being offered to the City, 5,5 hectares is unusable wetland.

She sets out the history of the matter, including that the Province has been interested in purchasing this land from as early as at least October 2017. This Government was then told that the seller was negotiating with the City, but the Province was so eager to acquire this land, that the City officials were advised that if the City did not purchase the land, then the Province would, and if the City wanted to purchase the land but did not have the funds, then the Province would find the funds.

The Director's memo to the City's Property Management Department, which should have acted on the instruction of the acquiring department, but appeared to be taking instructions from elsewhere, said that the property was overpriced. The memo says that the asking price of R88 million was overpriced, and the R58 million that the Property Management Department was apparently negotiating on, was also overpriced.

In fact, the City acquired an adjoining piece of land of 130,000 square metres, for R9 million. The Province paid R64,6 million for about 100,000 square metres. The Owners Association of the industrial park estimate the land to be valued at R21 million.

While families are abandoned to live in desperate conditions, the DA

Government continues to pursue land that is overpriced and unsuitable. Besides an overwhelming question about the dignity, the safety, the health of the families in Dunoon, there is a question the DA must answer. Did the DA get a kickback in this land deal? Thank you.

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

An HON MEMBER: Kickback?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am happy that the hon member referred to the *Round Up* article, †want ek het laas gesê hy is die sienende blind. [because last time I said he has eyes and no eyes.]

Just further down the same article, and I am quoted yet again:

“Asked if the project would meet the deadline, Simmers said ...”

And they are quoting me directly:

“July is not a feasible date. If all goes according to plan, it will take 14 to 21 days. Construction will commence once the plans have been approved. We are taking much public engagements. Must – this information is going around.”

†So die sienende blind, [So those with eyes and no eyes,] but nothing about this member's input today surprises me, because ironically, hon Deputy Speaker, in 2017 when hon member Herron was a Mayco member of Transport and ...[Interjections.] Human Settlements in the City of Cape Town, the City offered to purchase this same piece of property he has just referred to, at R58 million, exclusive of VAT, based on the highest evaluation and best use methodology. His portfolio, I should add.

The offer made by the City was rejected by the owner on 25 July 2017. The City revised its original offer to purchase, increased it from R58 million to R64 million, based on input from the owner. The City communicated a revised offer of R64 million to the seller in October 2017.

In April 2018 the City approached the Provincial Department of Human Settlements to acquire the property as their procurement processes would take long and the land was required on an urgent basis. The City further confirmed that they also investigated the property for future Doornbach expansion. The bulk portion of the land, which is 17 hectares, is suitable for development.

Once again in April 2018 the hon member Herron was still a Mayco member at the City, hon Deputy Speaker. On this basis the Provincial Department agreed to buy the land as per the City's request. The HDA, on behalf of the Provincial Department, negotiated a final price of R64,6 million, which was accepted by the seller. This is the same amount that the City of Cape Town

was prepared to pay in 2017, †en die man was die Mayco lid, agb Adjunkspeaker [and the man was the Mayco member, hon Deputy Speaker.]

For hon member Herron today to claim that the purchase price is grossly inflated, which it is not, smacks of irony and hypocrisy, as he was part of the collective in the City when this decision was taken. This once again, hon Deputy Speaker, shows the opportunistic nature of hon member Herron, as he is seeking relevance by pointing out a matter that has been dealt with.

In 2017 this very same hon member never expressed any concern, nor did he make any objection, which today further highlights how opportunities and how this hon member seeks to misguide and mislead our public with incorrect information or selective information. †Jou dae is getel, meneer, jou dae is getel. Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Die waarheid seëvier altyd. [Your days are numbered, sir, your days are numbered. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The truth always triumphs.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, I am just giving an opportunity for the speaker to take his seat.

Mr B N HERRON: Hon Deputy Speaker, I had a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore?

Mr B N HERRON: It is Herron.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Herron, your point of order?

Mr B N HERRON: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask the MEC if he would take a question based on the Executive Ethics Codes?
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, now he has finished his final remarks.

Mr B N HERRON: He indicated he would not take a question on misleading the House? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not prepared to answer the question. Anyway, his time is up unfortunately, hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you very much.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, thank you. That concludes the interpellation. I now move to the second interpellation by hon member Sayed to the Minister of Education. I now recognise the hon Minister Schäfer.

[Debate concluded.]

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

Whether she is mandated by the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996), to ensure that all children of compulsory school-going age are placed in schools; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what measures are in place to avoid the reoccurrence of thousands of unplaced learners?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am sure the hon member is quite aware that in terms of Section 3(3) of the South African Schools Act, as Provincial Minister I have a duty to ensure that there are enough places in schools to accommodate the children of compulsory school going age in our province.

However, while I am mandated to ensure that learners are placed in a school, I am not required to ensure placement in specific school of choice. I am also not required to ensure that schools or places in schools are made available on demand as determined by any other organisation.

I am further required by Section 3(4) to take steps to remedy any lack of capacity in our school as soon as possible. The speed at which such lack of capacity can be remedied is largely contingent on both the notice we receive and the Department's available budget, which is currently severely

constrained as the members of this House are aware.

Determining the need, finding the funding and placing the learners is and has been taking place as fast as possible in fulfilment of this mandate. Unfortunately, the theft of State resources by the ANC is certainly making it increasingly difficult to deliver on our mandate as funding is continuously shifted away from Education to fund State Capture and the effects of maladministration and cadre deployment.

Part (b), the application and placement process for 2022 has already begun and we have shifted our planning deadlines earlier this year in the hope of finding places for all learners by the start of the 2022 academic year. This is dependent on us receiving the funds required to secure classrooms, teaching posts and learning materials in advance of the start of the school year. In addition, a task team has been set up to seek a medium to long-term solution to learner placement challenges. This too is reliant on sufficient funding.

We also continue to explore all other possibilities, such as better use of online learning where appropriate. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker, and I thank the Minister for the response.

Hon Speaker, every year in the Western Cape we see thousands of children that miss out on their entire first term of the academic year. In 2019 we had a situation where we had learners that were not placed and then they were crammed into halls, old clinic buildings and churches for several weeks in various working-class communities. This year learners were even being taught under trees, hon Speaker.

The MEC for Education must tell us which steps are being taken to ensure that housing projects such as the Forest Village Project are planned for and are implemented with sufficient attention to adequate schools in the area for Xhosa-speaking residents, because they need to take that into account, and what resources are being put in to recruit teachers and for the planning of Xhosa-medium schools in areas such as Eersterivier, and the details of the plan, if any, in this regard.

The continued failure by the MEC to accommodate learners is a gross violation of the Department's and the MEC's constitutional rights in terms of Section 29(1) of the Constitution. Section 12 of the South African Schools Act demands that the MEC must provide public schools for the education of learners. Furthermore Section 3.1 of the SASSA obliges the MEC to ensure that every child of compulsory school going age, as she says, who lives in the Western Cape, attends schools in the province. The MEC must guarantee enough school placements for every learner in the province.

Now the MEC, hon Speaker, and the Provincial Government, are in breach of

the above sections. This means that we have got ...[Inaudible.] delinquency in our midst. The vast majority of unplaced learners are children from poor families. That is why there is a nonchalant attitude on the part of the DA.

I rise today to implore the members of this House to play our critical role, regardless of party politics, of oversight over the Executive, to call out constitutional delinquency.

The parents on the ground are tired of lame excuses and the unending blame game. The Province anticipates over 20,000 learners will enrol in the province next year. What plans has the MEC put in place for that? Or are we going to again see that at the end of April 2022 we will then be rushing to provide mobile classrooms?

The time for lame excuses is over, we cannot hide behind insufficient budget forever. We must bring creative ideas and use the budget wisely. Learn from other provinces and swallow the pride and seek advice. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, unplaced learners can never be used as a political tool. Earlier this month I have indicated in a statement that I made, that the then hon Minister for Education in this province, hon member Dugmore, said, and I quote:

“We face a massive infrastructure challenge in the province in regard to the building of new schools, as well as maintaining our existing facilities. It is hoped that the bid to National Treasury, arising out of the national audit of school needs, will result in increased funding to meet some of these challenges.”

Hon Speaker, in the last three months, nevertheless, the Minister and her Department have placed 20,000 learners during this period. I then therefore ask, through you, hon Speaker, to the Minister, Minister, in regard to this House, what can the members of this House do to assist you and your Department in overcoming the challenge it is facing with regard to learner placement? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Botha. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, ensuring that there is adequate capacity for learners is obviously the MEC's core function, and if the MEC is unable or unwilling to ensure every child in the province is placed, then she should step down.

This year we saw the shocking lack of preparation for the new school year. Thousands of learners remained unplaced for months, while the MEC complained about immigration and funding cuts.

Hon Speaker, urbanisation is not just a word to put in a planning document. Urbanisation is the movement of people from rural areas and small towns to larger towns and cities. It has a real and practical outcome, and the MEC's role is to meet the demand, not complain about it.

The problem is the Government has different priorities. It can allocate R1,3 billion to a so-called Safety Plan, creating an illusion of policing, and spending on a mandate that it does not have, while at the same time complaining it cannot provide schooling to children because it has no money. The irrationality of this is astounding.

Even worse, the acting MEC for Transport and Public Works advised that the Department of Education has relinquished 13 school buildings since 2009, and 15 buildings previously used as schools are currently not being used for any purpose. On top of that, the MEC surrendered R360 million from her budget, largely from her educators' salaries budget, just two months ago.

So we have unplaced learners, we have empty school buildings and had R360 million in spare cash, and the MEC could not make a plan? Why not? Clearly we have a problem in the Western Cape. A Safety Plan that funds learner law enforcement officers armed with pepper spray to address the murder rate, while children cannot get into schools.

What do you think is likely to happen to a child who is rejected by the education system and their Government? Hon Speaker, this is not rocket

science, even a lawyer should be able to figure this out. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. [Interjections.] I saw that.

An HON MEMBER: Ah, sorry, I just found that quite amusing, the comment about the lawyer, sorry.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member, we are in the sitting of the House. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we have a recurring problem. Unplaced learners, year in and year out.

Now, hon Speaker, I sit on the Standing Committee of Education and I have asked the questions what is the Minister and her Department doing differently in order to accommodate the learners?

I am telling you, hon Speaker, next year we will have the same problem because no proper planning is done. Now I believe the Minister said there is a task team. I hope that this task team will come with solutions that we do not sit with learners that cannot find placement for the whole term. It is unacceptable and I want the Minister to answer today that we will not have unplaced learners for an entire quarter or a single day in the new year. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me firstly thank hon member Christians in particular, I think also for his input, because his input also around the planning and the lack of planning, it speaks to the kind of issues he has been raising consistently inside of the Committee, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, every time that this matter is raised our MEC for Education consistently puts forward the argument of insufficient budgets from National Government, and in it should purport some form of witch hunt against the Western Cape by the National Government.

I want to advise the MEC to have a look at the explanatory memorandum to the 2021 Division of Revenue Bill, to understand how National Government takes account of the matters listed in Sections 214.2A to J of the Constitution. Its response to the Financial and Fiscal Commission's recommendations and any assumptions and formulas used at arriving at the respective divisions amongst provinces and our municipalities. The division of revenue process, hon Speaker, fosters transparency and is at the heart of constitutional cooperative governance. There is no unfair targeting of the Western Cape or any other province or municipality. At the heart of the problem of unplaced learners lies a lack of foresight and political will on the part of the Education Department's political leadership, and poor financial

planning and management of scarce resources.

It is this Government that has spent millions to fund an unnecessary duplicate function of Schools Evaluation Authority. Every year for the past four financial years the Department of Education has, without fail, surrendered millions back to the Provincial Revenue Fund. In the past financial year, and we will repeat it consistently, R350 million earmarked for employment of teachers was surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund by this Department, by this MEC.

The MEC must engage the Provincial Treasury to consider paying back all the amounts surrendered to the Provincial Treasury, to address the education crisis. If the Province can avail millions on its own duplicate vaccine rollout programme, then surely we can have enough for funding quality education in the province, and placement of learners within due course.

The Education Department's annual school survey, hon Speaker, shows that in the Metro North region average class size for quantiles 1 and 5 are 44 and 31 respectively. Failure to increase class sizes in Quintile 5 schools maintains historical inequalities in our education system. The MEC must also tell us which concrete plans are in place to assist recently placed learners to catch up with the work that they have missed for all these months.

To date WCED is yet to provide that ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... that plan.

The SPEAKER: ... hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): In fact, even in our last Standing Committee they did not provide such a plan concretely. Can we hear what is that plan? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, hon member Sayed. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the members for the debate.

Hon member Sayed is quite aware about the facts relating to the learners under the trees in Eerste River. We were informed that there were something like 600 people just set up their own school ...[Inaudible.] they insisted on being placed at particular school, or a particular school, to create their own school and wanted us to employ the people who were teaching them as teachers. After we had done our audit, there were 336 learners that were actually validly looking for places, which was made extremely difficult by politicians and other organisations continuing to give out the false narrative that there were all these hundreds and hundreds of people who did not have

places.

The same happened with Rosendal House where we had allegations of 1,800 who were looking for places, who deliberately did not give us information that we requested from them, for nearly two months, preventing learners from being placed. There is no amount of planning that can stop that from happening.

It has been established that 121 of those learners are already enrolled currently at WCED schools, and they were coming to sit in Rosendal House, demanding places.

A further 633 learners had no record or status on the CEMIS database, which means that they are new to the WCED school system in 2021, which means the parents did not apply to any school for 2021; 633.

So it is not our lack of planning and it is not our fault that those learners were not placed. Not to say that we have not got problems. We have been telling for many years, and actually it is not only me who has been telling for many years. Thank you, hon member Botha, for highlighting the ANC budgets and I want to give you another one from hon member Dugmore in June 2008, saying:

“Mr Speaker, our province alone needs over R5 billion to make up its infrastructure backlog. If current funding patterns continue it will take

us 30 years to eradicate this backlog.”

And this was in 2008. The situation has not got any better.

As far as constitutional delinquency is concerned. That is just absolute nonsense. We have every commitment to ensure that learners get placed as soon as possible, but there are people who are using people unfortunately for their own purposes, to try and make political points, which I think is despicable.

As far as plans are concerned about the learners who were placed late, we have given details at this committee. I do not know where hon member Sayed was, but Mr Alan Meyer gave very specific details as to what was going to be done to assist those learners.

As far as hon member Botha is concerned. You asked what members can do to assist. Given that members are well aware of the budget constraints facing the Department, they can certainly assist us by lobbying their colleagues in the National Government to ensure an appropriate allocation of funding to us, and I will get more to that on hon member Sayed’s point now, and pressurising other provinces that are inefficient with their budgets to improve their efficiencies so that money can be allocated where the need is greatest.

When we have 19,000 extra learners per year in the province, we cannot afford to build staff and provide learning resources for 19 additional schools.

On the other hand, we have in the Eastern Cape on their own Education Department's information, 1,900 schools that have been earmarked for closure, that have not been closed. Now why is that?

Now please go and talk to the Fiscal and Finance Commission about that, and make sure that they actually start enforcing efficiencies and budget processes in other provinces so that we do not sit with the problems that we have now.

As far as hon member Herron is concerned, I absolutely deny a lack of planning. We plan very well, but we have been coming under increasing financial pressure.

If you are relinquishing 13 school sites, once again it is misleading, and the details of those are as follows: one property is being refurbished for the WCED use and another one came from the Department of Health. Two are actually Youth Care Centres which is not strictly speaking schools. The Department uses a broad definition of "schools". Four are auxiliary buildings, like clubhouses and hospitals, so they are not schools. Two were ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...[Inaudible.] replacement schools ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... you, hon Minister, your time is up.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes the Interpellations. The third interpellation by hon member Makamba-Botya to the hon Minister Maynier was withdrawn by the hon member who has put the interpellation forward, and that then concludes this particular portion of our business.

We are now heading straight to the Oral Questions. The first oral question, question for oral reply, is by the hon member Van der Westhuizen to hon Minister Meyer, Minister of Agriculture. I now recognise the hon Minister.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Questions standing over from Thursday, 6 May 2021, as agreed to by the House:

Alcohol bans: effect on high stock levels of bulk wine

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

To what extent have the repeated bans on the sale of alcoholic products, issued under COVID-19 regulations, contributed to the high stock levels of bulk wine?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you to the hon member for the question. Yes, the wine industry has to carry stock before harvesting commences in order to allow for the sales for the period until the new harvest becomes market ready. This period from harvesting the grapes to the time when the wine is market ready can be anywhere between four to 18 months depending on the type of wine. Red wine has to be matured for much longer than white wine and high end, and hence more expensive wine, must also mature even longer. Hon Speaker, on 31 December 2020 the stock levels in the industry amounted to about 650 million litres with about 200 million litres of these wines being uncontracted. This must be compared to 450 million litres of stock with about 20 million litres of uncontracted wine at 31 December 2019.

It follows that the wine industry is currently sitting on between 250 million to 300 million litres of surplus stock as the domestic sales of wine declined by 20% during 2020. The additional surplus can lastly be ascribed to the impact of the lockdown on domestic sales. Since lockdown measures were introduced on 25 March 2020, domestic sales of wine were banned for 21 weeks and for a further nine weeks, only offsite consumption was

allowed and that for limited hours, hon Speaker. The result is that no onsite consumption and hence wine sales in restaurants was allowed for 30 weeks since the lockdown started.

And so, hon Speaker, yes, the irrational and irresponsible announcements about the lockdown levels and the adjustments did lead to the current high stock levels of bulk wine here in South Africa and specifically also here in the Western Cape. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, you know the process in dealing with questions. I currently have one hand, and that is the hon van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Yes, thank you Chair. Hon Minister, thank you very for your response. With signs of a third wave looming, what would be the effect of further bans on the livelihoods of those working in the wine industry? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon van der Westhuizen. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon van der Westhuizen. We have seen that during the first lockdown and second lockdown that we lost R8 billion in revenue in South Africa. We have been advised that a further third wave is possibly hitting us next month, and as the Minister of Finance and as a Member of the Western Cape Executive, I think we

certainly need to carefully consider the advice that we get from the Health Department. But in my view, we need also to go about it responsibly in terms of protecting the economy because it is possible to save lives and livelihoods and given where we currently are in the Western Cape, as the Cabinet we have just returned hon Speaker, for the last two days, from a Cabinet bosberaad where we reconfirmed our commitment to economic recovery based on the three priorities of this Government, namely: jobs; safety, human dignity and well-being, and I think we are on course, in terms of the economic recovery. It is also clear from the Stats SA data from 2020 that all the sectors of the economy had negative economic growth in the first and the second quarter of 2020 and the only sector that yielded a positive economic growth, was the agricultural sector and so we have seen through the evidence and the data that the economic recovery in the Western Cape is largely driven by the agricultural sector.

And, therefore, we in the Cabinet and the Premier, through the PCC will liaise closely with the relevant intergovernmental organisational structures to be cautious and mindful of the devastating impact that a further ban on the sale of alcohol will have here in the South Africa, given the current high stock levels. But I think we will certainly have to consider as things develop, but as far as I am concerned, we cannot and should not consider any further bans on the sale of alcohol because it will kill the economic recovery here in the Western Cape. On the wine farms in the Western Cape, there are about 40 000 people working in this industry and the average is looking after six members of a family. This has a massive

knock-on effect on the economic crisis we are currently experiencing. And so, since the hon member has asked me a hypothetical question, I am responding with a hypothetical situation, but it is clear in my mind, that we cannot and should not, allow a further ban on the sale of alcohol, as the economic recovery needs to pick up responsibly to save lives and livelihoods here in the Western Cape. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Marran?

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I just want to check with the MEC, we have now heard the high volumes of stock levels of alcohol; my question is whether the MEC can tell us the value of this extraordinary export wine that is now held back here in storage? What is the value of that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Sorry, hon Speaker can the hon member maybe repeat the question, sorry for that?

Mr P MARRAN: The hon MEC gave us exact numbers of stock levels of wine. My question is can the hon MEC tell us what is the value of those wines that are currently stocked by wine farmers?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, we know from

economics that this is largely a function of demand and supply and since we have an oversupply of alcohol logically it leads normally to a reduction in the price of the wine and it is something that differs on a daily basis depending on the sale of wine, so it is largely driven by demand and supply and I certainly cannot now do a thumb-sucking exercise, but if the hon member is interested, I can ask our economist to do some calculations in this particular regard. We know that there are different wines, different prices, different seasons and there are different stock levels at stake, so it is largely a function in terms of pressures on demand and supply.

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Speaker, COVID-19 demands high levels of alcohol for sanitation. Can the MEC tell us how much alcohol was absorbed in these [Inaudible.] during the period of COVID-19?

The SPEAKER: Do you follow the question, hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Yes, thank you very much, hon member Marran and hon Speaker. During the lockdown period, after consultation with the Premier, I visited Distell who have repurposed their alcohol plant into a plant to produce alcohol for sanitisers.

Now alcohol for sanitisers and alcohol for wine, I think the member will understand, are two completely different products and processes but I am quite happy to establish from Distell what the amount of the alcohol is that they use to produce alcohol-based sanitisers.

I have to say that I am deeply thankful to Distell who have made use, contributions and personal sacrifices at their plant, to assist the Western Cape Government, in terms of the Humanitarian Support Programme, to also distribute, free of charge, alcohol-based sanitisers at the beginning of COVID-19 to assist us with particularly the farm workers and areas in the Cape Winelands and also specifically in Witzenberg.

They have made an extensive contribution for which we are very, very thankful because to convert an alcohol-based plant into an alcohol-based plant for sanitisers is quite a huge operation and to make that donation free of charge, to assist us to deal with a humanitarian crisis and pandemic, I think is something that we really all appreciate and we thank them for their massive efforts in this particular regard. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that now concludes this specific question. I now move to Question number 7, which is a question by hon van der Westhuizen to the hon Minister Meyer. I now recognise the hon Minister.

Pigs in Mfuleni: African swine fever

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

To what extent were the pigs that were diagnosed with African swine fever in Mfuleni earlier this year kept in pens that conform with the regulations of the City of Cape Town and (b) to what extent can this

outbreak be ascribed to the conditions in which these pigs were being kept?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you to hon member Van der Westhuizen for the question. Yes, the majority of the animals were kept in an enclosure that was makeshift and made from a variety of materials. They did not conform to the regulations of the City of Cape Town.

Firstly, regulations prohibit keeping of pigs in residential areas and secondly, a permitted space of 25 square metres is also required per animal and that was not adhered to. Secondly, hon Speaker, the African Swine Fever virus can be transmitted by feeding swill, movements of pigs from infected areas to susceptible populations. It can also be carried by fomites and people not observing biosecurity. Local husbandry conditions assisted in enabling the establishment and the spread of the infectious agents. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon van der Westhuizen?

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, thank you very much to the hon Minister for his response. Hon Speaker, we see an increased demand by First Generation Urban Residents to bring farm animals with them to our urban and peri-urban areas. It just seems then as if there is a mounting pressure for what is generally known as urban farming and that some of these

people are not able to erect structures that conform to the existing regulations in cities for the keeping of animals. My question to the Minister is then, Minister would you and your Department be willing to liaise with the Department of Local Government in this regard in order to perhaps review the current regulations regarding the keeping of animals and then also obviously to assist our law enforcement officers in our urban areas to ensure that those regulations are adhered to? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van der Westhuizen, hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you for the follow up question from hon member Van der Westhuizen. I did consult, based on a number of complaints that I have received, specifically from the Theewaterskloof area but also other areas here in the city of Cape Town, in the metropolitan area, the impact of roaming animals in urban residential areas as well. So, I consulted with my colleague, the hon Minister of Local Government, Minister Bredell and we have agreed, hon Speaker, that we appoint a task team, two members from the Department of Local Government and two members from my Department of Agriculture to relook at the whole issue of the by-laws of municipalities.

Since the hon member is asking about law enforcement, we would certainly also like to engage with them because as urbanisation takes off in many areas, we certainly see an increase in this, and this is also specifically something that we have picked up in the area of Stellenbosch, but also other

specific areas. So, the answer is yes, my Department as well as Minister Bredell's task team, two members each, will look into this matter and try and develop a standardised draft by-law, obviously properly consulted with the various people but also the people that are affected, particularly the small-scale farmers, as well as the various municipalities that must enforce these by-laws. So that will be a very extensive consultative process because I firstly want to see farmers getting the necessary support; I would also like to see that we respect the rule of law and I would also like to see that we comply with environmental health conditions and that also my veterinary services provide the necessary technical support to make sure that animal health is the primary focus of our activities and involvement in this particular regard.

So, hon Speaker, the answer is yes, we are working on that particular matter and I am willing to assist these farmers, assist the local municipalities since this is a very, very important matter and my office is getting numerous letters and complaints in this particular regard. I think urban agriculture and urban farming is also now a global phenomenon all over the world and we need to see how we can accommodate small scale farmers in a way that does not compromise animal health and human health and safety, and the rule of law must apply in our municipal areas or jurisdiction. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. The MEC has responded to a

question that I wanted to ask; whether there is any role that municipalities have to play, and I can clearly pick up from his answer that yes, there is a role that they have to play. But we would like to understand what role do municipalities place in the control of farming peri-urban or stock animals and are they consequently enforced?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon member Marran. I think municipalities absolutely have a role to play. Firstly, because animals are found within a geographical area, that is normally within a geographical area of a municipality, and that is a 'B' municipality but remember that the 'C' municipality by law, is also responsible for environmental health, so it is both the responsibility of the Department of Local Government, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Agricultural also both the 'B' and 'C' municipality, in a cooperative way, to assist the farmers.

These are not only subsistence farmers but also farmers that do some business and certainly we want to create an environment where farmers can do their business in a sustainable manner and in a peaceful way not to disturb the local area. And so, hon member Marran in terms of a specific role for them, yes, the municipalities as you know have certain by-laws and if there are particular animals, the municipalities do have a by-law, †dat hulle – hon Speaker, die munisipaliteit moet 'n skut hê, want die diere moet na 'n skut toe gaan; daar is ook sekere bepaalde verantwoordelikhede [that they, hon

Speaker, the municipality must have a pound, because the animals have to go to a pound; there are also certain specific responsibilities] for these municipalities in this particular regard and we have picked up that some of these things are not always adhered to.

That is why with Minister Bredell and me, we will take this matter also to the MINMAY and to the PCF structures so that we also have full participatory consultation with the various municipalities to make sure that firstly, we come up with a by-law that is a) fully consulted and b) practical, feasible and able to be implemented and ensure that these by-laws are also enforced in the proper way. So yes, that is certainly the plan, that is certainly the idea that we create an environment whereby animal health, environmental health and the safety of individuals should not be comprised, but we create an orderly, regulatory framework within proper governance systems. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Speaker. A short one to the Minister given what he just indicated in his response to consult and consider all related issues on this matter and understanding the pressures of the economic recovery and impact especially in the levels of sustenance farming; how long should I think the public and ourselves anticipate a conclusion that would at least bring some kind of certainty on this matter? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I think I am not able, I have to be honest and frank here. I am not able to indicate now. I think let me first come back to the Parliament, the Western Cape Legislature in terms of both the terms of reference, the scope of work and the timeframe. I am quite happy to do that because I know hon Nkondlo, she was a member of my previous Committee on Finance and when she asks you a question, she is going to come up with a follow-up question in a future session. So, I would like to come prepared to that meeting. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr P MARRAN: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I have no hand, who is speaking?

Mr P MARRAN: My hand was up, Speaker. It is Marran.

The SPEAKER: Alright, let me explain the process. When you speak, you drop your own hand. If you do not then I drop it for you because there are also other members who may want to speak after the hon member, so hence I had to drop it for you, hon Marran because you spoke, you had addressed the point and exhausted your intention to speak. You may proceed, hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Speaker, my last question to the MEC on this matter; I just wanted to check what the City of Cape Town and

also the Province is doing to make sure that the meat that is entering our province and also the borders of the City of Cape Town is safe for human consumption?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Well, hon Speaker, there are various methods and standard operating procedures to ensure that all the abattoirs comply. For example, we have State Veterinary Services from the Western Cape. So that is the first basis of making sure that the food safety standards are complied with, specifically in terms of meat production and also the distribution. Hon member Marran would also know that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture also has a veterinary export certification office that does the certification and the transportation of meat, particularly coming from the borders of the Western Cape. We also have Western Cape State Veterinary Services at these border posts to make sure that there are proper animal health and safety standards in place particularly as it relates to food, security and food safety.

We have the very highest standards to ensure that we protect a) the workers, b) the people that must consume the meat. I am quite certain and confident that those processes are in place. Hon member Marran will also know that we have a state veterinary lab where samples are taken, regular tests are being done and also certified. So, I am quite happy that with regard to food safety standards, these are in place here in the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now go to Question number 8, Question number 8 is being asked by hon Botha to the hon Minister of Education. I now recognise hon Minister Schäfer.

Bullying at schools

8. Ms L J Botha asked the Minister of Education:

(a) How many incidents of bullying has her Department recorded at schools in the province over the past three academic years, (b) aside from the policy against bullying, (i) what practical interventions does her Department undertake to prevent such incidents and (ii) what support is provided to schools where incidents are recorded, (c) what is the correlation between the number of cases recorded and the absenteeism rate among learners and (d) what is the role of school governing bodies in this regard?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Speaker and thank you to the hon Botha for the question. Part (a) the number of instances reported to state schools for each year was as follows:

2018 – 112

2019 – 111

2020 - 65

2021 - 5 from January to March this year.

Part (b)(i) Our district provided training and support as part of broader support on disciplinary issues. Professional staff are available at all times in districts to assist and advise schools on issues such as bullying. The district also runs a number of initiatives: awareness campaigns and training programmes in schools which include learners signing anti-bullying pledges.

Our Safe Schools division has also run programmes for many years designed to influence learner behaviour including learners prone to bullying and other victims.

Part of our 'Transform to Perform' strategy is driving the values conversations that need to take place in our schools and that often are not happening at home. The WCED 'Transform to Perform' strategy has a values and education programme that is currently being implemented in schools. Schools have been asked to choose 12 values for each month, one for each month of the year and to explain, talk, show and live those values. These values include respect for one another, kindness, caring and so on. Schools are to have ongoing discussions with learners on values and undertake various initiatives that showcase them.

For example, many of our principals have reported a decline in learner bullying as a result of this programme as they are being taught how to respect and consider one another and their feelings. We are also working together in the Western Cape Government, across various departments, to try and address the complex social issues that give rise to young people engaging in

antisocial behaviour.

Our learners also need to understand that by not speaking up when they see this kind of abuse, they are part of the cycle, especially if they record a video or post about it on social media. Posting these videos amplifies the harm caused to the child being bullied. Our 'Raise Your Voice Not Your Phone' campaign is aimed to improve awareness of bullying in all forms and to increase the chance of it being reported and stopped.

We have worked with Google to develop an online safety curriculum guideline that seeks to teach learners the fundamentals of digital safety as well. The lessons have been rolled out through the Life Orientation programme. The lessons are aimed at making learners aware of and have a better understanding of the implications of their actions on social media.

Part (b); as noted our Districts provide training and sport to schools on disciplinary issues and are available to assist and advise at all times and to provide support if a case is reported. The District also engages in specific interventions when learners are identified as being at risk of problem behaviour including bullying and monitor the impact of these evaluations. The detailed 'Abuse No More' protocol provides guidance on roles and responsibilities in cases of abuse of any kind.

Part (c); it is difficult to determine the correlation between bullying and absenteeism, but it is understandable that a learner may want to stay home to

avoid being bullied. This is why our Department takes the proactive steps I have outlined to reduce the occurrence of bullying and take action according to the 'Abuse No More' protocol whenever cases are reported.

Part (d); school governing bodies are pivotal in creating a school culture of positive behaviour. The SGB is responsible for the establishment of a Code of Conduct for the school which includes the anti-bullying policy. SGBs are trained on a three-year cycle to capacitate the members to execute their responsibilities to ensure that a school has a positive behaviour ethos. The Learner Code of Conduct should be reviewed on an annual basis to include and respond to emerging behavioural trends and address urgent issues. SGBs are also responsible for dealing with disciplinary matters and with bullying in terms of the relevant disciplinary procedures. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, just for the record, I do have the hands of the following hon members: Hon Herron, hon Christians, hon Botha. I now recognise hon Botha, the first opportunity.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you very much, Speaker and thank you to the Minister for the response in regard to my question. I would like to further then know, given that learners are increasingly using online learning and the internet, what is the Department doing to specifically address the risk of cyber bullying and to promote responsible internet usage? Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Botha. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Speaker. Yes, that is obviously a very important issue in the current modern tech era. The WCED has the Life Orientation Cyber Wellness Programme that we aim to ensure that learners and teachers alike are aware of their digital footprint and the internet potential of the cyber world to affect them and others in positive and negative ways. We have also issued a number of guidelines regarding cyber bullying. There are guidelines on e-safety in schools and educating towards responsible and ethical use of ICT in education. We also have guidelines on cellular phones and other mobile technologies in public schools and guidelines on social media and networking in public schools.

We also have a very innovative project with Google to develop and roll out an online safety curriculum that seeks to teach learners the fundamentals of the digital safety including cyber bullying. This is a course of grade specific lessons that have been rolled out through Life Orientation. We have partnered with an organisation called Web Rangers South Africa, a digital literacy programme, through which young people can gain essential skills and knowledge about the digital world. The programme is about creating young digital citizens who know how to use the internet responsibly and they then go and encourage their peers at school to do the same.

Part of the programme is learners attending training sessions and participating in activities online. They then use the training participating competition where they create innovate safety campaigns, innovative campaigns that promote safe internet usage and their rights in the digital

world.

Also, we have paid some attention to our social media policies at schools and have provided detailed guidelines and a template to all schools to assist them in drawing up a social media policy as part of their Code of Conduct. The policy then needs to encourage learners and employees to act responsibly and be aware of the consequences associated with the use of social media. They must be made aware of the potential negative effects of internet use, including cyber bullying and we are determining the progress of schools in drawing up this policy as part of our monitoring from the second term onwards. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, just last week the MEC provided some answers to my written questions regarding sexual harassment and sexual abuse of learners and the MEC identified that there had been 102 cases over the last five years. I would like the MEC, if she can, to advise whether the alleged perpetrators of this harassment or abuse were reported by the Department to the Social Services or Social Development Department and the police as is required by the Sexual Offences Act and the Child Care Act? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Speaker and to the member for the question. Our 'Abuse No More Protocol' deals with all those issues and that is part of what they are expected to follow up, so my answer will be that to the best of my knowledge that that would have happened. The hon member is welcome to follow up on specific cases if he wishes but that is definitely part of the protocol. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, we visited quite a number of schools and when you come to schools you see the values that are painted on the walls by learners and that of course is to enhance discipline and those types of things. At certain schools I see principals and management playing an active role in order to instil discipline and self-respect. I think if it is done at a local level at schools where principals or whoever take the lead, we will have safer and better schools. So, I have seen it at certain schools, I have not seen it in certain schools, and it definitely makes an impact when it comes to our learners. I thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Christians. Yes, absolutely. Please will you let me know which schools you have not seen it at because they are all required to do this as I have mentioned. And yes, we are certainly seeing success stories as I have also

said in my response, it is anecdotal but quite compulsive anecdotes and that is the entire intention. We are finding that many learners do not get taught these values at home and that when they are part of the school it certainly does make a difference. That is the intention of the programme that we are running in schools: to try and mitigate the effects of not having these taught in the home on learners for the rest of their life and in their school career. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members I now recognise hon Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Speaker, my hand was not raised. It was from before.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. I just wanted to get a sense as to whether the Department has taken any action around the incidents that happened yesterday at the Belgravia High School? If we can just get a sense, what are the steps that are going to be taken and what steps have been taken? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Speaker and thank you to the member for the question. Yes, we certainly have. The school dealt with the

matter in an absolutely excellent way, and I have to commend them for it. The day the incident happened; the parents of the learner who committed this act were called in immediately. The learner has been suspended pending a disciplinary hearing and I am advised that the family has also laid criminal charges against the perpetrator. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Question number 8 and all of the questions standing over from the previous Sitting of 6 May. We now move to the new questions for today and Question number 1 by hon Van der Westhuizen to the hon Minister Bredell. I now recognise the hon Minister.

New questions

Berg River: quality of water

- 1. Mr A P van der Westhuizen asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

What has been the general trend in terms of the quality of water in the Berg River and (b) which pollutants are the greatest cause of concern for the future use of this water for agricultural and human consumption?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker, and to the hon member for the question. If he allows me, I am going to hand the question in and I am going to just touch on one or two as it is quite a lengthy, technical answer. Urbanisation and climate change are two of the most defining manifestations of the 21st century that impacts directly on water sources. The Berg River falls within a catchment that is experiencing increased levels of urbanisation since the mid-1990s, together with the backlog in service delivery to the historically disadvantaged communities.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has been monitoring the water quality for the past seven years through the Berg River Improvement Plan although this is too a short period to determine long term trends, the results have identified some changes in the water quality. Now we must also remember there was a drought that also impacted on the river quite severely.

†So agb Speaker, die Departement se Bergrivier watergehalte moniteringspan toon dat stedelike gebiede die hoofbron van bakteriologiese besoedeling van die Bergrivier is, hoofsaaklik as gevolg van onvoldoende behandeling van riool en rioolwerke en daarom was dit vir ons baie belangrik om oor die afgelope aantal jare redelike beleggings te doen in daardie rioolwerke. Ons moniteer dit geredelik, ons besef die kwaliteit van die Bergrivier het 'n geweldige impak op die lewens van die mense in die Wes-Kaap sowel as ook die landbougemeenskap en daarom is dit vir ons 'n baie belangrike projek, en ook so die ander riviere wat ons nog geweldig aandag aan moet gee. Ons

moet ons riviere se kwaliteit van water op 'n hoogstaande gehalte hou want dit sal ook ons buitelandse, of uitvoere van landbouprodukte beïnvloed, maar as die agb lid my sal toelaat sal ek dan weer graag vir hom inhandig en dan kan hy as daar enige opvolgvrae is dit hanteer. Dankie, Speaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[So, hon Speaker, the Department's Berg River water quality monitoring team shows that urban areas are the main source of bacteriological pollution of the Berg River, mainly as a result of insufficient treatment of sewerage and sewerage works and therefore it has been very important to us over the past few years to do reasonable investments in those sewerage works. We monitor it regularly, we realise the quality of the Berg River has a great impact on the lives of the people in the Western Cape as well as the agricultural community, and therefore it is a very important project to us, and also the other rivers to which we still have to pay a lot of attention. We have to maintain our rivers' water quality at a high level because it will also affect our foreign, or exports of agricultural products, but if the hon member will allow me then I would like to hand in and then he can deal with it if there are any follow-up questions. Thank you, Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Ja, dankie agb Speaker. Agb Speaker, deur u aan die Minister. Agbare Minister, 'n aantal jare gelede het die

Stellenbosch Munisipaliteit 'n hele klompie verouderde rioolplase in die Franschhoekvallei gekonsolideer tot 'n enkele moderne rioolplaas naby Wemmershoek; diegene van u wat bekend is met die omgewing sal dit sien wanneer u die treinspoor wat na Franschhoek toe gaan kruis. En die vraag is net of daardie belegging deur Stellenbosch plaaslike owerheid wel 'n bydrae gelewer het om uiteindelik die watergehalte in die Bergrivier merkbaar te verbeter? Baie dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Yes, thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister. Hon Minister, a few years ago the Stellenbosch Municipality consolidated a whole lot of outdated sewerage farms in the Franschhoek Valley into one modern sewerage farm near Wemmershoek; those of who who are familiar with the area will see it when you cross the railway line that runs to Franschhoek. And the question is just whether that investment by the Stellenbosch local authority had indeed contributed to finally improve the water quality in the Berg River significantly? Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon van der Westhuizen. I now recognise the hon Minister. Your mike, hon Minister.

Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Ek is baie seker dat die opgradering in die Wemmershoek Rioolplaas geweldig baie waarde gelewer het. Toe ons

destyds begin het in 2009 met baie klagtes oor die gehalte van die rivier en wat toe eintlik uitgeloop het op hierdie Berg River Improvement Plan, was ons eerste gedagte dat daar drie groot besoedelaars was. Ons het gedink op daardie stadium dit was die rioolplase, dit was informele areas wat nie genoegsame dienste het nie en dan die landbougemeenskap wat sekere kunsmiddels ensovoorts gebruik. Navorsing het getoon dat die landbougemeenskap 'n mindere invloed op die besoedeling in die rivier het en dit was definitief die rioolwerke, en daarom was die opgradering van daardie rioolwerke van kardinale belang en dan die monitering daarvan vorentoe sal ook van kardinale belang wees om die gehalte in ons rivier te verbeter en die les wat ons daar geleer het, moes natuurlik uitrol na ander riviere toe. Ongelukkig is dit 'n geweldige duur oefening maar ek dink nie ons kan 'n prys sit op die gehalte van ons water in ons area nie, ons het twee groot uitdagings met klimaatsverandering en dit is die hoeveelheid water maar ook die kwaliteit van die water, ons moet altwee ewe veel aandag aan gee. Baie dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I am very sure that the upgrading in the Wemmershoek Sewerage Farm has contributed great value. When we started in 2009 with many complaints about the quality of the river and that eventually culminated in this Berg River Improvement Plan, our first thought was that there were three main polluters. At that stage we thought it was the

sewerage farms, it was informal areas that do not have sufficient services and then the agricultural community using certain artificial substances, etc. Research showed that the agricultural community had a lesser impact on the pollution in the river and it was definitely the sewerage works, and therefore the upgrading of those sewerage works was of utmost importance, and the monitoring of it in future will also be of utmost importance to improve the quality in our river, and the lesson we learnt from that obviously has to roll out to other rivers. Unfortunately, it is a very expensive exercise, but I do not think we can put a price on the quality of our water in our area; we have two major challenges with climate change and that is the quantity of water but also the quality of the water, we have to pay equal attention to both. Thank you.]

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker and through you to the Minister. There is a consistent complaint from the community called Weltevrede in Wellington in the Drakenstein Municipality about a sewer that leaks raw sewage into a stream that flows into the Berg River. So, I wonder if the MEC is aware of this consistent problem and the flow of raw sewage into the stream which flows into the Berg River and whether that Berg River Monitoring or Improvement Plan that he mentioned is engaging with the Drakenstein Municipality to find a sustainable solution to the sewage overflow into the Berg River feeder stream? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Herron, my information is that that problem was identified very quickly, and the Drakenstein Municipality managed to solve it before the sewer reached the river but if you have any other information, please send it to us, we are very serious, we need to protect our river systems and there are also other health issues around a sewer that is leaking. It is very important that the Green Scorpions keep a very close eye on any sewer that is leaking and that we keep quite a strict discipline towards our municipalities to see to it that there is no leakage or spillage of sewage in rivers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Marran, now you can activate your microphone. Hon Marran, your microphone, now you can activate it.

Mr P MARRAN: Activated, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me just quickly get to the question. The MEC was saying that we should not put a price on making sure that our water is healthy and safe, and the hon Herron has also raised issues about Wellington and Drakenstein Municipalities, but we have also received a number of complaints from the Swellendam area where a company or factory is pumping some stuff into the river. I know at some stage we brought it to the attention of the Department, but I would like to check because I think the MEC's Department has been warned for a number of years now about these transgressions that are taking place especially when

it comes to our water sources and rivers. What is he and his Department doing to assist either the Blue or the Green Scorpions to sting or bite transgressors properly? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Yes, hon Speaker, it is difficult. Obviously, we monitor it on an ongoing basis and municipalities do transgress and then the Green Scorpions will move in. We will hand directives to them and they will then come back within the legal framework and obviously then the process starts all over again. But we in this province put a huge effort into getting Green Scorpions trained and to get them accredited. I think we are one of the provinces who have the most Green Scorpions on the ground working with municipalities.

I can also ensure that there is no interference, political interference. We send in the Green Scorpions, they must do their job. If a directive is necessary, a directive is necessary. They normally try through the IGR framework to first go with a pre-directive because we all have the responsibility to try and first find solutions and if there is no satisfactory reaction from the municipal site, we will then move to a directive, but we must remember we also need to work through the IGR legislation so some of these things do take longer.

When it is a sewer spill, we try to move in as quickly as possible and as I

stated, some of these do not even reach the river because we clamp down on them very quickly. I think going forward we, in this House, realise that it is important to invest in the Green Scorpions, to invest in the oversight authorities so that we can keep a tight discipline on our municipalities. Thank you.

[Reply as tabled by the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning follows.]

Urbanisation and climate change are two of the most defining manifestations of the 21st century that impact directly on water resources. The Berg River falls within a catchment that is experiencing increased levels of urbanisation since the mid 1990's, together with a backlog in service delivery to the historically disadvantaged and associated urban infrastructure, while everybody is aware of the huge impact that the recent drought had on the river.

DEA&DP has been monitoring the water quality of the Berg River for the past seven years as part of the Berg River Improvement Plan. Although this is too short a period to determine long term trends, the results have identified some changes in water quality.

It has shown improvement at certain stretches in the river after initial interventions, for example the improvement of water quality in the Franschhoek River after the decommissioning of the old Franschhoek

Wastewater Treatment Works.

However, water quality downstream of urban areas generally shows a deterioration, mainly due to effluent discharges from Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW's) and stormwater drainage from informal areas that lack formal sanitation and solid waste services.

The drought had a significant impact on the water quality of the Berg River. When water quality results from 2013 to 2014 (normal rainfall years) were compared with results from 2016 to 2017 (dry years), significant increases were evident in all pollution parameters during the drought period.

The reduced flow volumes in the Berg River during the drought reduced the river's potential to assimilate pollutants, or at least to dilute it.

However, increased rainfall and runoff during the past two years shows improvement in the water quality of the river since the end of the driest period in the summer of 2017/2018, except for the monitoring sites just downstream of urban areas.

The three major water quality concerns in the Berg River for future use of the water for human consumption and agriculture, are:

- 1) bacteriological pollution,
- 2) nutrient enrichment, also called eutrophication; and

3) salinisation.

The Department's Berg River Water Quality Monitoring Program indicates that urban areas are the main source of bacteriological pollution to the Berg River, mainly through the substandard discharges from wastewater treatment works and untreated stormwater discharges from urban and informal residential areas, although illegal runoff of wastewater from activities such as feedlots, dairies etc. also causes bacteriological pollution from time to time in the river.

The monitoring results have identified so-called "hot spots" for bacteriological pollution, namely in the upper catchment in the Stiebeuels River downstream of the Langrug informal settlement in Franschhoek and downstream of the Drakenstein urban area (Paarl, Mbekweni and Wellington) in the mainstem of the Berg River. The level of bacteriological pollution at these two sites renders the water to be unacceptable for direct use, e.g., for drinking, recreation and irrigation, without the water being treated first. However, monitoring has shown that the bacteriological water quality typically improves downstream, due to the river's assimilative capacity when it flows through more natural river stretches, highlighting the importance of maintaining ecologically functioning river corridors, as well as the riparian rehabilitation of rivers. It must be noted that water use downstream of these hot spot areas should be carefully monitored, managed and used taking into consideration the health risk of bacteriologically polluted water.

Nutrient enrichment is caused by excessive nitrogen and phosphorus in the river. These are being introduced to the river through the discharges of wastewater treatment works and untreated stormwater from urban and informal areas, as well as agricultural return flows from fertilised agricultural areas.

Many of the monitoring sites along the mainstem of the Berg River exhibit eutrophic (nutrient enriched) to hypertrophic water-quality states, which significantly increases the potential for algal blooms. Algae is known to cause blockages in irrigation infrastructure and also increases water treatment costs for potable water supply.

Increased salinity in the mid and lower catchment is a concern for agricultural as well as urban water supply. The natural salinity in the underlying Malmesbury-shales, clearing of natural vegetation for the purpose of agriculture and the deep ploughing of mainly wheatfields in the catchment was thought to be responsible for the enhanced mobilisation and discharge of these salts into the river.

In conclusion: the decrease in the bacteriological pollution and nutrient enrichment further downstream of urban areas, emphasizes the importance of maintaining more natural river functioning corridors, because it assists in the assimilation of pollutants and therefore mitigate the downstream risks associated with upstream development and impacts. Although these pollution impacts should be identified, addressed and remediated, the protection and

rehabilitation of riparian habitats is vital if we want to ensure a healthy river system that will continue to provide the ecosystem services that we require from it. This is the primary focus of the Berg River Improvement Program (BRIP) and the reason it was implemented by the Western Cape Government. There are however no quick-fix solutions, but a focused effort and commitment by all stakeholders is required to successfully address water quality concerns in the Berg River system.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further questions? Alright, now we move to the second question, hon Minister. And that is a question by hon Van der Westhuizen to the hon Minister of Agriculture. Hon Minister Meyer, I recognise you.

Agricultural sector: impact of COVID-19

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

What has been the impact of COVID-19, as well as lockdown regulations, on the growth and/or decline in the agricultural sector in terms of both employment and output?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Yes, we see from Statistics South Africa's latest figures, which indicate the gross domestic product or the GDP as we call it, which is also the most popular measure of economic performance, the corona-virus pandemic has had a negative impact on the economy here in South Africa. It had a devastating

impact and one of the things that we have seen if you look at using the standard seasonally adjusted annualised basis, the South Africa's GDP for the second quarter of 2020 was about 51% lower than the previous year. In the past year we saw the second largest grain harvest ever recorded in South Africa driven by a particularly strong growth in maize, sunflower seeds and soya.

So, despite the negative impact that it had on the agricultural sector, we did see some particular growth. One of the other impacts that we have seen is specifically in relation to the international logistics. Certainly, there were some disruptions, particularly air traffic. There were certain bottlenecks at the ports resulting in ships passing Cape Town harbour and a shortage of containers.

We have also seen that there was also and still is, a global realignment, this is lastly to do with the nationalisation as we have seen particularly in respect of the competition in the vaccines and the farm inefficiencies abroad. It also challenges the import of key inputs, particularly technology inputs and there were also changing of consumer preferences and there were also differences in the applications of the regulations, the changing lockdown regulations, that have certainly also slowed down the economy.

Hon Speaker, the disruptions of farming and agri-processing businesses, cost of compliance to regulations, induced inefficiencies particularly as that added additional costs to the agricultural sector, various protocols that

suddenly had to be complied with, that was new additional input costs, obviously necessary to maintain the safety but it certainly had a knock-on effect on the total business operations in agriculture.

There were also challenges in domestic trade, closure of retail outlets and restaurants, there were disruptions of domestic value chains, regulations also ignoring the importance of informal trade, social unrest and also the decline in the shifting purchasing powers. There were also very unfavourable legislative environments, particularly the ban on the sale of certain products, particularly wool, wine, cotton and flour, particularly during the harvest season. We have seen that many of the flower farmers were unable to transport their products particularly at the end of the harvesting season, so that had a devastating impact but also on the wool industry.

But despite these particular challenges, we have seen massive growth in the agricultural sector, and we are especially happy that we are now busy with the economic recovery process. As we know Speaker, the pandemic is not yet over and the recovery from it will continue over a long time, but we also know that agriculture being dependent on consumption demand will be impacted by the loss of household income as a result of the losses of jobs over time, but we are now working in the Western Cape Department of Agriculture on the Economic Agriculture Recovery Plan, a post COVID-19 agriculture plan to make sure that we certainly will be able to deal with this, not only COVID-19, but the whole repurposing of the economy and also the negative impact on climate change here in the Western Cape.

As you know the devastating impact of the drought over the last seven years had a devastating impact, so it is climate change together with the impact of Covid.

But one of the things that we have seen is that agriculture, despite COVID-19 is very resilient and certainly we will continue to support the agricultural sector. We will continue to support market access because it is still important that we maintain our position also here in the Western Cape as the biggest contributor to revenue generation from agriculture but also the biggest production in agriculture, also the biggest contributor to commercial agriculture here in the Western Cape. When we met with Statistics South Africa, they gave us the latest figures from 2017. We have seen that the Commercial Agriculture Survey has generated R64,4 billion in revenue in the economy here in the Western Cape and with the massive growth we are now seeing specifically in terms of the citrus industry in South Africa, we need to facilitate more direct transportation through our Cape Town port.

We have massive inefficiencies. I have met again this week with the Citrus Growers Association, the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities has also met with the Ports Authority on a regular basis. I have now been requested to arrange through the Chairperson of the Department of the Standing Committee of Economic Development, hon member Deidre Baartman, to also create an opportunity for the Citrus Growers Association to also put their concerns before the Standing Committee and I have spoken to her earlier this morning and she has agreed that that meeting will take place

very soon. I am very thankful for hon member Baartman for facilitating and meeting to this effect and I am also thankful for the work that the Minister of Finance and Economic Development has already done in this particular regard.

But for me, the matter is now urgent because we certainly cannot now continue to allow our citrus and generally our fruit to be exported through Durban harbour. We need to fix the situation here and I have also enquired about the harbour potential in Saldanha and certainly I have received an answer that is definitely a no-no in terms of that. This is important for us because what we are seeing globally, hon Speaker, is that the United Kingdom imports about 14% of all South Africa's fruit; 44% of all the fruit that we export around the world goes to the European Union and we also export citrus to Russia, China and to large parts of the Middle East. So, for us this is very, very important and the Western Cape is responsible for 50% of all South Africa's agricultural exports.

We want to maintain that and that is why we are working very closely with the various stakeholders to maintain that. And I have set additional targets to increase our agricultural exports from the Western Cape, over the next five years, by 5% and Speaker, that will translate into 19 000 new jobs.

So, we are determined, we are committed, and we are very pleased that the agricultural sector, our farmers, our agri-workers, our producers have done their bit during COVID-19 but what we all also see and know is that

COVID-19 has also led to permanent changes in terms of people's consumer demands. There is a great demand for citrus, maybe it has also to do with the contributory medication for fighting COVID-19 and so we are very pleased.

We have also seen record harvesting particularly in the grain industry here in the Western Cape and we are particularly proud. This is the second biggest harvest in the grain industry in the last sixty years, that we have seen. So, despite COVID-19 we have seen massive pockets of growth and exportation and that has lastly to do with the resilience of the agricultural sector. This does not mean that there are no problems. We still have large parts here of the Western Cape affected by the drought, particularly in the Matzikama area and the whole area of the Central Karoo as well as the Klein Karoo and we certainly are working in this particular regard.

So, the Post Agriculture Recovery Plan will come to the Standing Committee, hon member Van der Westhuizen as the Chair, and we will certainly have a discussion with the Standing Committee about this particular matter. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister, Minister thank you very much and I am grateful that you have highlighted, and you were able to inform us that agriculture in

the Western Cape has seen a very good year.

I believe that we have also become the second biggest citrus exporter in the world, and I think that is no small feat. My question is, hon Speaker, what is the effect of the ongoing talks, I almost want to say the word threats of changing Section 25 of the Constitution, the so-called expropriation without compensation drive that we see in our country? Has that had a marked effect on investment in the agricultural sector or not? What do you learn from being amongst the farmers? Thank you very much.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you to hon member Van der Westhuizen for that particular question. One of the things that we know is that to grow a business you need further investment to grow your business but to get further investments it is dependent on (a) consumer confidence, business confidence and investor confidence. Now there is one thing that affects both business confidence, consumer confidence and investment confidence, it is policy uncertainty.

We know for a fact and the impact is clear, what the impact of expropriation without compensation is; that is one of the biggest sources of policy uncertainty that is currently and will in future have a major negative impact on the growth of the agricultural sector. For example, we looked at the gross capital formation and we have certainly seen that there was, over the last

couple of years, and particularly the last two years, a slight decline in the investments.

We have not seen major new investments despite some form of investments in pack houses and pack stores and everybody, members of this Legislature, whenever you travel outside the city of Cape Town in the rural areas, one thing that you will see, the major investment that we did notice and it is visible when you travel, is infrastructure in terms of netting.

That has also to do with climate change, the weather conditions, the climatic impact on certain commodities and so for us we have seen not major significant investments into agriculture because of the policy uncertainty that we have seen. We have monitored it; we have done an economic profile for 2020 and in that presentation, I specifically asked my staff if there was any major significant further investment and what the quantum of that investment was. It became very clear that there was a slight decline in the investment, and this has largely to do with the policy uncertainty in terms of expropriation.

But hon Speaker, we know what has happened with expropriation without compensation elsewhere in the world. We have a case study of Venezuela. In 1999 Venezuela amended their Constitution in respect of expropriation without compensation. That was a Constitutional amendment. In the year 2011 they passed then a specific law to give effect to that Constitutional amendment. This is then what happened in Venezuela: people, the ordinary

people did not benefit from that land allocation, but politicians were the beneficiaries of that expropriation within Venezuela.

When the politicians were beneficiaries of expropriation without compensation, we saw a massive decline in food production to the extent that Venezuela had to import food. They implemented food queues, there were food riots and they also had to use trucks to transport the food and when the food was transported, the trucks were hijacked, when the trucks were hijacked, because a hungry man is a violent man, we have then seen that the army was brought into Venezuela to assist with the food transportation and logistical network. That led to no property fence systems on the border, so foreigners and illegal drug traders came into Venezuela, the economy collapsed and one year later, the inflation rate was 1 million per cent.

That is when you have expropriation without compensation through the lens of the national democratic revolution. The same system was followed in Zimbabwe and so if you ask me, what is the risk: the banking sector will totally collapse because all of us and this is not only land it is expropriation of property.

We also note, Speaker, that this is a very serious matter because the international bilateral agreements to which South Africa is a signatory to, also have founding principles contained in those agreements, and one of those are respecting international property rights. So, what we are seeing expropriation without compensation will do, is violating those

international and bilateral agreements. That will have a major negative impact on our ODA, the Overseas Development Assistance, and certainly, we can expect major big trouble.

The state of our economy, the state of our fiscal framework requires foreign direct investment and with this issue of expropriation without compensation, it has been a major risk flagged by the European Union. It is a governance risk, it is an economic risk identified by major international role players here, doing business in South Africa. So, I think there are better options for land reform.

We in the Western Cape, have done some land reform and very successful land reform has taken place here in the Western Cape. A study was done in the year 2014 amongst approximately 246 farms and we used 39 criteria to determine these land reform farms. In 2014, approximately 246 land reform farms were evaluated through the lens of 39 criteria and that independent study has shown that we had a 62% success rate of land reform. A similar study was then done later in 2018, in other words four years later, on a number of additional farms, in this case 243 farms. That second study confirmed that land reform in the Western Cape, through an independent study using the same 39 criteria, then produced a 72% success rate of land reform.

I think there is the lesson. This Government believes in data-led governance and evidence-based practice. We have the data; we have the

evidence that land reform in the Western Cape is a moral that works and produces results. Are we perfect? Absolutely not. Can we improve? We must improve and will continuously improve.

Certainly, expropriation is also a risk for the banking sector in South Africa because people have mortgages and bonds, and if people expropriate your property obviously you will not be able to pay back those loans on the books and the banking sector will collapse completely. Once your banking sector collapses completely, it is all over, game over, a constitutional crisis, a country collapses and that is what we need to protect, since we are a constitutional democracy.

We will soon have public hearings here in the Western Cape. We all took an oath, as members of this Legislature, that we will respect the laws of this country and I hope that we will respect the laws of this country to maintain constitutional democracy. If we continue with expropriation without compensation, Zimbabwe and Venezuela are not good examples. There are successful examples of land reform and we are happy to share those lessons.

Land reform must happen in South Africa. We have seen that the National Government has failed in the last 25 years and now uses land reform and expropriation without compensation, as a cheap political tool because there now is an election and that is the real danger. When a dictatorship sees the end of their term of office in government, they normally grab land and

use what is called distributive policies to [Inaudible.] but I am afraid in South Africa it will fail. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Marran, please mute that. You [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: Am I now muted, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: No, you are not. Will you please mute yourself, sir, so that we do not create the echo that we are hearing right now. I now recognise hon Marais and then, hon Marran, you will be following after the Minister's response. Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you. Thank you, Minister, for a very wide response to the questions on your portfolio. It is much appreciated but I want to take you onto another issue. How sure are you that in order to offset ever escalation costs to farmers, they will change from being labour-intensive to capital-intensive? I have heard you say that they had a turnover of R64 billion. Well, that could be turnover, that is not profit. People confuse sales with profits. There are input costs that must still be taken care of and then especially, labour and buying of machinery and that.

However, this farming over the past couple of years and the 50% - you mentioned a figure of 50% of South Africa's food production is in the Western Cape - did that result in improved living standards for the farm

workers? Did it result in more farm workers being employed? Or is farm labour at the moment, mostly given to foreigners, especially Zimbabweans? Does that not negatively affect the image of farming in South Africa? So, I want to put it to you, Minister: are you aware of the greater capitalisation of farmers which says it is easier and cheaper to make use of tractors, than to employ labour which is more costly and what are we going to do about it? Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Marais. Thank you for that question. Yes, there are always trade-offs between mechanisation and manual labour, and I think we have seen during COVID-19 an increase in the employment of agri-workers here in the Western Cape as a result of that. You asked me was there a direct benefit? The answer is: yes. Was there a better revenue generation? Yes. We have seen, for example, that if you look here in the Western Cape, the total number of people that are employed in these sectors of the economy, the agri-workers constitute about 17% of all the people that are employed in the Western Cape agricultural sector. If you look at that from a perspective of South Africa, it is about 27% of all the farm workers.

You have also referred to the whole issue of 50%: well, it is not 50% of the production, but of all South Africa's agricultural exports. In South Africa, we have done a study through the University of Stellenbosch, the

Bureau for Economic Research (BER). They have done a study and looked at what happened between the year 2008 and the year 2018. In other words, over a 10-year period. Over that 10-year period we have seen that the Western Cape contributed 50% of all South Africa's agricultural exports.

You have asked me: did the workers benefit? Certainly, through their salaries, through their further employment. Obviously, one would love to see more of that, but I am very appreciative of the work that many farmers are doing in terms of improving the living conditions; improving some of the challenges relating to Eskom; making available also, some solar panels; panels for the whole issue of geysers. So, I have seen that in that particular case.

We have also done a survey, hon member Marais, and maybe to have more factual evidence-based information, we are very happy if you come to the Standing Committee of Agriculture to share the survey that we have conducted with agri-workers, so that I do not give a general answer as I do now, but I give a specific answer also in specific geographic areas. Certainly, I am happy to do that.

So yes, in terms of the employment situation I will always encourage farmers to employ people who are legitimate, legal, have papers from Home Affairs and the Department of Labour, and that comply with all the regulatory framework. Obviously, if you believe in the rule of law, you

have to employ people who are legitimately in your country, who are legally in your country and I do not encourage any farmer or any businesspeople to employ people who are illegally in the country.

We also have to accept that agri-workers from Zimbabwe are great workers. I know of workers from Zimbabwe who rented a farm. They wanted to plant some commodities there and were told by the farmer 'no, it will not work'. Well, those guys from Zimbabwe who are here legally, surprised the farmer with crops that he has never seen on his own farm. So, they also bring a wealth of experience. Zimbabweans are great farmers.

I think this issue of using local farmers and legal farmers, is always something that the colleagues deal with, but anybody that is illegally in the country, certainly must be dealt with. If there are any such cases, we normally refer it to the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Labour because that is a labour relations matter that we need to respond to.

But the issue, a fundamental correction of the hon member Marais, where you say if there is growth in the agricultural sector, if there is revenue generation in the agricultural sector, do the workers primarily benefit from that growth? Let us bring the survey that we have done to the Standing Committee and unpack that answer in greater detail, if that is fine with hon member Marran. Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the time for oral questions. The questions for oral reply that have not been attended to, will all be printed in Hansard and that will then lead us to the next item on the business of the day, and that is the Member Statements. Hon members, I now recognise the DA.

MEMBER STATEMENTS

An HON MEMBER: You have dealt with me on this particular question, Speaker.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order! Please proceed, hon Mitchell?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it has almost been two years since the MOU between PRASA and the Provincial Government has been signed. In addition to this, it has been a year since the Standing Committee of Transport and Public Works has been briefed about the turnaround strategy for the Western Cape rail transport. Yet here we are, Speaker, with informal settlements having been established on the railways and train stations vandalised to the brink of destruction. The central line is still not fully operational, despite the

support the Western Cape Government has given to PRASA.

Not only does this disruption disrupt day-to-day economic activities, but it also adversely affects the disposable income of those who rely on public transport. Consumers have been forced to substitute rail transport for that of taxis. Over the past eight years, the use of trains has decreased by 64% and has resulted in an increase of 16% taxi use. As it currently stands, the industry is responsible for the transportation of 15 million people every day or more concisely, 75% of all daily commuting.

Whilst the only long-term solution is for South Africa to have an efficient and affordable rail service, this Provincial Government stepped up in the interest of the citizens of this province. Hon Speaker, the Blue Dot taxi initiative, which was recently launched, builds on from the experiences of the Red Dot taxi service and aims to address the violence in the taxi industry, and to improve general services for commuters. This will be done through incentivising better behaviour through an award system and so far, hon Speaker, 1 000 taxis have signed up.

Through you, Speaker, my question to the Opposition is this: do you offer the same level of support to the taxi industry and commuters where your party governs? As this DA-led Government steps up to the plate, we look forward to National finally delivering on its mandate. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mitchell. I now recognise the ANC.

Mr M KAMA (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ANC is saddened and angered by the mass shootings that left 13 people dead and scores of others seriously wounded in Khayelitsha over the weekend. We condemn these heinous crimes in the strongest possible terms and convey our deepest sympathies to all the bereaved families.

It has been widely accepted that criminal gangs fighting for territory and control of the extortion ring in the area, is what led to the massacre. This is not the first, nor the second, nor third time that we witness mass shootings in Khayelitsha or other townships in the province. The brutality with which the latest shooting spree was committed is shocking and should push everyone to action and reclaim the streets from the gangs. Something drastic needs to be done. We need all stakeholders in Khayelitsha to join hands to suppress gangsterism in the area.

In this regard we commend the KDF, which has already started organising the people and all stakeholders in the community, to find lasting solutions to the crisis. We welcome the swift response by the Western Cape police's Integrated Task Team comprised of intelligence officials and a combat contingent, amongst others, which resulted in the arrest of 11 suspects in the early hours of Monday morning.

On top of all such efforts to deal with extortion in the province, the

National Minister and the Police Commissioner, both provincially and nationally, should urgently find ways to implement Recommendation 7 of the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry, which spoke to the urgent reallocation of human resources to three Khayelitsha police stations. The MEC should also deploy more LEAP officers to Khayelitsha for peace and stability purposes.

In turn, the MEC should brief this House on how many LEAP officers would be deployed and for what duration. The DA Government and the Standing Committee on Community Safety should spend more time in supporting such to do more than playing politics to advance their ill-advised provincial police force. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Kama. Hon members, I now recognise the EFF. The EFF is not present in the House today. In the absence of the EFF, I now recognise the DA.

Mr R D MACKENZIE (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this province, like every province in the country, is facing severe economic consequences due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the hard lockdown regulations, with a decimated key sector such as tourism and the hospitality industry, and also the arts and culture sector. But not every province has a metro that performs as well the City of Cape Town, who despite the circumstances, are still able to secure more than R11,2 billion worth of investments which created more than 7 000 jobs and trained more

than 3 000 people in key sectors, such as the call centre operations, clothing manufacturing, arts and craft design and the Green Committee Economy and of course, BOD building.

In fact, Speaker, the City has numerous projects and programmes that set up businesses and entrepreneurs to succeed in our City. The City works to reduce red tape and improve the ease of doing business and succeeded in running first in two categories in the Subnational Doing Business survey conducted by the World Bank. That is during a global pandemic.

The City has established a business hub which helps entrepreneurs to set up and improve their businesses. The help desk advises businesses on how to apply for start-up funding and draw up a business plan. Recently, the Cape Skills and Employment Accelerator Project was launched and will create employment for over 200 women and youth in the textile industry, while it partners with more than 40 SMMEs to empower and uplift Cape Town's historically rich textile industry.

Our township economies which are vital to the economic prosperity of Cape Town, have not been left behind. The Small Business Incubation and Development Project supports local business incubators with funding, facilities and business development workshops in Nyanga, Khayelitsha and Atlantis.

Speaker in conclusion, despite the global pandemic, the DA-led City of

Cape Town was the metro with the lowest unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2020, in South Africa. That is the DA difference. That is where we govern. The economic programmes and the interventions by the City of Cape Town are working, are protecting and are creating jobs across the City of Cape Town, and that is the DA-governed City of Cape Town. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mackenzie. Hon members, I recognise the GOOD party. I now recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker, we have no statement.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon Christians, ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the ACDP is very concerned about the video that went viral, where a boy set a girl's hair alight at Belgravia High School. Speaker, the boy was suspended, and the girl was sent for counselling. The ACDP wants to thank Belgravia High School for taking swift action, but Speaker, the ACDP also want to urge victims of bullying at schools to report these incidents. The only way to curb these incidents is to report these incidents.

Speaker, I even want to go further to say that the Department and the Minister must really look at the person who is doing the bullying, the perpetrator, because many of them come from households where they are

abused. Maybe, it is another area where the Department can look into, to see how the Department and the schools can assist the perpetrators of bullying. Because like I said, sometimes they come out of homes or they come out of communities where they are being bullied and then, they bully at school. So, I would like the Minister to take special note of that, so that we attend not only to the victim, but also to the perpetrator. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, I now recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The hon Chief Whip of the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. Let me just control this. Can you give me a minute, Speaker? My apologies.

The SPEAKER: Then, you will have one minute to deliver your member statement, hon Chief Whip, unless I have to proceed and then you will have forfeited your opportunity in terms of ... [Interjection].

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): It is fine, I am okay, Speaker. Can I go on?

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, yes.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you. The ANC welcomes the decision by the Cape High Court yesterday, to interdict the sale of, amongst others, the SABC Rocklands building in Sea Point. We commend the Minister of Human Settlements, hon Lindiwe Sisulu, for championing this cause of ensuring that state and parastatal buildings be used and revamped for integrated social housing. We, in this province, know all too well that the Tafelberg matter is still not concluded despite our pleas, together with numerous other non-governmental and community organisations, for this Provincial Government to do the right thing and use Tafelberg as a space for integration, and build a truly non-racial society.

The DA-led Provincial Government continues to block any meaningful effort to use Tafelberg for integrated social housing. We, in this province, know all too well that this DA-led Provincial Government will do all in its power to prevent the integration of our communities and deconstruct apartheid spatial planning and implementation. The Rocklands building must therefore be identified as one suitable for social housing and ensure that areas such as Sea Point become fully integrated. We welcome the progressive stance our court has taken in ensuring that unilateral decisions are not taken, but rather, the needs of the broader communities are considered when state and parastatal buildings are disposed of. We call on the National Department ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... of Human Settlements to continue championing integrated human settlements for we know that this DA Government works for and continues to perpetuate past privilege. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Whip. Hon members, I now recognise the DA.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (DA): Hon Speaker, our oceans are under pressure. Just this week the police again arrested two individuals for the illegal possession of almost 24 000 dried abalone on the N7 close to Philippi. Thus far, the sole reliance on legal restrictions and regulations has not been successful to protect wild abalone stocks. It is estimated that more than 2 500 tons of abalone are poached annually, exceeding the almost 2 000 tons that is commercially produced. Without an effective coast guard and law enforcement capacity, it has been difficult to prevent the decimation of wild abalone stocks.

South African abalone farms produce only about 1,6% of the 170 000 tons consumed globally and is already creating 3 000 jobs. The potential for growth is therefore massive, yet South African abalone is some of the cheapest in the market, due to the poor quality of poached, confiscated abalone that is later put back in the market through auctions. The Abalone Farmers Association of South Africa has already presented solutions to the Standing Committee. Their plans include stock enhancement which sows

abalone larvae at suitable venues along our coast. Local communities could also gain the right to farm with abalone and there can be regulations to ensure that abalone is only processed by legal processes.

National Government should go back to the drawing board and seriously engage with commercial abalone farms on their proposals. Public private partnerships in Japan and New Zealand, resulted in commercial abalone farms providing the larvae, also called spat plantings, to Government initiatives in order to restock wild abalone. It is time to learn from international experience and adapt that knowledge for local conditions. We have the potential to create jobs and protect the species that has fed humans over many centuries. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van der Westhuizen. Hon members, hon The Leader of the Opposition, your hand is up. Is it inadvertently up or did you want to raise a point of order? Alright, let us move, hon members. Order, hon members. I recognise ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speaker, can you hear me?
Can you hear me, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Who is that now?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is member Dugmore.

The SPEAKER: Your voice is very transformed today, hon Dugmore. May I please ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I have had to my phone, but just to say that I am connected, and I am not sure whether I still have an opportunity to do my statement.

The SPEAKER: We heard hon Lekker. The Chief Whip delivered the statement on behalf of the ANC. Thank you, hon Dugmore. Hon members, I now recognise hon Marais FF Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FF PLUS): Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus recorded a massive increase in support at the polls in yesterday's by-election in Tshwane, Pretoria. We increased our vote from a low mere 4% in 2016 to 31% of the vote at the expense of the Democratic Alliance. This trend is a huge swing away from the DA and left-wing politics, to a more conservative approach that should be adopted in South Africa if we want to bring law and order back, stimulate the economy and increase international interest in our country, which has now been rated as a failed state; we being 85th on the world list of failed states because we cannot feed our people, bring about economic stability and govern corruption-free. The Freedom

Front Plus is on the march. We have become an unstoppable force. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Order, hon members. I now recognise Al Jama-Ah, hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, in solidarity with the Palestinians in their struggle against apartheid, we note that the situation in Israel and Palestine has once again, led to the avoidable deaths of many people inside Gaza and Israel, and multiple more deaths in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

We note that the United Nations Security Council appears unable to even express a motion of concern about the violence and the deaths. We believe that the two-state Oslo process is dead, and an alternative way must be found to bring justice and peace to the situation. We know that the life of a baby in Gaza cannot be of less value than the life of a baby in Sderot. We know that the life of a woman in Tel Aviv cannot be more precious than the life of a woman in Gaza.

Further, we move that as a Provincial Government, we cannot be indifferent or resign ourselves to intractability. On the contrary, we should do what the anti-apartheid movement called on other allies to do when we were struggling against apartheid; and calls made to their governments were not to do business with apartheid South African

companies and they complied. We asked that the South African government and its lobbies not be represented officially at any legislative functions, and they complied. We asked that apartheid South African trade missions be barred from legislative functions, and they did. We asked that apartheid South Africa not be permitted to use any cultural and sporting facilities under the control of the legislated ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis, your time is concluded.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now recognise the DA.

Ms D M BAARTMAN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, Deidre Baartman. May I proceed?

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon Baartman, thank you.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you. Hon Speaker, fellow South Africans, in a global pandemic, financial accountability is more important now than ever. People want to know when they will be receiving their vaccines, but people also want to know how the people's money has been spent. It is for this reason that the Western Cape Provincial Treasury started producing the procurement disclosure report, to showcase that the Western Cape Government spend the people's money to the benefit of the people across

its public procurement.

So far, the Western Cape departments have collectively spent more than R144 million or 22% on micro-enterprises, these being enterprises earning less than R10 million each. They spent more than R280 million or 33% on small enterprises, these are enterprises earning R10 to R50 million, totalling more than 55% spent on SMMEs or just over R431 million. Further, the Western Cape public entities have collectively spent more than 61% on SMMEs or just over R2 million. The Western Cape Government consistently shows that we prioritise and recognise the importance of small and micro enterprises in our economy, by outperforming the national mandate that 30% of all COVID-19 expenditure must be spent on SMMEs.

Further, the Auditor General's report indicated that 75% of departments and entities of the Western Cape Government received a clean audit and only 20% received unqualified with no findings, meaning essentially that in total, 95% of the Western Cape Government was found to have sufficient internal controls to prevent irregular, unauthorised and wasteful expenditure.

In terms of governance controls, the Western Cape Government leadership received a score of 100%, nearly double that of the next best province, which is KwaZulu-Natal, at 52% and 95% more than the worst province, which is the North West, scoring only 5%. Ratings Africa's recent report also shows that the City of Cape Town remains South Africa's only

metropolitan municipality in financial good standing. This is evidence of the financial accountability ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: ... of the Western Cape. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Your time is up, thank you. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145 (6), hon members in the Executive, you have the opportunity where one or two members of the Executive – in fact, one or more may ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: You have got a maximum of five minutes all together, to do so.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, Speaker, sorry. Am I still able to do my statement?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No, hon Dugmore. The hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, hon Lekker, dealt with the statement from the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Amandla! Thank you.

The SPEAKER: That is out of order, hon Dugmore. May I proceed to the Executive. Is there any member of the Executive that wishes to respond? None, thank you. Hon members, that concludes the Members' Statements. We now move to Notices of Motion. In terms of the new Rule 151, all Notices of Motion by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. I trust that the members have done that. These motions then, will subsequently be submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the current spate of killings in Khayelitsha, where 13 people were shot and killed on Saturday 15 May 2021.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the public revelations made before the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture and the extent of state capture in South Africa.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr R I ALLEN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House holds a discussion on the state of violence and discrimination towards queer (“LGBTQIA+”) communities in South Africa and on efforts to prevent and address such atrocities.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr M KAMA: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the ongoing shootings of people on the Cape Flats; and notes that none of the containment measures by the present DA Government seems to assist to bring the numbers significantly under control.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr R I ALLEN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the scarcity of police resources in the Western Cape, noting that the South African Police Service is the lead agency in this regard.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House discusses the abuse of public money meant to assist workers during the pandemic time.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr G BOSMAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the status of state-subsidised social development support across the three spheres of government.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms W F PHILANDER: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House discusses the importance of achieving population immunity through the efficient administration and provision of vaccinations for the coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19); and

deliberates in such a discussion on the future of the Western Cape in a post-COVID-19 global environment.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the state of service delivery in the Western Cape.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms W F PHILANDER: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the efforts of the Government and the society to raise awareness of and to stop the spread of tuberculosis.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr R I ALLEN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the state of museums, heritage sites and cultural icons, including Robben Island.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the need for land in the Western Cape for integrated human settlements, agriculture, industrial development and social development.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms L J BOTHA: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the efforts of state and non-state actors in addressing bullying at our schools.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the current status of housing developments in District Six, with particular reference to continued delays with the restitution projects managed by the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, led by Minister Thoko Didiza.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Mr M KAMA: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the allocation of police resources in the Western Cape and the plans to address violent crimes in hotspot areas.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the continued trend of illegal land invasions in the Western Cape, with particular emphasis on how all three spheres of government need to work together to address the issue and to recognise the importance of cooperation in protecting the dignity and rights of Western Cape residents.

[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]

The SPEAKER: Now, may I then at this point go to the Motions without Notice, in terms of Rule 150. Hon members, you know that Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice – condolences motions and also, the motions of congratulatory nature – were submitted with the Programming Authority prior to this plenary and that was 18 May. So, the hon members are also reminded that the Motions without Notice pertaining to

congratulatory and condolences, will not be allowed in this sitting, that have not been processed by the Programming Authority. Which is you will not be delivering it here now. All of these have been recorded.

Let me further state that I have been informed that in the Programming Authority Meeting on 18 May 2021, all the political parties did submit the names of the 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, hon members and for the purposes of minute taking, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved by the Programming Authority.

The following hon members and the motions they have submitted and been approved by the Programming Authority are the names that I am going to be reading. The first is the hon America, two is hon Dugmore. Hon America, for the record, is from the DA and the hon Dugmore is from the ANC. Hon Maseko from the DA, hon Dugmore from the ANC – that is four. Five, hon America again from the DA and hon Xego from the EFF. Seven is hon Philander from the DA and hon Allen from the DA, eight. Hon Christians from the ACDP is nine. Ten is hon Windvogel from the ANC. Lastly, on the agreed motions at the Programming Authority, which are obviously congratulatory in nature and/or condolences of motion. And the last one is hon Makamba-Botya from the EFF and that is the eleventh. I now put to the House the Motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr D AMERICA: I move without notice:

That the House extends its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who passed away during the recent storms in the Southern Cape; and notes that two residents tragically lost their lives in the Riviersonderend and Stormsvlei area, with a further two in the Bonnievale area.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Muslim community that celebrated their Eid ul-Fitr festival last week, which is characterised by love, unity and sharing with the vulnerable, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadhan, which was marked by heightened self-discipline and human solidarity; and pays tribute to the Muslim community for their contribution towards social cohesion and poverty alleviation, especially during their holy period.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Ms L M MASEKO: I move without notice:

That the House notes and sends its well wishes to Ms Bessie Viljoen from the Breede Valley who celebrated her centennial birthday earlier this year; notes that Tannie Bessie has spent her life in service to her community and education, as a teacher in Limpopo and the Western Cape, specifically in Paarl and Worcester; notes that she completed her teaching degree at the Wellington Teachers' Training College and began her career in 1940; and further extends its best wishes to the legendary 100-year-old teacher in the Western Cape, Tannie Bessie Viljoen.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House commiserates with the family, friends and comrades of the late Nicklo Pedro, a Mossel Bay anti-apartheid stalwart, Robben Island prisoner, social justice activist, mentor to many and former ANC councillor, who passed away last week; and commemorates his legacy.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Mr D AMERICA: I move without notice:

That the House thanks and congratulates Gift of the Givers, community members and businesses of Struisbaai and surrounds for their invaluable humanitarian assistance to the affected residents who suffered severe distress during the recent storm in the Overberg region; coupled with the swift and efficient actions of Disaster Management through the Department of Local Government, as well as the support of the Department of Water and Sanitation, it is noted that further disaster was mitigated and avoided; and notes that we are deeply indebted to brave officials and residents of the province for their combined efforts.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Mr M XEGO: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's rugby team for retaining their Varsity Shield title on Sunday 9 May 2021 at the Tuks Stadium in Pretoria; notes that they achieved this milestone by beating the Walter Sisulu University's All Blacks by 30 to 26 in the final of the Varsity Shield tournament; and further notes that we are very proud of their exploits and encourage them to keep flying the CPUT and Western Cape flag high.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Ms W F PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House notes the commemoration of International Nurses' Day on 12 May 2021; extends its sincere appreciation for the invaluable role nurses around the world play as we continue to fight COVID-19 and stringently maintaining all other healthcare services with utmost dedication; acknowledges the long, hard hours that nurses work to take care of the most vulnerable in society; and notes that a registered nurse pledges to serve humanity with conscience, dignity and first consideration to their patients – this is a noble tradition indeed.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Mr R I ALLEN: I move without notice:

That the House notes that four South African Police Service (SAPS) members were murdered by brazen criminals during the first three months of 2021; condemns the murder of police officers; extends our sincere condolences to the families of the victims, their friends and the entire safety fraternity; notes the important mandate of SAPS as the lead agency in our fight against crime; and calls on members of the public to come forward if they have any information that may lead to the arrest of those responsible.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I move without notice:

That the House extends sincerest condolences to the families and loved ones of the five young people who died tragically in a car crash; notes that a recent article in *Die Burger* (10 May 2021) reported that five young people were tragically injured in a four-car crash; notes that the crash occurred after 23:00 on Saturday 8 May and that six critically injured people were hospitalised; notes that those who died are Cedric Fortuin, Geraldo Wanza, Jaydene Hector, Sue Ann Rauss and Keanno Africa; and notes that the grieving families and the community of Ceres are in our prayers and we pray for the complete recovery of those hospitalised.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I move without notice:

That the House notes that vaccination against COVID-19 in the Western Cape organised by the National Department of Health and supported by the Provincial Department of Health is progressing well; calls on all vulnerable residents to register for the vaccinations; and calls on citizens to follow all COVID-19

protocols.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: I move without notice:

That the House notes the passing of Ms Emily Mohala on 9 May 2021; notes that Ms Mohala was a member of the EFF in good standing, as well as a member of the Regional Command Team in the West Coast region; notes that her hard work and dedication to the movement are an example that others should follow and emulate; notes that she will always remain in our memories and hearts as a movement, and we hope to carry on where she left off and take the movement forward; and sends our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones; may her soul rest in revolutionary peace.

[Motion as printed in the minutes.]

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections hon members? No objections, agreed to.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, may I address you?

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

Mr P J MARAIS: No, I just want clarity. I want to make sure that my motion was submitted, and I was assured it will be on the Paper. I do not see my name having been read also and I am just enquiring. I am not a member who every week has ten motions, I am one member. I have one every three months and I am just worried ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: ... why it never appears on the Order Paper.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I am still busy, and I am sure you will be satisfied. Let me proceed.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: And then, if you are not covered, we will definitely make sure that you are covered. Let us proceed.

Hon members, the motions will appear in the Minutes of Proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual members' name, as if that hon member has read the motion out loud, here in the House. So, all of these motions are recorded as such. I will now afford the opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice, as per the Standing Rule 150 2(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in Programming Authority. So, the hon members are reminded that the 30-minute rule will

apply, as per the Standing Rule 150 2(d), which starts now. Now, in simple terms, hon members, I press the dial, the watch now, to set the time. At the end of 30 minutes, I stop with the motions. So, I now recognise, I have got a speaker, I have got a list of parties here and the ACDP and the FF Plus, hon Marais, does appear as well. So, you will find an opportunity to speak.
[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.]

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the DA. Please: all the parties wait for your turn and listen attentively. Thank you very much, the DA.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the faithful are encouraged to support vulnerable residents; extends its gratitude to the Muslim communities of the Western Cape for their invaluable generosity during the month of Ramadan; welcomes the hosting of Iftar for the poor and needy, as demonstrated by Muslim communities in the province; and supports the ongoing charitable efforts of Muslim residents in uplifting the vulnerable. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mackenzie. Hon members, are there any

objections to the motion being read without notice? No objection. Are there any objections to the motion itself? No objections, agreed to. Now, I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the efforts of the UIF and the Department of Labour through the “follow the money” project to verify if the UIF-TERS were used as intended and monies have been paid to the intended beneficiaries; that resulted in one fraudulent case, involving R3,8 million by an employer in the Western Cape, currently with the Special Investigation Unit (SIU); and further calls on the Premier to give support where required to bring this company to book in keeping with the spirit of “good governance” in the province. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice? No objections?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Objection. It has to be the Labour Department that has to bring that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Is that an objection?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Yes, thank you. It is not in a provincial mandate. The Department of Labour must bring that matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. That is an objection. The motion will be printed in the Order Paper. Hon members, we move to the DA. The DA?

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House condemns the spate of murders and violence in Khayelitsha, Kraaifontein and Mfuleni over the weekend of 15 and 16 May 2021, in which at least fourteen individuals lost their lives; extends our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of the deceased; and welcomes the arrest of eleven suspects of these crimes on Monday 17 May 2021. We further call for a comprehensive and effective investigation into these heinous criminal activities and for swift response from our criminal justice system; and notes that such violent criminality plagues communities, thus demonstrating the severe need for full implementation of the Western Cape Government Provincial Safety Plan; and emphasise that the Provincial Safety Plan is designed to assist the South African Police Service (SAPS), which, due to a lack of policing resources and effective national leadership, is unable to fulfil its safety mandate in the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Too long.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Allen. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): There is. It is too long.

The SPEAKER: Objection noted, and the motion will be printed in the Order Paper.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Just to understand. Is there a rule that says that motions have a particular length?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Chief Whip, there is no rule, but there seems to be an issue of desirability by the hon Chief Whip of the ANC. Will you change your position if I have to rule differently? In this case, let me just be clear, hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party. There is no rule that says because it is long or because you just do not like it, then you must vote differently. But we can certainly check if the hon Chief Whip of the Opposition has a

different view while she is objecting to the motion?

Mr P MARRAN: It borrows to a statement.

The SPEAKER: No, you simply – we need a reason to object in terms of the Standing Rules.

Mr P MARRAN: That is the reason.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Inasmuch as I do not want to respond, but hon Marran has covered me fairly well.

The SPEAKER: Alright. There are two areas of objection in the motion. One is the motion being Moved without Notice, which is an objection can be on that basis that it was Moved without Notice. Then, the second one is when there is an area or a dispute on the content thereof, which then that could also be one. So, which one are we dealing with? We do not have one that deals with the length.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker, can I address you?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Why is it that we have to argue on this motion now because there is an objection, and the issue is there is an objection to the motion and that should carry.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Whip. I wanted to hear what the objection is. You just answered. It is an objection to the motion. So those are the grounds on which you can do an objection on the motion or an objection to the motion being read without notice. We are just following the Rules, Madam the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, we now move and the hon members, we are now moving to the next motion. [Interjection.]

Mr R I ALLEN: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I now recognise, in the absence of the EFF, I now recognise the DA. Hon Botha, okay. [Interjection.]

Mr R I ALLEN: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I see there are too many hands, and we cannot have too many cooks in the kitchen. I ... [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.]

Mr R I ALLEN: Speaker? May I go, Speaker, you mentioned the DA?

The SPEAKER: There is a hand of hon Bosman. Before you proceed, hon Allen. Hon Bosman, is that a point of order, sir?

Mr G BOSMAN: Yes, Speaker. I just wanted to ask a point of clarity. I am not sure I heard the Chief Whip of the Opposition. Was she objecting to this House condemning murders in Khayelitsha?

The SPEAKER: Let me, for the record, indicate that when I, on a number of occasions hon Bosman, to the hon The Chief Whip of the Opposition, the nature of your objection. She said on record she objects to the motion. Now, let me proceed. I am only the presiding officer and I deal with the Rules. I am not part of your debate, so let me move to the next speaker and that is hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that the Western Cape Government engages its Faith-Based Organisation Network to work with faith-based leaders in the province during the COVID-19 pandemic; notes that the inter-ministerial team led by Minister Ivan Meyer, Minister Sharna

Fernandez and Minister Anroux Marais; and extends its gratitude to the Provincial Ministers and the faith-based leaders for their ongoing, vital joint efforts in alleviating the impact of the pandemic in the province. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Allen. Hon members, I now recognise – thank you. I see my Table staff is wide awake. Even at dinner time, they are wide awake. Thank you. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice? No objections. Are there any objections to the motion itself? No objections. Motion agreed to. Hon Herron?

Mr B N HERRON: Yes, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Do you have a motion, hon Herron?

Mr B N HERRON: No, I do not.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. To the DA? ACDP? DA again?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Speaker, I am covered, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. DA again? ANC? DA again?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: I move without notice:

That the House notes and calls for the Provincial Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, David Maynier, in his engagement with the industry to call out the eight non-cooperating companies in the Western Cape that have been reported by UIF Commissioner on 12 May 2021 to the Standing Committee of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism at the meeting about the UIF-TERS disbursement and challenges thereof. He must further encourage these companies to do their civil duty and corporate obligations outlined in the King IV Codes of Good Practice, by cooperating with the UIF and the Department of Labour regarding Government funds transferred to them to allocate them to their workers in the spirit of transparency and measured in terms of good and ethical corporate citizenship. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice? No objections.

[Interjection.]

Ms D M BAARTMAN: No.

The SPEAKER: Is that an objection? No objection?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: No, no objections. Indicated: agreed.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will not ask further questions.
Let us now move to the next motion by FF Plus, hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That in the light that the Western Cape Government's decision to procure its own vaccines, the Freedom Front Plus requests that this House should consider that persons living with comorbidities be given the choice of vaccines, as recommended by their doctors, instead of being forced to take a specific vaccine. Different vaccines have different efficacy rates and side effects, which could negatively affect the person's long-term health conditions ...
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.]

Mr P J MARAIS:

... with consequent adverse legal implications for this Province.

This request is in keeping with the Gauteng High Court judgment, *Afriforum v SAHPRA*, regarding the request for Ivermectin and the rights of patients to choose to use it. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Order, hon members, order. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Ja, there is.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The objection has been noted and the motion will be recorded in the Order Paper.

Mr P J MARAIS: Chairman, can I ask who objected?

An HON MEMBER: The DA.

The SPEAKER: The ANC. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: And the DA.

The SPEAKER: And the DA.

Mr P J MARAIS: Wonderful!

An HON MEMBER: But it was the DA first.

The SPEAKER: Both your friends objected, hon Marais. May I ...
[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: The public will give their answer in October.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now recognise the DA. None? Al Jama-
Ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: I am covered, Speaker, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, that concludes the Motions
without Notice. Hon members, the Secretary will read the first Order of
the Day. Mr Secretary?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration and Finalisation of the Western Cape
Nineteenth Gambling and Racing Amendment Bill [B 1–2020].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, I recognise the
hon Minister. The hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. I wish to introduce the Bill and to which obviously, Regulator's matters relating to the industry for consideration by the House.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Maynier, Minister Maynier. Hon members, in the light of the fact that there is no speakers' list, I will now afford an opportunity for the parties to speak for a maximum of three minutes each. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): †Enkosi Somlomo. [Thank you Speaker.] I wish to reiterate the stance of the ANC on this Bill, as shared by my colleague at the last sitting. In principle, the ANC supported the objectives of the Bill as it seeks that the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board has an independent source of income and to ensure that the Regulator is self-sufficient, and that gambling was regulated appropriately. Section 44(3) is amended to provide for certain fees to be paid to the Board, instead of being paid into the Provincial Revenue Fund.

Furthermore, the Bill makes provision in Section 44 for casino operator fees to be payable to the Board by holders of casino operating licences. The amounts payable in terms of Section 44(c) for the limited gambling machine operator fees, as well as the casino operator fees payable in terms of Section 44 ... [Audio distorted.] of the amended Bill, failed to take into consideration the impact of COVID-19 on casinos and how their revenue

generation ability has been affected. The representatives from the industry have raised this point sharply during the public hearings, that further increases in costs would be disastrous for the industry and carried the real risk of closure and job losses.

For instance, the limited gambling machine operator fee where the number of limited gambling machines does not exceed 500 machines per operator, is R1,9 million per annum for a period of 10 years. The casino operator fee where the original value of the casino development did not exceed R175 million, is R2,8 million per annum. This may negatively impact on transformation in the gambling industry and these fees may entrench monopolies and create higher barriers to entry in the industry, and lead to fewer historically disadvantaged individuals being able to participate in the gambling industry.

While we support the financial independence of the Board and for it to be able to be self-sufficient, we reiterate and re-emphasis that we are not oblivious to the exorbitant fees that may hinder transformation and entrench monopolies in the industry. We will hold the Board accountable on how it will address these concerns and continuously engage the industry to find solutions to this challenge. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker, we have no declaration on this.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS; Speaker, no comment on this. No declaration.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I now recognise the FF Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS: I have no declaration to make, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Al Jama-Ah? Hon Brinkhuis?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker, we have no declaration. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. The DA?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, fellow South Africans. The Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism considered the Western Cape Nineteenth Gambling and Racing Amendment Bill [B1–2020]. The Committee unanimously supported the Bill, reporting no objections and without amendments. The Amendment Bill aims to amend the Western Cape Nineteenth Gambling and Racing Act 1996 so as to provide that certain fees are to be paid to the Western Cape Nineteenth Gambling and Racing Board, instead of into the Provincial

Revenue Fund, to provide for casino operator fees to amend the provisions of Schedule II relating to limited gambling machine operator fees and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

The Committee received comprehensive submissions from the respective industry who represent most, if not all of the relevant stakeholders affected by this Amendment Bill, as part of its public participation process. Further, the Committee went above and beyond in order to ensuring due diligence and that members are able to apply their minds to the content of the legislation.

In this regard, I would like to thank the parliamentary and departmental officials for assisting us throughout this process, and for providing guidance and advice to the Committee. We would further like to call upon the National Government to ensure that they open the market, given that this is a national mandate and that this does not only go to big business, but also small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Further Speaker, in terms of the casino return on investment, revenue and income, currently these casinos make the most return regarding the income in the Western Cape and they have a severe negative impact on the social fabric of our society. And thus, given the amounts that are proposed by this Bill, I would like to request that the House supports this as the industry should pay for its own regulation, instead of pushing that burden onto the people of the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. Hon members, I recognise the Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. I recommend that the Western Cape Nineteenth Gambling and Racing Amendment Bill [B 1–2020], be finalised.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Maynier. Hon members, for the record I have to announce that there are currently 34 members present in the House and that is 20 from the DA, 10 ANC, one GOOD party, one ACDP, one FF Plus and one Al Jama-Ah. FF Plus absent. To the hon members, are there any objections to the approval of the principle and finalisation of the Bill?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: No.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Speaker, I abstain. The ACDP abstains.

HON MEMBERS: No objections.

Mr P J MARAIS: I abstain. Freedom Front.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Speaker, Al Jama-Ah abstains.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Noting that there are no objections, I want to put the question. Those in favour of the question

being adopted, please say 'yes'?

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the question being approved, please
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. [Interjection.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Speaker, the ACDP abstains.

The SPEAKER: The ayes have it and the question is approved. Thank you.
Now we are moving. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.
Hon members, order. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Nineteenth Gambling and Racing
Amendment Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. The Bill will be sent to the
Premier for assent and the Secretary will read the second Order.

The SECRETARY: Consideration and Finalisation of the Western Cape
Land Use Planning Amendment Bill [B 6-2020]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, I recognise the Hon Minister, hon Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, hon members of the Legislature, ladies and gentlemen I rise to table the Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill [B 6-2020] for consideration by the House. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, in the absence of the speakers' list, I will afford an opportunity to all the parties represented in the House, to have an opportunity for three minutes to speak on the matter. I recognise the ANC.

Mr P MARRAN: Speaker, thanks. Speaker, can you hear me? Speaker?

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, sir.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, with this Bill, the Department's inept handling of complex laws and regulations are showing like a proverbial old petticoat under a pretty girl's new dress. LUPA is new legislation drafted in the past few years after decades of old order mix-match laws. One would have expected of officials to grab this opportunity to settle a lot of old and redundant red tape.

The Department did not fully use this stance to renew the whole process and many rules, instead it now wants to add technical changes to speed up planning permissions and bureaucracy. The ink on the printed LUPO is barely dry. All the officials went back to be updated and what must be done? The officials want things to proceed faster. In order to make things faster, not only ordinary snail mail must be accepted against signature, but emails should also be accepted. It is suspicious if snail mail is suddenly fine for official use, if only a few months ago it was not, and the new technology has proven itself yet.

Email has been with us for many years now and even an e-Government service is rendered by and for Government. Now, after the fact, as a mere afterthought, it is not good enough anymore. Is it any wonder that some residents out there are suspicious that this move is aimed at keeping poor people without flashy electronic equipment, out of the line? The ANC says: go check your law and then, bring back all amendments at once, rather than to run to the Legislature with a variety of small piecemeal changes. The ANC declares to abstain from this vote. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon members, I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON: Hon Speaker, we support the Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Speaker, no comment.

The SPEAKER: I thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, FF Plus?

Mr P J MARAIS: I abstain.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Al Jama-Ah? [Interjection.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker, Al Jama-Ah abstains.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. The DA?

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, George Bernard Shaw once said:

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

In terms of the Western Cape’s Land Use Planning Act, often called LUPA, municipalities need to inform and allow affected landowners to comment on land use applications that may affect their rights. To be more specific, Section 44(2) of LUPA currently requires municipalities to serve notices in line with Section 115 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000. The Systems Act, a national Act, however, is outdated in this respect and limits the options available to municipalities by which

potentially affected landowners may be informed of applications which may inform them.

Traditionally, local governments used the option of registered or certified mail through the Post Office, as the preferred communication method with landowners. The options available under the Systems Act exclude modern communication methods, such as emails. The closure of post offices during the Level 5 lockdown and previous strikes by post office workers, brought developments of properties that required rezoning applications to a temporary standstill. The problems with and the backlogs experienced by the Post Office are well documented, although the ANC seems to deny this.

The Committee have seen the incredibly long queues at our post offices. It has also been found that the majority of intended recipients no longer collect registered or certified mail addressed to them from the Post Office. The Committee has been assured by our legal advisor that municipalities are bound by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act to communicate clearly and effectively in such applications. Many property owners have already switched to email for their monthly municipal statements and the trend is continuing. There are, therefore, cheaper, but particularly better communication options available in order to inform landowners of such applications.

The Committee gave its members extra time to consult and to study, and to

consult with their respective caucuses. It is therefore a pity that the ANC, at the last meeting of the Committee, did not see it fit to support the Bill, as was confirmed today. Despite this, a majority of the members of the Standing Committee resolved to support the Bill [Bill B 6-2020]. We recommend to the House to follow suit. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van der Westhuizen, the Committee Chair. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, I ask that the House finalise the Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the consideration of the principle of this Bill. We have the same quorum as the previous Bill. Are there any objections to the approval of the principle and finalisation of the Bill?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No, okay. Thank you. No objections. Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, the Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent. Hon members, do you want any other order? No. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. It has been a very fruitful and productive day of the sitting and that concludes the business of the day. The Secretary will now end this session. Thank you very much to all the hon members, virtually and the hon members that are here with me and thank you for sticking with me throughout this day. I am impressed, hon Premier, hon Bredell, hon Simmers and hon Van der Westhuizen. You did not leave me alone here. And also, I thank hon Sayed for joining us during this session. That concludes the business of the day.

The House adjourned at 18:25.