
THURSDAY, 20 JULY 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:30.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Order! Good afternoon, everybody and just before I begin, I would just like to apologise for our members and guests and members of the press who were online waiting for our Sitting to begin today. We had an unfortunate incident of some smoke in the building which was not too drastic, thank goodness! But we are happy to be able to begin this Sitting slightly late, but at least to be able to do so. So thank you very much and a warm welcome to everyone here today.

I would just like, before we start the proceedings, to remind our members about some of the Rules and just to ensure that all our members virtually and not in the Chamber, be reminded that we have good data connectivity and that they are ensured that they have good quality audio and video and that there are no disturbances wherever they are, and please note that the hybrid system has been functioning well. Poor audio will not be attributed to this system, but rather the quality of your data connectivity.

Just to remind the media has also been granted access through this MS Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP. However, members of the press may not use the chat room or speak or activate the cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

Hon members, just to remind yourselves about the Language Translation Services which are available in the Chamber as usual, and those that are not able to use a second device, and finally, hon members are reminded that no interjections are permitted during the hybrid Sittings and to this end I draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules.

I now recognise the Chief whip of the Opposition Party.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That in terms of Section 6(3)(b) of the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act, 1998, (Act 20 of 1998), the upper limits of the salary and allowances of the Premier of the Western Cape, as proclaimed by the President of the Republic of South Africa by Proclamation No. 129 of 2023, published in *Government Gazette* No. 48929 dated 10 July 2023, be determined as the salary and allowances of the Premier of the Western Cape with effect from 01 April 2022.

I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is the Chief Whip, no the Chief Whip of the Opposition Party. Are there any objections to the motion? No objections? Agreed to.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

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

- (1) That an Ad-hoc Committee be appointed by the House to consider and report on the Western Cape Provincial Powers Bill, 2023, as introduced by the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on Monday, 3 July 2023.

(See Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, no 66, dated 3 July 2023, p 224.)

- (2) That Ad-hoc Committee shall consist of 10 members, appointed in accordance with Rule 120 of the Standing Rules, with the membership allocated as follows:
- (a) Democratic Alliance: six members
 - (b) African National Congress: two members
 - (c) Economic Freedom Fighters: one member
 - (d) One member to be nominated by the GOOD, ACDP, Freedom Front Plus and Al Jama-ah, collectively.

The names of the members representing the political parties must be submitted to the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament within three (3) working days for publication in the ATC. The Committee to have all the powers conferred on committees generally as contemplated in Rule 91 and the powers necessary for the carrying out of its assignment as contemplated in Rule 119 of the Standing Rules.

I so move, Deputy Speaker.

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

We now move over in terms of Rule 197 to Interpellations. If we can ask that the hon Minister Maynier begins Interpellation 1. Thank you.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr C F Christians asked Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With regard to the News24 and *City Vision* article of 8 June by Unathi Obose with the title “Thugs target school in Khayelitsha”, what measures has his Department put in place to ensure the safety of learners, teachers and the general staff at public schools?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and also thank you to the hon member for putting this question which of course covers the very important issue of safety in our schools.

Deputy Speaker, we need to find ways to make our schools safer and so we plan to spend R76,1 million this year on securing our schools and promoting the safety of learners at school. We committed to constructing secure fencing at 30 schools every year for five years as part of the Western Cape Safety Plan. We will in fact reach that target of 150 schools over five years a full year ahead of schedule, completing fencing at the final thirty schools in this financial year.

We are also expanding the number of school resource officers in our schools,

which are law enforcement officers stationed at our schools, to tackle crime and safety matters. This year we will fund an additional 18 school resource officers, bringing the total number of officers deployed in our schools to 46 and we will add another 18 and the year after that, another 18, for a total of 82 SROs in our schools. The new officers will be stationed in Khayelitsha, in West Bank, in Delft, in Hanover Park, and in Philippi, where they are needed most and we are continuing with our existing activities to help keep learners and teachers safe at schools.

We are providing subsidies for the holiday security to 436 schools and we continue to subsidise security on an emergency basis. 860 schools will receive School Safety Plan training in the current year and we will support schools that do not have a plan in place to develop and of course implement one.

Our District Support Teams implement a variety of positive behaviour and training programmes. Sessions on trauma-informed schools and emotional first-aid training have also reached thousands of teachers across the province. Our Safe Schools Holiday Programme has just taken place during the winter holidays, providing learners with a safe environment and positive activities to keep them out of harm's way when schools are closed.

Of course, anyone, anyone can report a school safety incident to the toll-free Safe Schools Call Centre by calling 0800454647. As well as safety incidents, the Call Centre provides support and referrals on a variety of psychosocial issues at school, but of course we cannot, as the hon member knows, we

cannot overcome the safety challenge of our schools on our own. We work closely with Law Enforcement, with NGOs and with other Western Cape Government Departments to tackle safety in a holistic way but we also need the support of our communities. Someone somewhere knows who the culprits are and they need to speak up. As always, we urge the public to report any suspicious activity in and around our schools to SAPS or the Safe Schools Hotline immediately, as this can make all the difference in apprehending the perpetrators and recovering stolen property and in the end keeping our schools safe in the Western Cape. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for the reply. Minister, you know that the problem is that the gangsters always outsmart authorities. That is what they do, and it is shocking to know that in the paper, these gangsters or whoever they are, came with guns. You know, they had a plan how to access the school. Now the problem is that you can have all the security and as you said, communities must be involved. I want to know, the SGBs, do they play a role in when it comes to our schools?

I was amazed the other day when I visited the school in Mitchells Plain where the principal told us that the learners now have tattoos and they belong to gangs and that brings extra attention to our schools. So the gangs are so clever to infiltrate our schools through the learners and I do not know how

we are going to do that, and I know, as a member I know that your primary responsibility is education and not Community Safety, but it seems to me we will have to look at the whole-of-society approach because education cannot do it alone, but we need to get the culprits and we need to make sure that our learners are safe in our schools. That is important because you do not want learners to be terrified, going to school, sitting in school, do not know what is going to happen next, because I know and as you know, sometimes learners must lie flat on their stomach because of gunshots going out. I just heard in Manenberg the other day in one single street 20 bullets were fired, but luckily the perpetrator was caught and arrested. So this happens in the townships every day where guns, stolen guns and we do not know, I just said to the Minister of Community Safety we do not know where they get the ammunition from; we do not know where they get the guns from, but I am so terrified that some of these guns are entering our schools, so this is a serious matter and that is why I brought it. I mean, in Khayelitsha, can you go so low to rob and take school equipment, take a parent's car and speed off with it? We need to do something but I agree with you, the community should be involved, education and all law enforcement should be involved, but this is a serious issue, Minister, and I know your Department cannot do it alone, but we need to get the community involved. We need to get SGBs involved and everybody because education is fundamental for our learners to be in schools and get quality education for what your Department stands for. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

recognise the hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for this particular response. It goes without saying that the safety of our learners and teachers are paramount at our schools and in addition that our school property is being guarded against crime as well. Our learners clearly deserve to benefit from the resources provided for them without it being stolen or being vandalised.

The Minister mentioned the Winter Holiday Programme and I do know that the Department does subsidise security during holidays. I would like to find out what the subsidisation is for security at schools during the holiday season, especially for the Winter Holiday Programmes and further, what I would like to find out is, what is the type of collaboration that the Department has with SAPS when it comes to crime and particularly vandalism and gangsterism at schools? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Sayed.

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

Firstly, allow me to thank our colleague, hon member Christians, for a very, very relevant question and interpellation, which addresses the sad reality facing poor and working class schools. The hon Christians has raised these matters sharply when we have been on our various oversight visits, so thank

you, member Christians.

In addition to the incident, which member Christian speaks about, a very, very sad incident, earlier this year also, we found the principal of the Saint Augustine's Primary school in Wittebome was robbed at gunpoint in the schoolyard. In April 2023, a teacher was held up at gunpoint and robbed of his cell phone and jacket at the Masivuke Primary School in Browns Farm, Philippi, Deputy Speaker. These incidents have raised serious questions about school safety in our province and have caused so much fear and anxiety amongst learners, teachers and school staff. Safety of our learners, our teachers and our staff is paramount and sadly, MEC Maynier's Department has failed dismally to guarantee it. Sadly, the DA Provincial Government has failed to empower our communities to be at the forefront in the fight against crime. Instead, we find that support is taken away from the Community Policing Forums. The Western Cape Education Department's stated commitment to providing school safety has not been matched by its actions on the ground. The ANC in the province has been calling for school resource officers to be deployed to all our schools in crime hotspot areas. We have also called on the Department of Education to fix broken fences and not blame it every time on the community... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...and to ensure that all school fences that meet the norms and standards are put in place and we reiterate our call...

[Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...for CCTV cameras and for alarm systems to be put in schools and to be functioning. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the problem that we are facing now when learners go through this trauma, and educators as well, I want to know from the Minister, is there any psychosocial support for these learners because now they go through that trauma and they must still excel in school. I am reminded, a year ago where it was reported at Heinz Park Primary, where a teacher was shot and killed.

Now Minister, the problem that I have and that the ACDP has is that we still have too many people not completing school. We have dropouts and they then are recruited by gangs and they then in turn become gangsters. So it seems to me it is an ongoing problem and we must make sure that our learners complete school because that is the problem. So when they leave school, they are not qualified, it means that they are vulnerable to belong to a gang, and gangsters offer big money – offer large incentives. So what do we do to incentivise our learners to complete matric? I know, you know, I am saying

this is a systemic problem if we do not have this whole-of-society approach and I know it is on education, but we need to make sure that our learners stay in school so that they are not recruited by gangs.

Yesterday, being out in Stellenbosch, I visited a home there and the learner was proud to show me on his arm. "I am," he said, "this party has got to me, I do not want to join or I do not want to speak to you because I am a 28." And when I approached, I said, what does that mean, because I do not know what it means, and he then left, he said, "speak to my mother." So these are learners that were in school still this year and now they are roaming the streets and this is the problem that I am facing. So psychosocial support, what are we doing to keep our learners in school, and lastly, what are the incentives? I think we should make - if I look at some schools, we have very minimal dropout rates. That is a fact, but when you go to township schools, the majority of children drop out, so surely we can learn from the schools that are successful and apply to schools where we have big numbers of dropouts. So like I say, it is a debate, it is an ongoing debate, but the primary reason for asking the question is we need to keep our learners safe and we need to retain our learners in school... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): So that we can have a successful Education Department. So thank you, thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. As I have said, we need to find ways to make schools safer and that is precisely for that reason that we will be spending R76,1 million this year on securing our schools and promoting the safety of learners at schools. School Governing Bodies and the Department do cooperate in making our schools safer and in the case which you cited, the Department did in fact act swiftly to improve security procedures at the school and counselling, which you did raise, was provided to staff and members involved. But, as you allude, this case was an exception. The school had all the proper access control and security in place, but the perpetrators pretended to be parents and got past access control and I am pleased to say that that has now been addressed by the Department and the school. And, of course, the Department does provide social-psychological support both to learners and teachers, and we do have positive behaviour programmes to detect and prevent the high drop-out rate at our schools.

The hon member mentions our Winter Support Programmes. We supported 436 schools with the Winter Support Programme this year. We have not yet got the statistics, which we will make public during the course of the next two weeks, but I can say that in previous years we have had about 42 incidents, last year, which is just slightly higher than the 38 incidents in the previous year, but again, Deputy Speaker, I think the hon Khalid Sayed is

once again listening with his mouth and not his ears. The Department in fact does a great deal as I have outlined in securing our schools, improving access control, more fences, more law enforcement, with 86 school resource officers, training schools and teachers on safety measures, running positive behaviour interventions and holiday programmes for learners, providing a Safe Schools Call Centre to provide support and referrals on security incidents to schools and of course, most importantly, working closely with law enforcement agencies, NGO's and other Government departments to ensure that our learners remain safe at school.

I think we should remember in the case that the hon member cited, the words of the Chairperson of the Harare CPF, Funeka Soldaat, when she said, "You cannot tell me a single person in our community does not know the culprits" and, as a parent, when you see your son has a computer in his room knowing exactly that he does not work, why do you not ask where he got it? Items stolen from schools are being sold to someone, and someone sees those items in our communities, and so I would appeal, Deputy Speaker, if you see something, please speak up and help us make our schools safer in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Maynier. That brings us to the end of Interpellation 1.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: we now move over to Interpellation 2. I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

†2. Mnr I Sileku vra mnr A W Bredell, Minister van Plaaslike Regering, Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning:

- (a) Hoeveel sy Departement aan die toerusting van rampbestuurspanne in die provinsie bestee het om die gevolge van die onlangse oorstromings te bekamp en
- (b) wat die huidige stand van sleutelinfrastruktuur, soos paaie, is wat herstel moet word ná die vernietigende oorstromings?

[2. Mr I Sileku asked Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

- (a) How much has his Department spent on equipping disaster management teams across the province to combat the effects of the recent floods and
- (b) What is the current status of key infrastructure, such as roads, that require repair following the devastating floods?]

Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dankie, agbare Adjunkspeaker, en dankie aan die agbare lid vir die interpellasie.

Die Departement van Plaaslike Regering, deur die Provinsiale Rampbestuursentrum, gebruik verskeie hulpbronne en kanale om doeltreffende beplanning vir die winterreëval-seisoen te verseker. Dit sluit in die volgende: Die Provinsiale Rampbestuursentrum identifiseer alle seisoenale risiko's deur sy Provinsiale Ramprisikoprofiel te ontwikkel saam met 'n span belanghebbendes om 'n seisoenale paraatheidsplan vir die komende seisoen op te stel. Dit sluit ook natuurlik die munisipaliteite in. Die Somer Paraatheidsplan fokus op risiko's soos gereelde veldbrande en die besige toerismeseisoen terwyl die Winter Plan fokus op onder meer oorstromings, lae temperature en sterk winde. Befondsing vir die Winter Paraatheidsplan word uit verskeie hulpbronne verkry maar hoofsaaklik uit die Departement se eie begroting.

Die Departement het sedert 2014 nagenoeg R9,5 miljoen belê in opleiding en noodreaksiepersoneel van verskeie organisasies en het voertuie en toerusting verskaf aan munisipaliteite wat eerste op die rampsituasie reageer. 'n Bedrag van meer as R70 miljoen is deur die voorwaardelike toewysing sedert 2015/16 finansiële jaar aan munisipaliteite uitbetaal om kapasiteit van veldbrande en reddingsdienste te verhoog. Gedurende die afgelope drie jaar het die Departement van Plaaslike Regering R1,1 miljoen aan Distriksmunisipaliteite verskaf deur middel van 'n Munisipale Ondersteuningstoewysing van 12 Rampbestuur *Interns* aanstellings. Hierdie inisiatief verskaf ekstra kapasiteit van Menslike Hulpbronne aan die munisipaliteite. Die Provinsiale Bestuur het ook 'n gespesialiseerde

reddingseenheid in die Breedevallei Munisipaliteit wat kan reageer op gevalle waar mense in ineengestorte strukture vasgekeer is. Die eenheid se aanvanklike koste was R7 miljoen en daarna 'n bykomende koste van R120 000 om die toerusting jaarliks in stand te hou. Verder is die Provinsie ook tans in die proses om sy vloedreaksie- en reddingstelsel te versterk deur die verkryging van nuwe reaksie- en reddingstoerusting. Die toerusting gaan aan die Tuinroete Distrik beskikbaar gestel word maar kan onmiddellik na enige punt in die provinsie ontplooi word.

In 2022 is hierdie eenheid na KwaZulu Natal ontplooi om te help met die uitvoering van reddings- en liggaamsherwinningsoperasies tydens die oorstromings wat 430 lewens geëis het. Die eenheid het ook verskeie reddingsoperasies in die onlangse oorstromings in Cederberg Munisipaliteit uitgevoer. Die totale belegging aan die Provinsie vir hierdie span vir die huidige boekjaar is R2,5 miljoen. Die Provinsiale Rampbestuur verskaf nie befondsing vir humanitêre bystand nie aangesien die funksie aan die Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling en die Suid-Afrikaanse Agentskap van Maatskaplike Sekerheid behoort. Die Sentrum gebruik egter wel die dienste van verskeie humanitêre en hulporganisasies om ander regeringsinstellings te ondersteun en te help om ramphulp in die geraamde gemeenskappe te verskaf.

Tydens die onlangse oorstromings het die Departement twee helikopters teen 'n koste van R1,2 miljoen voorsien om die vervoer van humanitêre middele te ondersteun aan mense in die Weskus-gebied, insluitend Citrusdal en

Wupperthal waar gestrande mense hulself bevind het.

Die Rampbestuursentrum speel 'n sleutelrol in die koördinerings van aktiwiteite van die humanitêre organisasies om te verseker dat al die geaffekteerde gebiede voldoen *ge-check* word. Baie dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon member for the interpellation.

The Department of Local Government, through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, uses various resources and channels to ensure efficient planning for the winter rainfall season. This includes the following: The Provincial Disaster Management Centre identifies all seasonal risks by developing its Provincial Disaster Risk Profile along with a team of interested parties to draw up a seasonal readiness plan for the coming season. It of course also includes the municipalities. The Summer Readiness Plan focusses on risks such as the regular veld fires and the busy tourist season while the Winter Plan focusses on amongst other things floods, low temperatures and strong winds. Funding for the Readiness Plan comes from various resources but mainly from the Department's own budget.

Since 2014 the Department has invested about R9,5 million in training and emergency reaction staff from various organisations and provided vehicles

and equipment to municipalities that react first to the disaster situation. An amount of more than R70 million was paid to municipalities through the provisional allocation since the 2015/16 financial year to increase capacity to combat veld fires and rescue services. During the past three years, the Department of Local Government provided R1,1 million to District Municipalities through a Municipal Support Allocation of 12 Disaster Management Interns appointments. This initiative provides extra capacity of Human Resources to the municipalities. The Provincial Management also has a specialised rescue unit in the Breede Valley Municipality that can react to incidents where people are trapped in collapsed structures. The unit's initial cost was R7 million and thereafter an additional cost to maintain the equipment annually. Further the Province is also in the process of strengthening its flood reaction and rescue system through acquiring new reaction and rescue equipment. The equipment will be made available to the Garden Route District but can be deployed immediately to any point in the province.

In 2022, this unit was deployed to KwaZulu Natal to assist with the execution of rescue and body retrieval operations during the floods that took 430 lives. The unit also executed various rescue operations in the recent floods in Cederberg Municipality. The total investment to the Province for this team for the current financial year is R2,5 million. The Provincial Disaster Management does not provide funding for humanitarian assistance as that function belongs to the Department of Social Development and the South African Agency of Social Security. The Centre does use the services of

various humanitarian and aid organisations to support other Government entities and to assist to provide disaster aid to the communities.

During the recent floods the Department provided two helicopters at a cost of R1,2 million to support the transport of humanitarian goods to people in the West Coast area, including Citrusdal and Wupperthal where people were stranded.

The Disaster Management Centre plays a key role in the coordination of activities of the humanitarian organisations to ensure that all the affected areas are checked sufficiently. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. †Baie dankie, Minister. [Thank you, Minister.] I now recognise the hon Sileku.

†Mnr I M SILEKU (DA): Goeiemiddag Adjunkspeaker. Laat my toe, daar is 'n gesegde wat sê ons moet mense blomme en rosies gee terwyl hulle nog lewe en ek wil graag van hierdie geleentheid gebruik maak om vir die Minister baie dankie te sê vir die werk wat hy gedoen het in die tyd van die vloede, want hy was op die grond. Hy het sy *boots* aangehad en ons was ook twee weke gelede self op die grond om die skade te gaan sien wat die vloede veroorsaak het en ek moet sê as ons nou nie 'n Minister gehad hê nie, wat sy hand op die pols het nie, dan sou dit erger gewees het. Met daai woorde, Minister... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Good afternoon, Deputy Speaker. Allow me, there is a saying that we should give people flowers and roses while they are still alive, and I want to use this opportunity to thank the Minister for the work that he has done during the time of the floods, because he was on the ground. He had his boots on and we ourselves were on the ground to look at the damage caused by the floods, and I must say that if we did not have a Minister, who had his hand on the pulse, it would have been much worse. With those words, Minister... [Interjection.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Hoor-hoor!

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hear-hear!]

†Mnr I M SILEKU (DA): ...aanvaar ons waardering vir u leiding in die Departement en u ondervinding en kennis in terme van die Departement het eintlik vir ons gered om minder skade te kon kry.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...accept our gratitude for your guidance in the Department and your experience and knowledge in terms of the Department actually saved us from experiencing more damage.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Hoor-hoor, baie mooi! [Applous.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hear-hear, well done! [Applause.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon Speaker, undoubtedly the Department has exhibited exceptional dedication and competence in equipping Disaster Management Teams. Their proactive approach has ensured preparedness to tackle any potential catastrophe that could strike the province. Moreover, their relentless efforts to shelter all displaced people, as well as provide humanitarian relief are truly commendable. Efforts are underway to provide food parcels to residents who have also received mattresses, blankets, vanity packs. Hon speaker, as efforts are underway as the National Department, the Emergency Housing Programme offered any adequate relief support during the floods. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and hon members. I hope that you can hear me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we can.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It really strikes me that hon Sileku is really wanting to increase his chances of coming back to this Legislature by giving so much praise... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You should not worry about that. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Giving so much praise on the MEC, it is actually quite embarrassing, the extent to which he praises, but from our side as the ANC, we really want to thank, Deputy Speaker, those men and women who played a critical role in cleaning up our communities after the floods and whether they were volunteers for disaster management or ordinary community workers, the ANC wishes to salute them and to thank them for making their communities safer. The reality, of course, is that these floods, like most disasters, expose the deep inequalities faced by our communities and the reality is when it comes to both flooding and fires, we must point direct fingers at the DA because the reality is they refuse to make well located land which belongs to the Province and the various municipalities available and that is why every year we have these disasters. The ANC is fully behind the Expropriation Bill which will soon become law because, †as hulle nie wil luister nie, dan moet hulle hoor! [if they don't want to listen, then they must suffer.]

And that is why we are going to have to move to expropriate land that is adequate for human settlements... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And that is able to accommodate our people but the reality – sorry, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just in the House. You may proceed, hon Dugmore. It is fine.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay, I know generally the DA are out of order, but I just wanted to know if that was a specific point of order. So because they have refused, we, as the ANC are going to use the Expropriation Bill to do what the DA refuses to do, and that is to actually find short, medium and long term solutions to this.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: They are the disaster. The DA is the actual disaster in the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. Your time is up.

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Niemand anders, hulle is die sterkste *disaster* wat 'n mens ooit gesien het in die Wes-Kaap.

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No one else, they are the strongest disaster you have ever seen in the Western Cape.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now move over to the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, it is sad to hear about the losses of the farms, the one more than R1 billion losses and damage on farms and also what is sad to see are the seasonal workers that lost their jobs. So that, I saw that in the media, but, Deputy Speaker, what I want to also say is when we have floods, our townships cannot handle, the pipes in the townships cannot handle the water.

I have been to Macassar and the water – people could not get out of their homes and that was after day three. So what we have done, we logged a complaint and people already logged complaints, so I know the Minister, when we talk about Disaster Management, you are managing disasters, but we will also ask the municipalities to look at the infrastructure because the infrastructure cannot hold and do what it needs to do, so we are going to have a recurring problem every flood because if infrastructure is not addressed, so that is my plea, Minister. We have been to Langa and the children, it is pitiful to see, children playing in that messy water. It is pitiful to see that every flood our communities cannot even go to work or they must have boots to get to work, so that is my plea, that yes, the Department is there to manage, but you will have to engage with the municipalities to see how can we improve the infrastructure when it comes to our drains and stormwater pipes. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise hon Sileku.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Minister, the latest audit

results from the AG demonstrates once again that when it comes to the finances of municipalities that the majority of municipalities in the Western Cape use their finances in the right way for the right reasons. There is financial discipline and there is efficiency and there is good and proper governance, and the latest report also says out of the 38 unqualified and clean audits, 21 of those come from this particular province, which is the Western Cape.

†Die mense kan maar stry en huil en sê wat hulle wil, feite is feite. Jy kan dit nie draai nie, wat wit is, is wit; wat swart is, is swart. Dit is hoe dit is. [People can argue and cry and say what they want, facts are facts. You cannot twist it, what is white, is white; what is black, is black. That is how it is.]

Given that municipalities require adequate funding and processes in place to handle flooding, would these municipalities have been able to tackle the flooding in the way they did, have they not received clean audits?

†Baie dankie. [Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sileku. Over to you, Minister Bredell.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Baie dankie, agbare *Deputy Speaker*.

Agbare *Deputy Speaker*, baie dankie aan die agbare lid Sileku en dankie, ek sal die komplimente oordra aan die rampbestuurspan. Dis nou werklik 'n span wat die provinsie eerste stel.

Aan die agbare Dugmore, kyk nou waar sit jy omdat jy nie geluister het nie. So ja, miskien moet hy maar net in die spieël gaan kyk. Dit wil my voorkom of die ANC die Appropriation Bill op hom uitoefen, so nou sit hy by die huis. (Lag.) So hy moet maar die DA los. Hy moet maar die DA los. Ons sal na onself kyk.

Agbare *Speaker, Deputy Speaker*, die ACDP is reg oor infrastruktuur maar dit is 'n baie komplekse gebied want ons sit met 'n gegewe en enige ontwerp van infrastruktuur moet ons onthou dit is om 35 millimeter reën 'n uur te hanteer. Alles meer as dit hardloop bo die paaie se stormwaterkanaal, en-en. So ek dink ons het baie goed gedoen deur ons Wintervoorbereidingsplan om die munisipaliteite te kry om hulle infrastruktuur skoon te kry en hulle stormwater skoon te kry. Ons observasie is wel dat daar blokkasies in die riviere is en ons sal tog 'n oorhoofse plan moet hê om ons riviere skoon te kry, want die water hardloop in die riete en dan begin hy uitspring, en as hy eers begin oorloop het ons groot moeilikheid. Dit gaan gepaard met om mense toe te laat om te bou op verkeerde plekke waar hulle nie moet bou nie. Dit is 'n geweldige program, en met ons infrastruktuurspan sal ons baie nou moet beplan maar ons sal ook in ons toekomstige beplanning klimaatsverandering voor moet stel. Ons sal moet dink daarvoor anders gaan ons stormwater gaan nie voorbly nie. Die goed het verander. Baie reën

gelyktydig, kom gelyk af, ensovoorts.

Ons het ook bewusmakingsprogramme. Dis 'n opleidingprogram vir ons skoolkinders, ensovoorts. Ons spandeer so R5 miljoen daaraan sodat mense die gevare kan verstaan van water, riviere, ensovoorts. So dit is 'n program wat baie suksesvol is. Dan belê ons, verder doen ons nou 'n opname en die skade is meer as 'n miljard rand op landbou alleen. Ons het nog nie 'n aansoek ingesit by Nasionaal nie, want ons doen nog die infrastruktuur. Ons is besig, baie naby om te finaliseer en dan sal ons een pakket indien by Nasionaal om fondse te kry, maar op die huidige oomblik het die spanne die Infrastruktuur-span, die Agri-span, almal skitterende werk gedoen om ons sisteem oop te kry, mense kan die paaie gebruik ensovoorts, langer termyn sal ons natuurlik moet belê om dit weer op 'n wêreldstandaard te kry. So ons kyk ook na gebiede soos die Kaapse Wynland wat ons weet is baie hard geslaan, om daar die nodige ondersteuning te gee, so ek is gelukkig dat ons het die kundigheid. Wat ek dink belangrik is met die finansiële druk op die Provinsie en op ons munisipaliteite, moet ons altyd onthou, 'n storm of klimaatsverandering gaan ons tref. Dit is wanneer, en ons moet altyd iets daarin belê sodat ons gereed kan wees vir die dag van môre wanneer daar 'n storm is of wanneer daar 'n groot brand is.

Ons uitrol van ons program oor rook-alarms in ons informele areas is 'n baie goeie program. Ons het nog nie 'n lewe daar verloor nie. Ons kon nie al die strukture red nie maar 13 000 rook-alarms het baie mense se lewens al gered so daar is ook klein goedjies wat ons kan doen om lewens te red aan die einde

van die dag.

Nogmaals baie dankie. Dankie vir die Interpellasie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to the hon member Sileku and thank you, I will convey the compliments to the Disaster Management team. This is now really a team that puts the province first.

To the hon Dugmore, look where you are sitting now because you did not listen. So yes, perhaps he should just go and look in the mirror. It seems to me as if the ANC is applying the Appropriation Bill to him, so now he sits at home. (Laughs.) So he must leave the DA alone. We will look after ourselves.

Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the ACDP is correct about infrastructure but it is a very complex area because we are sitting with a given and any design of infrastructure, we have to remember that it is to handle 35 millimetres of rain per hour. Everything more than that runs above the storm water channel, and, and. So I think we have done well through our Winter Readiness Plan to get the municipalities to clean up their infrastructure and their storm water. Our

observation was indeed that there were blockages in the rivers and we will have to establish an overhead plan to clean our rivers, because the water runs in the reeds and then overflows, and once it overflows we have big problems. It is aligned with allowing people to build in the wrong places where they should not build. It is an enormous programme, and with our infrastructure team we will have to plan very carefully, but in our future planning we will have to put climate change up front. We will have to think about that otherwise our storm water won't stay ahead. These things have changed. A lot of rain comes down at the same time, and so on.

We also have awareness programmes. It is a training programme for our school children and so on. We spend R5 million on that so that people can understand the dangers of water, rivers, etc. So it is a programme that is very successful. Then we invest, we now further do a survey and the damage is more than a billion rand on agriculture alone. We have not yet submitted an application with National, because we are still doing the infrastructure. We are busy, close to finalising and then we will submit one package with National to get funds, but at the moment the teams, the Infrastructure team, the Agri team, have all done excellent work to open up our system, people can use the roads, etc., longer term we will of course have to invest to get it back to a world standard. So we are looking at areas such as the Cape Winelands that we know was hit hard, to provide the necessary aid there, so I'm happy that we have the expertise. What I think is important with the financial pressure on the Province and on our municipalities, we must always remember, a storm or climate change is going to hit us. That is when, and we

must always invest something in that, we can be ready for tomorrow when there is a storm or a big fire.

The rollout of our programme on smoke alarms in our informal areas is a very good programme. We have not yet lost a life there. We could not save all the structures, but the 13 000 smoke alarms have already saved many people's lives so there are small things we can do to save lives at the end of the day.

Once again, thank you. Thank you for the Interpellation.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare Minister.

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

That brings us to the end of the Interpellation 2.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move over to the next and final interpellation. I recognise the hon Minister Allen.

3. Ms A P Bans asked Mr R I Allen, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

What are the Provincial Government's plans and programmes to combat extortion in the province? What will be the expected effect of the

formalisation of the cannabis industry on agriculture in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. Also thank you to member Bans for this particular Interpellation. I would want to state again for the record that the investigation of extortion remains the mandate of the South African Police Service, but, having said that, we will never shy away from our constitutional obligation which is to provide oversight, and as the Western Cape Government we would always want that oversight to lead to better service delivery.

Please allow me to also quote member Bans who has indicated less than six weeks ago that the work of the South African Police Service should be commended because we know we are pulling in the right direction. Our oversight is leading to better service delivery and that is bolstering our call for devolution, but the Department further as Police Oversight and Community Safety co-chairs the Anti-gang Provincial JOINTS Committee and serves on its biweekly Extortion Priority Committee meetings.

For the record, I think it is very important to note that every priority meeting within the South African Police Service will ultimately lead to a number of projects that are undertaken and from those projects, there is a dedicated team that deals with extortion-related matters, which we co-chair, which will ultimately lead to using 252 of the Criminal Procedure Act, which allows the

South African Police Service to conduct sting operations that can lead to the detection of crime or the offence of a crime.

We are playing our role in that regard and we have already seen a number of matters being taken to court. Further to the aforementioned, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety co-chairs the biweekly LEAP Operational SteerCom meeting, which works and focuses in our murder hotspots. It monitors extortion matters through the Department's Court Watching Brief and the Court Watching Brief Unit, and that particular programme has already been, in principle, endorsed by the National Government and also instruction from National Government for that particular programme to be incorporated into all our Provincial Governments or administrations across our country.

We also encourage Government structures and civilians to report extortion to the South African Police Service via our stakeholders and Neighbourhood Watches, our CPFs. We promote the use of the extortion toll free number, which for the record is 0800314444. We work with our Neighbourhood Watches, and Community Policing Forums linked to the Department, but also, Deputy Speaker, it will be remiss of me not to highlight that in January this year between different spheres of Government, the South African Police Service, the City of Cape Town, together with our Department, we engaged the Standing Committee on Police Oversight and Community Safety around this particular matter, because extortion, whether it is in our spaza shops, whether it is in construction, whether it is in land owners being extorted, we

are never happy with it. We are deeply concerned about it and we are working closely with all the entities to make sure that we can ultimately curb and destroy that particular criminal element within our communities and that is something that we will continue to do in our oversight role, which, like I have said, have bolstered the call for policing powers to be under capable police, capable provinces. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister, I recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A BANS (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, of late, we are witnessing a disturbing trend of a Premier that is running away from the accountability by refusing to answer questions in the House, referring to him with regards to extortion. This untoward behaviour by the Premier deserves widespread condemnation. Premier Winde is a coward who is afraid to answer the tough questions. The Premier is trying to pass the buck and hoping that this Government's close relations with gangs and extortionists will quietly go away. His refusal to answer this question on extortion is a clear indication that he is trying to cover up something that we do not know.

The long history of the DA-run Western Cape Government, of awarding lucrative Government tenders to gangs, has created a perverse incentive for gangs to engage on extortion. After the first Government contract was awarded to the business owned by relatives of non-gang high flyers, gangs have become more vicious and greedy, demanding a slice in every

Government contract and from private business in communities. This has had a number of negative consequences, including making it difficult for businesses to operate freely in the province. It has given gangs a platform to wash their dirty money and made gangs more powerful and entrenched in communities as they have endless resources to disperse patronage and buy weapons. Surely this has ordered and eroded public trust in the Provincial Government and tarnished the DA reputation. The suspension of Malusi Booi, a high profile member of the party, was a major embarrassment. The suspension followed Hawks raids and investigation into fraud and tender irregularities after his Department has allegedly awarded housing tenders to companies with suspected links to gangs. This DA cosy relations with gangs raised serious questions about the party's seriousness and commitment to fighting crime and extortion. If the Premier's Government is serious about combating gangs and extortion, then it should embark on an urgent review of its tender process to flag all companies with suspected links to known gangs. Deputy Speaker, this will go a long way to send a clear message of zero tolerance for gangs and extortion. Therefore, I want to know from the MEC if his Government is failing to go to this extent to combat gangs and extortion in the province, or are you afraid of jeopardising the DA relations with its friends? I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon Bans. I recognise the hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and good

afternoon, and thank you very much, Minister, for your response, and I find your question particularly interesting given the fact that just this week the Minister and his Department briefed the Standing Committee on Community Safety on their upcoming Policing Needs and Priorities Report. What was striking is that during that briefing we heard that the numbers of SAPS in the Western Cape have fallen below the vital threshold of 20 000 personnel in the Western Cape since the pandemic. I also find it interesting that my hon colleague from the Opposition is blaming the Premier for extortion in the Western Cape and I am going to borrow the words of the National Minister of Police, Minister Bheki Cele, when he says that hon Bans is "crying at the wrong funeral", and I do hope that the hon Bans is able to directly speak to Minister Cele, to ensure that the numbers are brought up to snuff in the Western Cape.

With that in mind I would like to ask you, Minister, through the Deputy Speaker, whether you believe that SAPS in the Western Cape is effectively capacitated to combat extortion and other forms of organised crime, specifically those forms of organised crime where members of the Opposition have found themselves as beneficiaries and sometimes perpetrators as well, and, if not, if you could perhaps tell us what more can be done?

Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bosman. I now recognise – one minute, hon Cassiem. Over to you, hon Sayed, do you have a

point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order, the hon Bosman is casting aspersions on members of the entire Opposition. He must indicate what is he referring to? He must not cast aspersions here. We do not know anyone of – ja, he must tell us. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I trust that we have our ANC hon members online, as they have a full right to be, I guess, as it is and all the other parties. So I will in this case indicate that I am almost seeing their names, all of them, online. Thank you very much. Over to you, hon Cassiem. You may proceed.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Deputy Speaker, when the criminal syndicate of extortionists first showed its head targeting businesses in the province a few years ago, this Provincial Government turned a blind eye to it. These syndicates then expanded from targeting businesses in the Cape Town district into various townships in this province, like that of Gugulethu, Khayelitsha, and Philippi, to mention a few. These extortionist rings then moved from targeting nightclubs, coffee shops and restaurants to later extorting money from spaza shops, street vendors, daycares and even households renting out accommodation in our communities. So, Speaker, the modus operandi of these extortionists was and is still a form of extorting money from these businesses in exchange for protection from other gangs, syndicates, and if business owners refuse to pay they are robbed by the same gangs, or worse,

killed. But as time went by, Deputy Speaker, it is evident that these extortionists grew in confidence when they realised that this DA-led Provincial and Local Government is too weak and that even its officials were too entrenched in tender corruption and fraud, then they too also then started to demand a share of this pie, and with this, Deputy Speaker, this is what led us to having service delivery projects in townships being held to ransom by these gangs who are now demanding to be awarded Government contracts by force.

Deputy Speaker, now that it was reported that the Russian President is no longer coming to South Africa, meaning that the possibility of him setting foot here in the Western Cape is no longer an issue, my question to the MEC and to the Premier, Speaker, is, are they going to be using the same energy on these gangs, but also instructing law enforcement to arrest all these criminal syndicates extorting money from businesses?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member. Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. Over to you, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Deputy Speaker, in September 2020 the

National Minister of Police said that he announced the creation of a committee to crack down on extortion in Cape Town and then in 2021 he said that there were 105 people arrested. 20 of these cases were opened in Khayelitsha and 13 reported in Nyanga. So I want to know, Minister, do you know about these cases and what is happening?

The biggest problem that I have is the arrogance of these gang bosses. How can a gang boss just say in Valhalla Park - and we know the names, it is all in the media, they are high flyers - "We halt this project because we were not awarded this contract," and that is how serious it is.

The other day I was walking in Ottery, again, they call it tax money, the protection money is now tax money where you need to pay tax money in order for you to be awarded the contract. So this is extremely serious and I know the primary responsibility is with National Government, but Minister, we cannot continue. I believe that the City of Cape Town must roll over funds because they cannot spend their funds and we know of somebody that was killed in Valhalla Park. High flyers, and they are arrogant and we need to deal with them decisively. We cannot let this continue. So Deputy Speaker, that is my plea. Are you speaking to the National Minister because he's just saying these things? I want to know was something done to these criminals that were arrested?

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, very much. Over to the hon Bans.

Ms A BANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, it is actually a shame continuing to listen how the DA is pushing extortion to the National Government while we are sitting on the problem here in the Western Cape and should be prioritising it, but it is not seen as a serious matter that is taking lives. I repeat, Deputy Speaker, the DA started and continues to sustain extortion syndicates in the province by awarding lucrative Government tenders from construction to security gangs. This is not only ineffective, but it is also counterproductive and has created a situation where gangs are able to use their power and influence to extort all Government projects in their communities, businesses and for individuals. If this problem is not addressed, Deputy Speaker, it will continue to fuel a cycle of violence and crime in the province. The DA Government has been heavily criticised for its poor and ineffective plans and programmes to combat extortion in the province. Evidence suggests that the DA is not serious about combating extortion. Instead, as we have seen today in this House, it seems to be more interested in protecting the interest of gangs than ensuring safety of ordinary citizens. The DA Government's plans and programmes to combat extortions are too weak and ineffective because they do not address the root causes of extortion such as poverty, unemployment and lack of opportunities. We need to address these root causes if we are to effectively combat extortion.

The Western Cape Safety Plan does not address these root causes and does not even have an extortion focus, for as long as it only focuses on boots on

the ground, it will continue to be a big, expensive failure. We reiterate our calls for the Provincial Government to invest in social programmes, that address the root causes of extortion. This Government continues to identify itself as a competitor of the National Government, preoccupied with using crime for this cheap political points scoring. Instead of collaborating with SAPS to combat this scourge, we acknowledge and laud the SAPS Western Cape Government Extortion Task Team and the Angi-gang Unit for the sterling work they are doing on the ground to combat gangs and extortion. More work, however, still needs to be done, Deputy Speaker, especially on strengthening crime intelligence.

The SAPS and the Provincial Government need to take an integrated approach to combat extortion, which includes a commitment to work with communities and all other crime-fighting stakeholders in our communities. For as long as the DA continues to destabilise and weaken and defund CPFs we will not win this battle. The MEC must tell us if his Government will be making additional investments to address the extortion syndicates in the province and what are the plans to invest in the social programmes to address the root causes of crime. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. I am honestly conflicted this afternoon. Based on the input that I have heard, I am honestly conflicted in

that we are doing way above every other Provincial Government in terms of fighting crime. Extortion is not a Western Cape phenomenon. Extortion is a phenomenon across our country as a result of criminals being emboldened, which I agree with member Bans, they are emboldened as a result of the South African Police Service that is 20 years behind in terms of the actual resources that we need. I have heard from other MECs across our province in that matters in construction, and I can name it publicly, KZN, that particular industry has entirely collapsed as a result of extortion.

The Western Cape, we are feeling it but we have not lost the fight. We have not lost the fight because of integration, because of cooperation and because we are determined to fight these barbaric and these criminal elements. So when we talk about the Premier and this particular Government, the Premier is on record to state that this matter is of great concern to him, "to me," he says, "and my Government." And how do we show that? By putting over R2,5 billion into addressing safety needs in our province. We put money where our mouth is.

The Premier went on to state, for the record, "We cannot be in the position where Government tenders are being used to launder dirty money, but simultaneously we are a Government that respects and promotes the rule of law and that means that we all have the right to be treated as innocent until proven guilty." But what did the Premier do further? The Premier, via our Department and the Government, we engaged the National Prosecution

Authority, the Ministry of Justice, the National Treasury and the South African Police Service on this particular matter, the South African Police Service in our province, we have seen great strides over the last year, but we have a National Commissioner that is on record by saying that the South African Police Service is unable to fulfil its mandate which is a devastating indictment on the National Government. As a province, the mandate on extortion sits directly where National is in Pretoria. That is why we are saying devolve those capabilities, those powers; give us the responsibility. As a government, we take those responsibilities that we have seriously, because we believe in the residents that we serve.

Member Bosman asks what more can be done. What more can be done is definitely to see that policy shifts towards Provincial Parliaments, to Provincial Governments, so that we are able to then monitor, so that we are able to see we fight this scourge.

Member Christians, yes, all those cases have been reported. I will make sure that the Department sends the Court Watching Brief on the extortion related matters to you as well. Thank you so much for the other inputs that we have received. Criminals being arrested, I listen to the EFF part of it that I could listen and we are, we have always been clear. We want to make sure that our residents are safe. Provinces are following what we are doing here in the Western Cape. We are receiving reports that other provinces want to visit to see what we are doing, learning from best practises because we have been literally and, sorry for my phrase, we have been hitting above our weight. We

have literally been hitting above our weight. We have seen steady strides, slow progress and we are so determined to make sure that those extortion mafias are behind bars and we have seen a number of those cases are already in court. So Deputy Speaker, thank you so much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Minister. That brings us to the end of Interpellations.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 202, we will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper. Sorry, just to remind our members, there are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who posed the initial question will get the first opportunity. I now recognise – one minute, Premier, I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, as per the Question Paper for Oral Reply, under New Questions, should the time allow, Question 7 to stand over please, and the necessary arrangements have been made. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chief Whip. I now recognise the hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

New questions to the Premier:

1. Mr C M Dugmore asked Mr A R Winde, Premier:

- (a) What is the total bill for the legal case of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, and
- (b) Who is responsible for paying these bills?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much to the hon Dugmore for the question and the answer is if the legal case of the person in question relates to the criminal proceedings instituted against him, such proceedings are defended by him in his personal capacity and at his own costs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Premier, over to you, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and to the Premier for that response. Could the Premier confirm that in regard to the criminal case against the Chief Director of the Provincial Department of Mobility, Mr Farrel Payne, in which he has been charged with attempted rape and also committing a sex act, and given the fact that he still remains, while facing these charges and having appeared at least

three times, is the Premier supportive of the fact that he remains a functional Chief Director in this Provincial Government, given these serious criminal charges that have been laid against him?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you for that follow-up. Obviously, I cannot make a judgement on this case in HR matters and I am pretty certain the hon member knows. He has even been an executive at one time in this House. He has been here, probably one of the longest serving members here and he does understand that of course HR matters in this case relate to the HOD and I must obviously have confidence in the HOD in making those judgement calls and again, as I have said, in this legal case, it is not as if the taxpayer's money is being used for that part of this process.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Premier. Are there any further follow-ups?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, there is a follow-up, a further follow-up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and arising from the reply of the Premier who in effect is

laying the responsibility on the fact that Mr Payne remains the Chief Director despite these criminal charges and that would of course be HOD, Jacqueline Gooch. I would then like to ask the Premier that as the Premier of the Western Cape, does he, in his personal capacity, support the fact that a Chief Director who is charged with serious sexual offences and also in the light of the Premier's public commitment to fight gender abuse, in his personal capacity, does he believe that having an official in their office, while obviously the alternative would be to have that official suspended so that the law could take its course, and depending on the outcome, of course, further decisions could be made so given his supposed commitment to gender fighting, gender abuse, does the Premier support the fact that Mr Payne continues to act as the Head of Traffic and the Chief Director in this province?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, one question, firstly, and secondly, that is an opinion. I will leave it to the Premier as to how he is going to respond.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I am sure the hon Dugmore, as someone who has also served a long time in this House, cannot ask me as the Leader of the Opposition. I am not sure how long he is going to be the Leader of the Opposition for, but as the Leader of the Opposition, asking me a question; he must ask me a direct question, he cannot ask me for an opinion in my personal capacity. That does not work like that in questions to the Executive and the oversight that he and his party must play as the

Opposition. So of course I cannot answer that, being a personal opinion, but what I will say is that I absolutely stand by the rule of law.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any further follow-up questions? None? Thank you. We will now move over to... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, my last question, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you, hon Dugmore, please refrain from opinion questions, as you will not get your required answer. Over to you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. My last question, Deputy Speaker, is to ask the Premier whether he engaged at all, either verbally with Jacqui Gooch, or in writing about her decision to keep Mr Payne in his office while facing these charges, or did the Premier not engage with her in writing or verbally about this matter?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, over to you, Premier.

The PREMIER: The answer is yes, I have had a briefing from the HOD.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I trust that that is the end of Question One. Thank you. We will move over to Question 2, the hon Premier.

2. Mr T M Klaas asked Mr A R Winde, Premier:

What has the Provincial Government done since he took office as a Premier to bridge the inequality gap in the province, to foster inclusivity and to eradicate racism?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and can I say to the hon Klaas, thank you very much for this question, a really serious question that we need to deal with in the Western Cape and a serious question that South Africa needs to deal with. I think specifically 30 years into our new democracy, or should I say almost 30 years into our new democracy, and the question is about bridging the inequality gap in the province, fostering inclusivity and eradicating racism, and so it is a very, very serious question.

Now the most important thing is how do you measure this? How do you measure that what you are doing in government across the board addressing these big challenges that face us because there is no doubt that our country and the citizens of our country were seriously discriminated against from a racial contextual point of view that linked to massive inequality gaps. And really that division or the inclusivity problem that people face this problem and countries and governments faced this problem across the world, but none so bad as in our country and of course, I think you should go, first of all to how do you measure this and I think the easiest way to measure that inequality gap is called the Gini coefficient, and I know last time when we

were at question time from the hon member Klaas, we referred quite a lot to the Constitution and the role that the Constitution plays in the work that we have to do as a government or the work that we have to do as a parliament and the oversight processes, but I want to refer the hon member to another document and of course, the hon member, you know, all of our departments have documents. I will come to what programmes because he is asking about the programmes and I will come to each department or a snippet from each department, but a really handy document for the hon member to keep with him to read a lot because it really does encompass and brings all of the work that we do together and that is the overview of Provincial Revenue Expenditure 2023. It talks about where the money goes and the difference that it makes and I want to refer the hon member to pages 46 and 47 and in this document on 46 and 47, it starts to talk to the Gini coefficient. Now that is one tool of how you measure that gap that he is questioning in this question.

How do you measure the gap between the haves and the have-nots, that poverty gap and Gini coefficients are things that we talk about a lot. You have to go into that graph and go and have a look and I know the hon member is not in the House. I am not sure if he can see that on the screen but if you go and look at those graphs in that document, you will see and really what it takes out, it talks about South Africa, the Gini coefficient, it talks about the Western Cape Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal and if you look at the tallest gap that gives you the South African Gini coefficient. How bad is it between rich and poor? What is that gap, and is it narrowing and that yellow bar is

obviously national?

Then if you look at just a little bit lower than the national number is the Gauteng Bar, and then lower than that which is better off again is KZN, but by far the lowest in South Africa is the Western Cape, the best measurement in our country, and I will get to some of the other measurements that actually have an impact and bring about change because it is such a critical question. We actually need to give more credence in our country to these kinds of measurements. Are we waking up in the morning and saying are we building a better country? I think the policies generally across South Africa in 30 years of democracy are taking us in the opposite direction, the worst youth unemployment rate in the world. The highest, one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, that is a real driver between haves and have-nots, if you cannot have a job. If I look at the 19, 20 million people in our country that sit on social grants, that in itself is unbelievably high, as a percentage of our budget, I mean unbelievably high! So we really have to dig in as a country to bring about these changes. But what is this Province doing about this, what kind of programmes are we putting in place? So apartheid created structural barriers and continues to divide communities across race and class lines. This, combined with competition for scarce resources, fuels inequality, a lack of inclusivity and racism. To address this, it requires a holistic approach where we create meaningful and sustainable pathways for economic development and self empowerment. It is only when individuals are given genuine opportunities to join the workforce and invest in an upward mobility of themselves and their families that we can make a meaningful

difference and inroads into our quest to achieve greater equality and inclusion.

The Western Cape Government's interventions implemented by departments and entities are underpinned by the values of social cohesion, inclusion and fairness. Examples of the Western Cape interventions were provided in oral replies to this very House in August 2022. Of course, the hon member was not here at that stage. His other members have now been chucked out and I think we are going to have the same thing happening at this front bench very soon, after Congress' changes happen, and of course, the interpellation of 13 April, just not so long ago, 2023, where we dealt with a very similar component of this question.

Drawing from these responses, the following is a sample of the many initiatives that address inequality and the lack of inclusivity and racism in this province, the programmes that we have been putting in place over time that give you those kinds of measurements. Of course, the other measurement, let us talk about the unemployment rate, the lowest by far, unemployment rate in South Africa, both broad and narrow. So let us start with a number of departments.

Look at the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport and what does that Department do. So if you go and look at their core business, you will go and see that it is about the spaces in which they operate and creating those opportunities, like in libraries, like in theatres, in community art centres,

sports hubs, museums. These are the spaces where we try to tell the stories, where we try to bring people back together, getting social cohesion right, understanding that through opportunities in sport you start to build partnerships, break down those barriers that have been so hard to break down in the last 30 years.

The After-School Programme, have a look at where those programmes are, what their goal is and what they are trying to achieve to make sure that we are dealing with creating opportunity for young people so that they themselves can have a better future so we narrow that gap. If we look at just the sports and the cultural activities that the Department is engaged in on a regular basis, it focuses exactly to this question to make sure that we bring about those changes, and that is why we start to see the indicators which show how it is happening, starts to change over time. Of course we all would like it to change far quicker than it is, and we have all got to be focused on these kinds of programmes.

I want to come to the Department of Education and if I reflect on the Catch-Up Programme, if there was one programme in the world, one programme in South Africa that really is zooming in on how do we make a difference, how do we help those people who have actually fallen behind, those learners who have fallen behind? I mean the SIMS Test across the world, which says can our Grade 4s read with meaning and it says in South Africa "You are the worst in the world." Of course the Western Cape is better, is way better than that indicator.

Again, let us use the indicators, but that is still not good enough so what are we doing in education? A Catch-Up Programme. Billions of rands being put forward and thousands and thousands of learners in school on Saturdays reading in primary school, doing Maths in high school, catching up, starting to build a pathway that really gets to deal, at the end of the day, with these issues.

Look at the Department of Agriculture and the millions that go into supporting new farmers, giving those farmers access to markets; youth programmes, bringing young learners at school level into the agricultural space regularly to say, look at what agriculture is about, it is not about a hoe in the hot sun. It is about tech and innovation. It is about drones. It is about data. It is veterinary science. It really is! It is about component in our economy that drives jobs and income and, I mean, we compete globally in this space and the money that goes into really closing that gap, focusing on those specific individuals in this sector to make the biggest difference we can as quickly as possible.

I think of Policing Oversight and Community Safety and the debate that we have just had in an interpellation right now, Boots on the Ground and Violence Prevention, and where are those boots on the ground? They are in the hotspots in the poorest communities, making as much difference as we can as quickly as possible, and it is not even our mandate. Our mandate is

oversight, but quite frankly, the oversight and you even heard it in that debate, nothing is happening. These extortionists are not getting arrested. These – I want to say blooming again, these blooming gangsters who use their wives to get contracts, which is not illegal because there is no court case or criminal case or even if I look at the Zondo Commission and the fingers that are being pointed across the board, and not one arrest. Where are the arrests? Why are these people not in jail? Where is SAPS in this and of course this is where we are, again as this Government, trying to make the biggest difference we can, and of course every rand that we put into Boots on the Ground or Violence Prevention is a rand that we have to take away from our core mandate and it is putting more and more pressure on our budget and of course, let us not even talk about the pressure on the budget right now. The budget is even more and more and more under pressure because what happens? Billions get stolen. Now every time a rand gets stolen in the operations of a government, exactly what the Zondo Commission spoke about and it goes to the heart of what the ANC Government has been doing over the last few years, nothing gets done about it and you steal one rand, you steal one rand actually from the poor and you steal one rand from enabling us to change the Gini coefficient, to address what is happening in the past and, of course, the hon Klaas, I hope he really engages his coalition partner in a number of municipalities in this Government, the EFF working with the ANC. Let us go and see exactly the difference that is made where his party is in an executive position trying to change it, because those numbers are by far the worst in South Africa. Let us have a look at jobs and jobs for growth. The 360 000 jobs in this province year-on-year, this is where it happens.

The end of last year in that quarter-on-quarter where only 2000 jobs created in the whole of South Africa, in parts of Johannesburg, where his party is in Government no jobs have been created. 90%, more than 90% of those jobs have been created in this province because of our policies, because of our interventions. Go and have a look at the Booster Fund. Go to Langa, where we were the other day, where you really see a Booster Fund helping an SMME really make a difference, grow their business, employ people. Nothing!

Nothing gives people dignity like a job; makes a difference in a family and a household, like a job, and changes the Gini coefficient, like a job. Go and have a look for yourself as an Opposition member in this House.

The Department of Environmental Affairs, an Inclusionary Framework passed by this Government. That Inclusionary Framework, there is only one other province now as far as I can see, called Gauteng, that is starting with an inclusionary framework. Gauteng again following us on Boots on the Ground, also saying, "Hang on a second, you know, police are not doing what they are supposed to be doing. It is hurting our citizens. So what should we do? Let us copy the Western Cape." I do not mind about that because it changes South Africa. Everything we do in this province, we do not just do for the citizens of this province, we do it for South Africa, and so I can go on. The Department of Infrastructure: infrastructure is failing the citizens of our country, infrastructure, the lack of infrastructure, electricity, energy. If ever

there was something that makes the Gini coefficient worse that actually takes us backwards, that is it – lack of infrastructure. Let us not even talk about what is happening in the very same area where the hon member is in government, where we see what is happening in water systems. It really is something that we have to deal with head on decisively. We have got to make sure that we are addressing the past. We have to make sure we do that, and, then of course, there is the stuff in Social Development, the stuff in the Department of Health, robotic operations that take place now in the public sector.

The only public sector space in the whole of the African continent is happening in the public sector space, in health, in this province. The 350 surgeries that are taking place in partnership with the private sector and the public sector in this province for Mandela Month, 350 surgeries being done for the poorest of the poor as a catch-up in our province that is really making a difference in the name of Mandela, because that is exactly what he stood for. How do we make that difference? How do we narrow that gap? How do we fix the atrocities of the past?

So I think this is the perfect question to be asked. We need to have measurements. I can assure you that every single - and I have not gone to every department here - but every single department in this Government is busy doing exactly what the hon member asks and the measurements show you.

Go and have a look at percentage of households with water, percentage of households with refuse removal, percentage of households with electricity connection, when it works. Go and have a look at those spaces and go and measure province by province and go and have a look at the difference that is happening in this province. We focus on it every single day.

Thank you very much to the hon Klaas for this excellent question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. First to the hon member Klaas and to the hon member Fry. Hon member Klaas, do you have a follow-up question?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And myself, hon Deputy Speaker. I have got my hand up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you are third, hon member Dugmore. Hon member Klaas? No?

Mr M T KLAAS: Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I will just ask this question. What achievement has your Government made so far as fostering inclusion through an integrated Spatial Planning programme that will see new housing development in the inner City by private developers, also incorporating affordable social housing opportunities? I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Klaas. Over to

you, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: I think I am going to say:

1. Inclusionary housing policy, which I have already mentioned in my reply. I am not sure if he heard that.
2. Conradie.
3. The City itself, 11 pieces of land handed over for exactly this kind of development.
4. Down at the Foreshore, the development that is taking place right next to Artscape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Over to you, hon member Fry.

Mr C FRY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Premier for his answers.

With regards to the question regarding the inequality gap in the province, one of the major drivers of inequality is the lack of adequate energy supply. So I would like to ask the Premier what is this Government doing to address the lack of energy supply and loadshedding and the effect that it has on the economy? Thank you.

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

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thanks to the hon member Fry. Of course as I highlighted when you cannot have energy you really do go backwards and especially with regard to this question, middle class citizens, businesses, they are able to invest in inverters or gas cookers or heating, alternative heating systems.

It is the poorest of the poor that really are not able to invest into alternatives and especially with ongoing loadshedding and loadshedding that gets worse and worse and worse, poorer households are impacted the most. I mean let us also just have a look at even a poor household that perhaps does have some electricity and now suddenly just the increase in electricity from Eskom and the impact that that has on a household, to now also still have to try and find alternatives. I mean just even buying candles.

Now if that is not a driver of making the Gini coefficient worse, I do not know what it is, but what are we doing? I mean at the moment our R1,1 billion Energy Plan and within that plan there is the indigent focus and of course as we speak right now those indigent packs that we spoke about, are out on tender. I think as we speak right now the tender should be going out, it is just about ready, the official told me, on getting a town off loadshedding altogether and then of course just the big investments, private sector investment into energy, which is part of this plan at Local Government level, aided through the MER programme from a province.

Those kinds of things really start to gain momentum, but the biggest problem is everybody thinks that energy is going to be fixed overnight. Suddenly you see maintenance stopped in South Africa and suddenly you get a bit of a reprieve and everybody thinks, wow, this is amazing and two or three days later eight power plants go down and we are right back at level 6.

This is going to be a long time in fixing our problem in South Africa, number one, and number two, while we are doing that again it is the poorest of the poor that take the brunt of it because they cannot mitigate this for themselves and of course the secondary effect of it is as you do not have sufficient energy then what happens is your economy starts to slow down. When your economy starts to slow down what happens? Less and less jobs again and of course that then has a compounding effect when people are losing their jobs because businesses cannot stay open because it costs them too much for the alternatives.

As you have said in this House before, go to Sikis Coffee in Khayelitsha. An amazing business kick-started in Khayelitsha, started growing, here is this entrepreneur taking chances. For me it was so exciting and we had him here at the State of the Province Address where he opened his second business in Claremont. He was so proud of a Khayelitsha business growing into Claremont. When I saw him about two months ago he said it had to close Claremont because he cannot afford the generator costs, the diesel costs to keep both businesses open. So here is a business, because of loadshedding, having to shrink and of course he has to let the staff members go at his new

expansion and he has to retract back to how he started off as an entrepreneur.

Exactly the same thing with the Bicycle Hub in Culture Cycles in Khayelitsha. Exactly the same thing happened. Here is someone who lost his job because of the pandemic. He went to Khayelitsha, his used to work for Open Streets. He went to Khayelitsha, an entrepreneur starting a business in the middle of a pandemic and he opens an amazing business. He gets it going. The next thing it is not just a bicycle shop, it has got a bakery and a coffee shop. It has got other support businesses around it. He then goes and opens in the local shopping centre another bicycle outlet and he puts a coffee shop next to it and loadshedding comes along. He is just getting his business going and what does he have to do? He has to close the bakery and the coffee shop because those are expensive to run, they use a lot of energy and he cannot afford the diesel. Unbelievable.

So that is exactly what happens when we do not get infrastructure right in a country and a political party who does not make sure that we invest in infrastructure, the maintenance that goes with it and a business that at one stage Eskom was looking at supplying energy to most of Sub-Saharan Africa, suddenly cannot keep the lights on. Unbelievable, and that really, really goes to the heart of actually taking us backwards and not forwards 30 years into our democracy.

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

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to ask as a follow-up question whether the Premier recognises that the inequality gap in our province is directly marked by race and that the majority of people, if not exclusively, who are poor in the province, are African, Coloured and Indian, and therefore the question is how will his Government address inequality, given that it is race-based and that, for example, in his own Department the senior management is not representative of the majority in this province and that in particular African people have one out of 62 directors and above in the Department of the Premier, and secondly in terms of this question, the fact that only 3% of the agricultural land in this province is owned by Coloured people, by African people or by Indian people.

So in practical terms does he acknowledge that this inequality is based primarily on race and what are the steps that he has actually and will take to address this specifically?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thanks. Again the hon member never learns. Four questions in one, but the first part of the question I am going to say yes and the second part of the question is this whole question has spoken about how these changes are being made in our province and how we measure those changes, but what I do want to say on his bean counting racial quota system and we are seeing the adjustment that they want to make, or the change they

want to make, which has not worked in South Africa in 30 years. Stop doing the same thing over and over again and getting the same outcome, which is a total failure, Mr ANC. It is failing the citizens of our country, it is not making it better, it is not fixing the problem.

Go and have a look which provinces are performing the best. This province. I am sorry, Mr Dugmore, that is probably why you are no longer the leader in this province. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise as the final opportunity hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I just want to ask the Premier, the EPWP jobs which are predominantly offered to the low skilled labour to resolve inequality and contribute to asset ability of the low income earners so that they could be counted as out of such an inequality, that he was referring to? Thank you.

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

The PREMIER: Thank you to the hon member. Obviously an EPWP job, I mean it is not a real job, but it is a step up in the right direction. It is another form of grant, but it is an enabling grant and I think what we really have to get right is how does it help you get a job? How do you become more employable through an EPWP opportunity? Which is a very short-term, small

amount of money. It cannot be classed as a real job. Real jobs are the 2,7 million people who go to work every day in this province. Those are real jobs. The 700 000 people in this province who at the moment are looking for a job, do not have a job, focusing on them how to get a real job.

So of course EPWP is that kind of little step up and we have got to - I think in South Africa and in this province we still have to find better ways in making sure that it enables you to get a real job. So that that time when you are in an opportunity, because that is what it is, it is an opportunity, that it does not just hold you captive and then when that short-term is finished you go back to where you started.

So, for example, and it is a crude way of showing it, but where you get the job and you are waving a flag on the side of a construction job to warn traffic of some road infrastructure or pothole being repaired, you know, at the end of it you cannot just be a flag waver. You have got to be able to say, "Well, can we train you in doing something better?"

So, ja, I think it is not, it cannot be classed as a real job. It has got to be classed as an intervention and something that should give you an opportunity to go to the next level.

I must say that the other interventions that we have in that vein, and for example, I want to talk about the PAY programme. So the PAY programme is also about creating a short-term opportunity, a one year opportunity for a

young person who is not in training, who has not got access to a university or a bursary or at a technical training college, or perhaps do not even know what they want to do, but they have finished matric, they have shown that they can get a matric, and of course we only offer just under 1 000 of those opportunities every year. It is becoming harder and harder as we are getting less and less money because the national fiscus is shrinking, but it amazes me every time I engage with those young people, they see it as that opportunity and so many of them want to go on and now suddenly they have decided they want to go and study, they have used that opportunity and I do think that in the EPWP space we need to get to it and I think there is a lot of work still to be done in that. That it is a step up, that it infuses, it shows capability, it enables people to show themselves their own worth, that they can move from that opportunity into a real job.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. That brings us to the end of Question 2. We move over to Question 3. I recognise the hon Minister Maynier.

Questions standing over from Thursday, 22 June 2023, as agreed to by the House:

3. Mr P T de Villiers to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With regard to the Newton Primary School in Newton in Wellington:
Whether his Department has investigated the state of the school's

buildings in the last 12 months; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you for the hon member for putting a question on Newton Primary School.

The Department has informed me that the circuit manager visited the school as recently as 20 June 2023 and no complaints were raised or reported regarding the state of buildings during that visit.

Three years ago an independent engineering company was asked to evaluate the construction of the school's stoep by the previous principal. The feedback was that there were no reasons to be concerned.

In May 2022 a team from the WCED's Infrastructure Directorate visited the school and the acting principal at the time pointed out to them a crack on the floor in one of the classrooms. It was found by the Infrastructure Directorate, that the crack did not require further attention.

In June 2023 the acting principal reported to the WCED, via the CEMIS system, that the crack referred to above may now be slightly bigger and this report of course will now be attended to. No other concerns, hon Deputy Speaker, have been raised. Thank you.

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

hon member De Villiers, any further follow-up?

Mr P DE VILLIERS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. When I visited the school quite a while ago it was disturbing to see that the poles on the first floor that are supporting the roof, most of them were rusted off and having been a teacher myself for 20 years, I understand that children during the winter are playing in that passages and, well, it can be catastrophic and some of them are actually also close to give in, and at the back of the school I saw that there are four trees one metre away from the building. Very, very high trees with our winds in Paarl, Wellington and in that same area there were almost 20 trees uprooted. I think it becomes a danger for the children.

So I would love if we can go back and go look at those little things and just look at the safety of our children.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member De Villiers. Over to you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would certainly undertake to go back and examine the poles supporting the roof and the four trees which the hon member regards as a danger.

I would remind the hon member that if he visits a school and he is concerned about any element at the school in relation to infrastructure, please confirm that the principal has lodged those queries with the Department so that we

can take action.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I cannot resist, when speaking of cracks. I looked at the dictionary definition of cracks, which I see is a break or to break or cause to break without a complete separation of the parts, which I have to say appears to me is exactly what happened to the hon member's political party last in George. [Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I wanted to get a sense from the hon Minister as to what are the long-term plans for the school's infrastructure and is there a budget for that? Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. If the hon member Khalid Sayed had only once again done his homework he would know that we will be spending R1,4 billion this year on existing infrastructure assets and we will be replacing six schools and indeed investing in upgrades and modernisations at about 28 schools.

So my Department does have a long-term plan and we will be investing

R1,4 billion in the maintenance of existing infrastructure assets over the medium-term in the Western Cape. Thank you.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To the hon Minister, I wanted to find out, given that the upgrades and replacements of schools have been published, I want to specifically know what exactly is the process for a school principal or a SGB or the leadership at the school to report or request for upgrades, request for replacement of schools, so that when we ask for help that we know that help is there?

I always tell the youth in my constituency, "I can only help you if I know what the problem is." So if we can just know what that particular process is for those who are listening, so that they are able to then report to the WCED if there are such problems. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon member. I think you ask a very good question. The Department can indeed only fix something if it knows that it is broken and it is precisely for that reason that we would encourage principals who are concerned about the state of the schools and where they believe that maintenance is required, to log those requests on our CEMIS system so that the Department is aware and so that the Department

can effect repairs and maintenance at the relevant schools in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Cassiem. Hon member Dugmore, sorry you have missed the opportunity. Hon member Cassiem, you are the final opportunity.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you. My question to the MEC, if I can just ask because I do not think that the question was answered previously. How much of the R1,4 billion is allocated to maintenance to this school specifically?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you for the question, hon member. I can say, as I said earlier, that R1,4 billion will be spent on existing infrastructure assets. About R855,1 million will be spent particularly on maintenance and repair.

In relation to the amount of expenditure allocated to the school in particular, I would recommend that she puts a written question and I will then provide her with a detailed answer on the total spending on maintenance and repair at Newton Primary School. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That concludes Question 3. We now move over to Question 6. I recognise Minister Simmers

...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, sure.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, I would just like you to respond to the point of order in the following, raising the following point, that in his reply the MEC referred, as I heard him, subject to correction, to the fact that the DA performed well in George.

Now I would like to ask, as a point of order, that that particular statement is not related to the topic and I think, as we all know, hon Deputy Speaker, there is an allegation that the DA registered 188 people in one house in Pacaltsdorp ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is not a point of order ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Dugmore, that is not a point of order. I do recognise the irrelevance part, but that question that was asked at the time was largely answered. So I am going to let that pass. Thank you very much, hon member Dugmore. I now recognise hon Minister Simmers.

6. Mr C F Christians to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

Whether his Department has had any success in evicting occupants of rental units who are engaging in illegal activities while occupying the units. If so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and to the hon member Christians, thank you for the questions.

Firstly, when suspected illegal activities at our rental units are reported to the Department, these allegations are taken very seriously and then we immediately initiate investigations. After that we then do internal, from an internal perspective these matters are then referred to the Legal Services Department for assessment based on the evidence which we then provide to the Legal Services, and once there is probable cause for criminal charges to be instituted, my Department then enlists the services of the relevant law enforcement agencies, such as the South African Police Service.

Now in terms of evictions and my Department, as a landlord, is bound by the Prevention of Illegal Evictions and Unlawful Occupations of Land Act and therefore we cannot just simply evict tenants without following the due process as set out in this piece of legislation, and this is one of the major challenges that my Department and I are grappling with, when we come to such matters as pertaining to your question, because sadly criminals can break the law, hon member, but the same law ultimately also protects these criminals and is the cause why we cannot act immediately.

We do have monthly engagements with SAPS, who then provides us with reports. This we then utilise to strengthen our eviction application processes. However, I must say obtaining an eviction order for criminal activities or a breach of lease or unlawful occupation, which we so regularly see sometimes, is a very long and tedious process that we need to go through.

In cases of illegal activity the Courts invariably request proof, which can only be obtained from the South African Police Service for the Department to be able to apply for a possible successful eviction order. In a number of these cases the perpetrators which we are dealing with are not actually the original tenants of our Department's rental stock and they do not have a lease with our Department, and we have seen cases where it is actually dependents of the original tenant of these units. The [Inaudible.] ultimately then tends to further complicate our eviction application process.

The most recent successful case of such an eviction took place on 31 January of this year, where a court order was obtained after five years after initiating the process, hon member. Five years, I need to emphasise. However, the eviction order was not granted because the alleged criminal activities of the occupant was not what the Court actually found on, but rather that prior convictions were against the specific individual. The eviction was actually granted on the basis that the prosecution component focused on the unlawful occupation of the unit after the occupant's mother, who was the legal tenant, sadly passed away the prior year.

So over the years we have only had limited number of successful cases that I can actually provide you with, hon member, but these cases are very far and few between because, (a), there is limited tangible proof which is required for us to submit and there is the inability to find credible witnesses to actually testify due to them being threatened with violence and in many cases intimidations, in our rental stock. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Over to you, hon member Christians.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is actually heartsore to find out when you walk you can see the grand cars standing and parked in front of these houses as rental stock. The biggest problem that we have and the Minister has identified, somehow, I do not know how, but, you know, people are fed up because of their children lured into these drugs because they are used as drug dens and so on.

So I do not know, you have given some answers about a lot of red tape, a lot of problems, because as I know and people are telling us, the success rate of evicting these guys are almost impossible.

So can you give us some good news? What is being done to get around this? Of course you will have to speak to local authorities, maybe to your national counterparts to look at how do we get rid of these high-flyers renting

numerous properties, not even one, renting numerous properties and using it to further their illegal activities.

So I know it is difficult, but surely something must be done. So that is why I wanted to ask the success rate because I think that is dismal. I do not think you can brag about success rate, but surely something must be done and I do not know what to tell the people when I go back to them to say, "Listen, it seems to me Government's hands are tied."

So give me some good news, hon Minister, I do not know what it is going to be, but we need to get rid of these high-flyers in these rental stock. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon member. Indeed unfortunately I cannot give the hon member good news because as the landlord, as indicated to the hon member, I am bound by due process that I must follow, but what I can tell you is where we have engaged tenants in our stock and we ask to be proactive when they do note individuals who are actually occupying these units illegally, that do not have contracts with us or are individuals who previously did not live in our rental stock, we have seen a systematic, but very slow uptake obviously through, on our request because I said as indicated, these people are threatened with violence and intimidation, but one can thank those very few since 2019, since

I have taken over the realm, where we have seen individuals actually heeding our call, being proactive within the limited time period we could manage to actually respond.

So that is a bit of good news, but overall unfortunately we are bound by the rule of law and processes and sadly many a times we have seen cases where individuals live in our rental stock for decades, that the very same community you observe this illegality is actually protecting the individual, instead of understanding if you do not have a legal and binding lease agreement with our Department we must actually act upon and then we are seen actually in a very negative light when in actual fact we are executing the rule of law which we are all bound by. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Dugmore, I think, is that a new hand? And I have recorded you as the next speaker.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Sorry, Chair, I will take that hand down.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, then it is hon member Marran, over to you.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: But there were still 188 people registered in one house in George. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I am not going, I am going to ignore that. Hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, your hand is up?

Mr P MARRAN: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, unfortunately not. I cannot hear you. I will then move over to hon member Cassiem and if you can, I will try once more after hon member Cassiem. Over to you, hon member Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you. Based on the Minister's response to successful cases, can I ask how many successful cases have there been in Cape Town alone in areas like Manenberg and Mitchells Plain, among others? I am sure that you should at least have details of at least one or two successful cases that do not require him to ask for a written question to be sent to him. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I will answer the hon member because rental stock in the areas belong to the City of Cape Town, it does not belong to my province. The last time I

checked if the councillor is actually [Inaudible.] in the City of Cape Town, she can ask him to ask the question. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Marran, do you want to try once more?

Mr P MARRAN: [No audible response]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No? Okay ...[Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, yes, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I can. You may proceed.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks very much [Inaudible.] he mentioned that we know who these gangs are [Inaudible.] if these occupants [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marran, unfortunately I could not make sense of that. and I can see the Minister cannot make sense of that either. My apologies. Are there any further questions? I recognise hon member Christians.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: [Inaudible.]

Mr P MARRAN: Can you hear me, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marran?

Mr P MARRAN: No, hon Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to check out of the [Inaudible.] if he knows the success rate from zero to 10 to evict these tenants who are involved in illegal activities? The success rate from zero to 10, yes, thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, could you perhaps note that question?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Yes, I get the gist of the question. I think the hon member is having very poor reception because I have only mentioned one successful eviction, which did not even relate to illegal activities happening, hon Deputy Speaker, because for us to initiate that process, just the cumbersome process of getting proof, getting witnesses to actually stand up and come and provide us with affidavits, but through you, hon Deputy Speaker, I will provide the hon member with a written response since the period of 2019 of May until 2023, if there have been any successful, if any, I must say if any successful convictions and evictions. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Christians.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to know from the hon Minister if somebody has the

courage to come forward to say, "Listen, I know of illegal activity," can that person, is that person, can he stay anonymous? Secondly, how can we encourage people to come forward to know that their names will not be given back to those gangsters, and just the confidence and trust that they have in the system? Or is there some way that - because I am sure people are intimidated, I am sure that people are scared, but we need to give them the reassurance if they come forward, because they love their neighbourhood, they love their children. Can we give them the assurance that they are protected? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Over to you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you to the hon member. Indeed we created a specific unique email address, I can give it through to the hon member now. It is humanmin@westerncape.gov.za. There are very few people that actually manage that account and then we treat all information, more so those who actually do assist us in curbing these illegalities. We do protect their identities, but we do utilise the information they give us to actually act on that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Lekker, my apologies, all opportunities for that question have been exhausted. If I can just ask that, hon member Dugmore, you could also lower your hand. We move over to Question 3 of the new questions. I recognise the hon Minister

Maynier.

New questions

3. Ms D M Baartman to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With regard to the recent launch of his Department's #BackOnTrack programme:

- (1) What is the purpose of the programme;
- (2) whether other provinces maintain similar programmes; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) how many classes does his Department run per week with this programme?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Inaudible.] questions have been exhausted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker, please put yourself on mute. You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the hon member for putting this question on our very important #BackOnTrack programme, which the Premier mentioned earlier in his reply.

The purpose of the #BackOnTrack programme of course is to reverse the learning losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic of course may be over, but the effects of the pandemic on our education system are not over. Earlier this year, hon members would know, that we released our 2022 systemic test results for Mathematics and Reading, which confirmed that during the pandemic learning outcomes effectively fell off a cliff.

More than half of our Grade 3, 6 and 9 learners cannot achieve a basic pass score for Mathematics and Reading. That is why we are investing R1,2 billion to reverse learning losses in the Western Cape.

The #BackOnTrack programme builds on the existing work we have done to improve learning outcomes. The hon members will recall our prioritisation of the Foundation Phase, particularly in Reading, and the recovery in our Grade 3 systemic tests suggests that we are making good progress in the phase, but in addition to all the Foundation Phase learners and teachers, we have selected schools for additional support in Grade 4, 7, 8, 10 and of course 12. Schools have been selected based on the results of last year's annual systemic tests and National Senior Certificate results, to ensure that we are targeting support to the schools, teachers and of course learners who need it the most.

The 2021 PIRLS (Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study) shows that learning losses have affected not just our province, hon members,

but of course the entire country. We are aware of additional classes in the Free State, but I am confident that this is the biggest learning losses recovery programme in South Africa and I have raised the need for a national programme to reverse learning losses with the National Minister of Basic Education at the last Council of Education Ministers meeting just two weeks ago and I look forward to the Department of Basic Education's further input in that regard. As I have discussed in this House previously, we have shared the results of our decision to increase the time allocated to Maths and Reading within the foundation phase school day with our colleagues in National Government and indeed with our colleagues in other provinces, and we are pleased that the Department of Basic Education has now released a circular providing guidance to schools nationally on the implementation of our #BackOnTrack time allocation model, so that the unequal impact of learning losses can be addressed for learners in other provinces, which demonstrate that working together we can begin to reverse learning losses across South Africa.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, the scheduled classes and training per week during term time, depend on the week in question. Extra classes for Grade 4, 7, 8, 10 and 12 are held every second Saturday during term time. Grade 4, 7 and 8 teachers are participating in what we call a "1 + 9 training", where teachers are effectively taken out of the classroom every 10th day to receive specialised support.

I spent some time in fact with one of the training sessions for our Grade 4

language teachers at the CTLI and the intensive level of support and the buy-in from our teachers were impressive.

Our Grade 12 and our Grade 10 teachers are also participating in what we call Just-In-Time training sessions every two weeks, which look at the work we have taught in the two weeks ahead. The online training alternates between the two grades each week and in addition our #BackOnTrack War Room is held every two weeks with officials from across the province, meeting to discuss ideas, working together to address challenges and of course planning for the coming weeks.

To give hon members some flavour. If we consider the week of 4 to 10 June 2023, the following took place:

- On the Wednesday Grade 12 online teacher training in Mathematics was held, which both our Head of Department and myself joined and of course the Head of Department, being a former Maths teacher, he fared a little bit better than I did.
- On that Friday the #BackOnTrack War room was held and on the Saturday Grade 10s had extra classes.

I visited one of the venues at the Uxolo High School in Khayelitsha where around 400 Grade 10 learners from various schools in the Metro East Education District were being tutored, and in addition to the term time sessions, the #BackOnTrack holiday camps were held for Grades 7, 8 and 12

and I am sure that you would have seen some of the photos of the sessions on social media, but also in addition, hon Deputy Speaker, a special Grade 10 Mathematics intervention was held during the holiday period as the Maths results, of course, for last year's Grade 9s were concerning.

So we need to dedicate extra time and extra support to those learners and their teachers and I was so pleased to visit a Grade 10 Maths learning #BackOnTrack class at the University of the Western Cape just last week and I also visited Grade 10 Maths teachers from across the province who were participating in training at the CTLI.

So our programme is really gaining momentum and we would like to thank our officials, our teachers, our tutors, our learners and our parents who are all involved and I would also like to thank the members of the House for their support as we work to improve learning outcomes and give our children a better future in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Unfortunately our time is completely up. I allowed the Minister to complete his answer, so we will not proceed with any further follow-ups, my apologies. That is the second time, hon member Lekker, I do apologise. That brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

We now move over in terms of Rule 145 to Statements by Members for a total

amount of two minutes each. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA in the Western Cape welcomes the Airports Company of South Africa's commitment to expand Cape Town International Airport. This expansion is an urgent necessity driven by the Western Cape's remarkable growth in tourism which has moved past recovery and into growth since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May of this year I wrote and had advocated for the expansion of the airport, recognising the numerous benefits it would bring to both the City and the province. I will be inviting ACSA to brief the Standing Committee on this project's progress and provide updates regarding the anticipated timelines.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as an award-winning airport and with the recent announcement of numerous new international flights, Cape Town's status as a sought after destination is solidified. ACSA's plan to construct an additional runway capable of accommodating larger planes with wider wingspans not only addresses the need of the aviation industry, but also provides a solution to the ongoing airspace challenges faced by the airport. The current limited availability of airspace not only hampers local flying schools in securing adequate trainings areas, but also poses a serious safety concern.

Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, adequate airport infrastructure is indispensable for the flourishing of the local economy as it serves as a vital gateway for trade, investment, tourism ...[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr D AMERICA: ... and in stimulating growth, fostering job creation.

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

Mr D AMERICA: I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move over to the ANC.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. The African National Congress is deeply appreciative of the acts of service by many people, both in our country and globally, who took part in various special activities that were arranged to celebrate the Nelson Mandela International Day that coincides with Tata Madiba's birthday on 18 July.

The world celebrated the life and legacy of democratic South Africa's first president, a revolutionary and a global icon. His legacy and values are best described by the following call to action:

"As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

We shall never forget how millions of people around the world joined us in solidarity to fight the injustice of our oppression while we were incarcerated.

Our province's dire socio-economic conditions affecting mainly the Black majority, Coloured, Indian and African, suggests that this DA-led Administration has scant regard for President Mandela's values. When President Mandela himself was confronted with these realities he told the people and I quote:

"The ANC is the organisation of the future. Nobody can deny the ANC that role."

About the DA he warned:

"You must not be misled by a party that only cares ..."

And this was in the year 2000:

"...that only cares for Blacks on the eve of the elections. No White party can run this country, no matter how they cover up by getting a few Black stooges. They remain the bosses, they remain a White party."

Madiba's words still ring true to this day, especially when the Democratic Alliance continues to block all transformation measures taken by the ANC Government, including its fierce opposition to the Expropriation Bill, to the NHI Bill, to the BELA Bill and the Employment Equity Amendment Act.

As custodians of the movement of ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... Tata Madiba, the movement he loved so dearly, we convey a message of gratitude ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... to all who rekindle President Mandela's values. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the DA.

Mr I M SILEKU: Hon Deputy Speaker, as the harsh winter cold sets in and our energy crisis reaches unprecedented levels with rolling blackouts surpassing Stage 6, vulnerable communities are compelled to seek alternative energy solutions like gas and open fires during the winter season. Unfortunately this poses a significant fire risk.

To address this pressing concern the Western Cape Government has taken proactive steps by installing 13 000 fire alarm systems throughout informal settlements in the province. These fire alarms play a crucial role in providing early warning and ensuring the safety of communities in the Western Cape. To date R2,6 million has been spent on these fire alarm systems.

Moreover the Western Cape Government has also invested R1,85 million in hazard awareness campaigns, specifically targeting Grade 1 to 7 learners. These initiatives aim to raise awareness about the potential hazards and educate the younger generation about fire safety measures.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape now also has more firefighting appliances than all the other provinces combined. Currently the province has 664 different firefighting appliances and it includes structural, mountainous, veld and HAZMAT firefighting appliances, but by strategically allocating these resources the province is well-positioned to respond effectively to any potential fire outbreaks.

By prioritising the safety and security of our residents the DA-run Western Cape Government will continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our communities.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD.

Mr P DE VILLIERS: We do not have a statement today, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, noted. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP is shocked to what happened in Gauteng, Waverdient, Carletonville, Gauteng, where a father raped and killed his 8-day old baby. Eight days, not 8 years, 8 days. It is believed that the father took the child from the mother and returned the child full of blood. The child died the next day in hospital and it is proven when they took the child to the medical facility, that the child was raped.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, this is sad and I want to say this, that this will never happen under an ACDP Government because we know what to do with perpetrators. We are the only party that voted against this Constitution that forbid capital punishment, but we know what to do with perpetrators and they will face the full arm of the law when the ACDP should ever take power.

Hon Deputy Speaker, now I just heard a colleague in the ANC said about the BELA Bill. The BELA Bill must be the HELLA Bill from the pit of hell [Interjections.] because the sexuality education, confusing our children further, is going to take our children and with paedophiles like this, they are going to thrive off these things and we must be careful what we legislate.

In closing I want to say, hon Deputy Speaker, that we are calling as the ACDP that this criminal justice system should not fail us because this perpetrator should not receive bail and should, if found guilty, rot in jail and not have luxury in prison, but rot in jail.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this must be a lesson to paedophiles and perpetrators out there that it should not happen under our watch. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. While the ANC welcomes the intervention by the National Government in the person of Deputy Minister, comrade Mcebisi Skwatsha, to make farmworkers aware of their rights, the ANC in this House wishes to note the deadly silence from the Western Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture in the recent upsurge of evictions of farmworkers.

Deputy Minister Skwatsha last week conducted a farmworker awareness campaign in Dysseisdorp given the reported escalation in unlawful farm evictions within the greater Oudtshoorn region, along with the distressing living conditions among farmworkers. Yet while we can understand the lack of response and silence from MEC Meyer, because he seems to be in a *boetie-boetie* relationship with a number of abusive farmers and he seems to protect racists, we must warn about the instability these evictions can bring to the

agricultural sector.

The MEC and his Department must have a short memory and have probably forgotten the riots that took place across the province and the protests within the agricultural sector in 2012. Over 10 years later we must warn this Provincial Government that we could easily have an explosion again, an explosion, hon Deputy Speaker, that the ANC does not want.

We thus call on the MEC and his Department to intervene and to work with farmworkers to ensure that their livelihoods, tenure and their rights are protected. We call on the MEC to condemn publicly these evictions of any farmworkers from farms and we further call on this Department to implement an awareness campaign similar to that undertaken by the Deputy Minister, comrade Skwatsha, and to ensure that farmworkers and farm dwellers are aware of their rights and enjoy those rights. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. On Monday ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member - have you got two - okay, can we just try that again if you just put that on.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There we go. You may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, on Monday, 10 July, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure embarked on an oversight visit ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. Can I just ask perhaps that you use another microphone. There is something wrong. If we can just check, IT, on that feedback. Over to you again. You may please - please can we restart ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Thank you very much ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, can we please restart the timer. Right, you may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Okay. Thank you very much. On Monday, 10 July, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure embarked on an oversight visit to Cederberg to assess flood-related damage in that municipality. We found that the Cederberg Municipality has suffered extensive damage to critical infrastructure during the recent flooding, amounting to R309 million thus far.

Damage includes civil, amounting to R56 million; electrical, amounting to

R6 million; farms and agriculture infrastructure, amounting to R97 million and municipality roads, specifically Citrusdal Main Road, amounting to R150 million.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is undeniable that the impact of the recent floods have been absolutely devastating to communities, businesses and local authorities in Cederberg. However, unlike what we have seen elsewhere in country where damaged infrastructure and communities are forgotten after tragedy strikes, we have seen here in the Western Cape how emergency response crews and Disaster Management teams are working continuously to assist Cederberg and other municipalities as they recover.

I want to also commend the Western Cape Provincial Government for its continued work around the clock to assist in repairing damaged infrastructure.

Thus far the R303 has been opened, electricity supply to various towns have been secured, water supply has been restored and relief and shelter have been provided to displaced people.

The Standing Committee on Infrastructure will continue to perform its oversight role over the next few months and has already resolved to visit Matzikama Municipality to assess the flood damage here in Western Cape. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front notes with dismay and it is noticeable that while education is a concurrent competence between Western Cape and the National Parliament and schools in the Western Cape, many seemingly have mentioned insurmountable problems, for example, insufficient classrooms, poorly qualified teachers and gangsterism, yet the DA's proposed Powers Bill has excluded Education to be devolved to us.

Also we need to reappoint school inspectors at our schools and increase the quality of education according to Western Cape people standard, not emulate other provinces.

The DA also excluded agriculture and land reform out of their Powers Bill. Even though they are aware of the ANC's intention to amend Section 25 of the National Constitution, allowing them the right to expropriate property without compensation.

The Power Bill of the DA was a rush job to steal the political show from the Freedom Front Plus's People's Bill. It was an act of expediency to steal the political limelight. This is not cooperation, but sabotage. The Bill is not a moonshot, but a shot in the back of the Freedom Front Plus. [Interjections.]

This is not the way to start the 2024 campaign and I want to predict it could backfire. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon member Marais. [Interjections.] I now recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. hon Deputy Speaker, Al Jama-ah calls on the DA-led Western Cape Province to stop its senseless efforts in supporting and carrying out the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Russian President Vladimir Putin warrant of arrest. It suggests the DA should force our Government to enact and rather execute a warrant of the arrest of apartheid Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The latter, along with his Zionist Cabinet, has committed numerous crimes against humanity. So far they have literally got away for having carried out war crimes in Palestine. They have violated human laws several times over the years and they are collectively guilty for the atrocities that they perpetrated against all the Palestinians, including the children under international law.

During Netanyahu's reign as Prime Minister he not only sanctioned the process of ethnic cleansing, but executed it in towns and villages across the Zionist state. Many of these have been illegally wrenched away from the Palestinian communities and these have since been illegitimately occupied.

The Zionist army that has among them a group of South African Zionists, has caused mayhem among the Palestinian communities. Some of their acts have even led to the killing of many Palestinian women and children in 2021 and '22 ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: ... Gazan homes were bombed ...[Interjections.]

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

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Adjunkspeaker, die onlangse vloede het miljoene rande se skade aan infrastruktuur veral aan die Weskus veroorsaak. Die totale omvang van die skade word nog bereken, maar daar is alreeds skattings dat die totale skade meer as R1 miljard kan beloop.

Adjunkspeaker, die skade aan publieke infrastruktuur net in Cederberg Munisipaliteit word tans op meer as R300 miljoen beraam. Geld wat hierdie

munisipaliteit nie het nie. Die munisipale bestuurder het dus 'n beroep op die Regering gedoen om 'n plaaslike ramp te verklaar sodat die skade so gou as moontlik herstel kan word. Ons kan maar net leer uit die ervaring van KwaZulu Natal. Hul ekonomie, veral toerisme, sukkel geweldig omdat vloedskades na meer as 'n jaar nog nie herstel is nie.

Werkskepping bly ons prioriteit. Ek sou dus verwag dat almal wat ons land en veral die Weskus se inwoners se beste belange op die hart dra, hulle ook sal beywer vir fondse sodat die skade en die ekonomie so gou as moontlik herstel sal word, maar nee.

My aandag is gevestig op boodskappe op sosiale media deur die pasverkose Provinsiale Sekretaris van die ANC, ene mnr Neville Delport, ook bekend as "Neville Geldjies", [Tussenwerpsels.] waarin hy betoog dat die Nasionale Regering nie ramphulp ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Deputy Speaker, the recent floods caused millions of rands of damage to infrastructure, especially on the West Coast. The total extent of the damage is still being calculated, but there are already estimates that the total damage may exceed R1 billion.

Deputy Speaker, the damage to public infrastructure in Cederberg Municipality alone is estimated at more than R300 million. Money that this municipality does

not have. The municipal manager has therefore appealed to the Government to declare a local disaster so that the damage can be repaired as soon as possible. We can only learn from the experience of KwaZulu Natal. Their economy, especially tourism, is struggling tremendously because flood damage has still not been repaired after more than a year.

Job creation remains our priority. I would therefore expect that all who have the country's and especially the West Coast inhabitants' interests at heart, will also set about for funds so that the damage and the economy can be repaired as soon as possible, but no.

My attention was drawn to messages on social media by the Provincial Secretary of the ANC just chosen, one Mr Neville Delport, also known as "Neville Geldjies", [Interjections.] in which he asks that the National Government should not provide disaster aid ...[Interjections.]

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

Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: ... aan Cederberg moet verleen nie.
[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: ... to Cederberg. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat ...[Interjections.]

Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Terloops ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: By the way ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. [Interjections.] I recognise you, I recognise you, hon member Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order, hon Chairperson. Hon member Van der Westhuizen is casting aspersions.

An HON MEMBER: On who? [Laughs]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Neville Delport is not a member of this particular House and is not protected by the privilege in the House ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He is making statements about somebody outside of the House, accusing him of something. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Baartman, a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Chair, in terms of Rule 66 [Interjections.] in terms of how the Rules of the House are implemented, [Interjections.] I would like to know what Rule is the member referring to,

because the person he is referring to is not a member of this House and according to me Rule 59 refers to reflections upon members of this House.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I am going to rule on that. Hon member Sayed, first of all I am not able to rule on the content of a statement. I have known that precedent has been set in this House where statements have reflected dishonourably against members of this House where we can rule, but not, unfortunately, around people that are not members of the House. So I cannot rule on that unfortunately, there is no Rule to guide me on that.

So I would just ask that obviously the member takes a risk because there is a court of law that protects everybody's rights outside of this House. So he will have to take his own responsibility in what he makes and says in this House. You may proceed.

Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Adjunkspeaker, terloops, die bynaam Neville Geldjies hou blykbaar [Tussenwerpsels.] verband met sy eise dat kaders wat weens sy invloed in munisipale poste aangestel word, aan hom sogenaamde beskermingsgeld moet betaal. Aldus 'n beëdigde verklaring wat onlangs onder my aandag gebring is.

Adjunkspeaker, ek doen 'n beroep op my ANC kollegas, indien enige een van hulle die werking van die ekonomie verstaan, om vir mense soos mnr Neville

Geldjies te verduidelik watter belangrike rol die herstel van infrastruktuur in werkskepping speel en dat werkskepping die beste manier is om 'n meer gelyke verdeling van inkomste en groter menswaardigheid te verseker. Ek dank u. [Applous.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Deputy Speaker, by the way, the nickname Neville Geldjies apparently relates to [Interjections.] his demands that cadres who have been appointed in municipal posts due to his influence, must pay him so-called protection money. According to a sworn affidavit that was brought to my attention recently.

Deputy Speaker, I'm asking my ANC colleagues, if any one of them understands how the economy works, to explain to people like Mr Neville Geldjies what important role the repair of infrastructure plays in job creation and that job creation is the best way to ensure a more equal distribution of income and greater human dignity. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That brings us to the end of Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6) I now give one or more members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to any of the Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively and I have noted - before I begin, I do see your hand up. I have noted Minister Meyer, but hon member Bakubaku-Vos, have you got a point of order? No? Okay [Inaudible.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes, hon Speaker, I [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, yes?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: But the man is already [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. I take it that we have moved from the previous ruling. I then recognise Minister Maynier.

RESPONSES TO STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Perhaps I should start by reminding the hon member Peter Marais that Education in fact is already a concurrent power and it is precisely for that reason that this Province is executing the biggest Learning Losses Recovery Programme in the country and the other provinces are doing absolutely nothing. [Applause.]

Now in response to the hon member Khalid Sayed, the real problem with the ANC of course is that they do not care about Black citizens between elections and that is why we have 11,9 million people, many of whom are Black citizens, unemployed in South Africa. [Interjections.]

The truth, hon Deputy Speaker, the truth, hon Deputy Speaker, is that if

Nelson Mandela was alive today he would be so shocked by the state of the ANC that he would be sorely tempted to vote for the DA. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise ...[intervenes]

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, can I ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... Minister Meyer.

Mr P J MARAIS: May I? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, unfortunately, hon member Marais, you do not have that privilege. [Interjections.] This is not ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I raised my hand even before he stopped speaking.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no-no-no-no-no, this is [Interjections.] the rights and privilege of the Executive to respond. I only recognise Ministers. I now recognise Minister Meyer. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to respond to the issue of the farmworkers, put on the record that the Western Cape is the only province in South Africa that does have a farmworker programme, farmworker budget, farmworker cultural programme, farmworker sports programme, farmworker sports committee, farmworker sports day, agri worker competition of the year.

This is the only province that respects the dignity of farmworkers. This is the only province in South Africa that does send the agri worker of the year to Rotterdam in the Netherlands, as well as to the biggest fruit, logistical network in Rotterdam, but also the biggest fruit logistical exhibition in Berlin and so this province has 17% of all the people that are working here in the Western Cape employed in the agricultural sector and this is the only province that has ...[intervenens]

Mnr P J MARAIS: Hy is so *stupid*, ek *start* my *discussion* om te sê, "*Although* [Onhoorbaar.]

[Mr P J MARAIS: He's so stupid, I start my discussion to say, "*Although* [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... a prestige agri worker programme to give particular discussion for us ...

Mnr P J MARAIS: Maar hy wil vir my *remind* dis 'n *concurrent power*.

[Mr P J MARAIS: But he wants to remind me it's a concurrent power.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Minister Meyer. If I can just - there we go, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: And so, hon Deputy Speaker, I am proud that we in this province provide dignity and respect to agri workers in this province. [Interjections.] If there is any abuse of agri workers, I have asked this on numerous occasions, we have established a desk so that people who are evicted illegally or are abused or whose human rights are violated, that those matters be brought under my attention.

I want to put it on record, hon Deputy Speaker, that I have in the last five years not received any such incidences and therefore what is now happening in the House is clear political grandstanding and I therefore reject any insinuation that we are not respecting the rights of agri workers. Obviously there are cases where farmworkers are evicted and I am happy to receive those reports and I will do the necessary to investigate and let the law goes it way, but the ANC is not a friend of agriculture and therefore project their hatred on White farmers, Black farmers and Coloured farmers in this province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister Meyer. Any further members of the Executive who would like to respond? There are about 15 seconds? No? Thank you, I take it that is ...[Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: All these programmes to keep farmworkers farmworkers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no-no-no, hon member Marran. [Interjections.] This is the end of Members' Statements, we now move to Notices of Motion. In terms of Rule 151 all Notices of Motion by the hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions will be printed.

MOTIONS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no, no, hon Marran. [Interjections.] This is the end of Members' Statements. We now move to Notices of Motion. In terms of Rule 151, all Notices of Motions by the hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions will be printed.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr G PRETORIUS (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the implications of the pending National Health Insurance Bill on the Western Cape.

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the increasing rate of child murders in Western Cape.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) outbreak in the Western Cape.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the 17.6% electricity price hike in Cape Town. This hike is way above the NERSA approved tariff hike for municipalities of 15.1%.

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

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the Provincial Government carelessness about the hundreds of displaced shack fire victims at Ramaphosa informal settlement in Philippi.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move over to Motions without Notice that in terms of Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 18 July 2023. Hon members are reminded that the Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting and have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 18 July 2023, 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 this House. I will therefore, for noting and for the purpose of the Minutes, call out those hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

As follows: hon Murray, hon Murray, hon Bosman, hon Bosman, hon Bosman, hon Bosman, hon Bosman, hon Bosman, hon Bosman, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Sileku, hon Sileku ...*[Interjection.]*

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): That is a monopoly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon Kama, hon Dugmore, hon Bans, hon Dugmore, hon Kama, hon Kama, hon Nkondlo, hon Mvimbi, hon Bakubaku-Vos, hon Sayed, hon Windvogel.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ms C MURRAY (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Tulbagh Tourism on the successful Christmas in Winter festival; notes that it is events like these that attract tourists to some of the wonderful destinations the Western Cape has to offer; notes further that tourism is an avenue to job creation, and that rural areas in the Western Cape also benefit substantially from tourism revenue; and recognises the hard work done by the people of Tulbagh without whom such a wonderful event would not be possible.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms C MURRAY (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Fyn Restaurant on being named the Best Sustainable Restaurant in the World by The World's 50 Best

Restaurants; notes the importance of sustainability in attracting environmentally conscious tourists to the Western Cape; notes further that fine dining contributes to Cape Town's reputation as a must-visit international destination and that Fyn serves world-class cuisine that is on par with the best restaurants in the world; and recognises the efforts of the hard-working team at the restaurant to reach this wonderful achievement.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Cape Town Opera on its remarkable achievement in presenting the South African premiere of Pauline Viardot's 'Cendrillion'; extends its heartfelt commendation to the two extraordinary sopranos, Brittany Smith and Janelle Visagie, winners of the esteemed Fleur du Cap Theatre Awards, for their awe-inspiring performances that captivated audiences and left a lasting impression; extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding young artists who were cast in this production, namely Alida Scheepers, Tylor Lamani, Van Wyk Venter, Asisipho Petu, and Luvu Rasemeni. Their remarkable skills contributed immensely to the creation of a truly world-class performance that is a testament to the talent nurtured within South Africa.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the U/20 Springbok rugby team for their outstanding performance in the World Rugby U/20 Championships that is taking place in Paarl, Stellenbosch, and Athlone.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the athletes selected for the Banyana Banyana Women's World Cup team; and sends its best wishes to them as they compete in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, hosted in New Zealand and Australia.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House sends its deepest condolences to Marius Weyers and the family and friends of the late Yvette Weyers, as well as the entire Rooi Els community. Yvette was a well-known and beloved figure in the town of Rooi Els and her passing will leave a void, not only in her

community, but the entire province; acknowledges and celebrates her contributions and championing of the arts sector in the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House sends its condolences to the family and friends of Nick Koster; he was born in Robertson and was a major, talented schoolboy rugby star when he played for Bishops at number eight. He featured for Western Province in the 2006 and 2007 Craven Week in Johannesburg and Stellenbosch, and even went on to play for the South African Schools team for two years; he moved quickly through the Western Province senior ranks and made his debut for the Stormers in 2009 where he played until 2012 before he started playing rugby in Bath; and recognises the tremendous impact he has made in various rugby structures within the province and abroad.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the exceptional achievement of the 17 talented young boys from Langa, Cape Town, who will be participating in the world's biggest international youth football tournament, the

Gothia Cup, which is hosted in Sweden this year; acknowledges that these individuals have been handpicked by Project Playground, which operates within the Langa community. Project Playground has not only uplifted the lives of these individuals but also set an exemplary precedent for fostering sporting excellence and social empowerment; further acknowledges and commends Project Playground for its unwavering dedication and commitment to providing a platform for these young athletes to showcase their skills on an international stage; and extends its wholehearted support and best wishes to these boys as they represent the Western Cape and South Africa at the Gothia Cup.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAISER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Douglas Green, a bodybuilder from Paarl, who recently placed 4th at the 2023 INBA/PNBA Natural Sports Bodybuilding Competition in Manchester, England; notes that Douglas is the 2022 Masters 75kg South African Champion; further notes that Douglas, a Drakenstein Municipality employee, flew the South African flag high at the competition and has made his town, family, and colleagues extremely proud.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAISER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Boland Kavaliers on being crowned the Currie Cup First Division champions on Saturday, 24 June 2023, in an impressive 43-21 victory over the Valke; notes that this is the first time in 12 years that the team has claimed this trophy. Further notes that fullback Cameron Hufke scored a hat-trick of tries in the Final in Wellington; congratulates the management team, the coaching staff and the team of dedicated and committed players for this achievement. Sport is a unifier, and this victory serves as beacon of hope for every young boy and girl in the Boland that they are able to achieve whatever they put their minds to.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAISER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the under-14 Boland Indoor Cricket team on their 2023 IPT Action Championship victory; sends a massive congratulations and well done to all the players, coaches and parents in this victory.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAISER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the three Paarl rugby players, Kurt-Lee Arendse, Grant Williams and Canon Moodie, who were included in the victorious South African squad who played against Australia on Saturday, 8 July 2023, in their opening match of the Rugby Championship; acknowledges their excellent performances and their contributions to the Springboks' 43-12 victory over the Wallabies; notes that Kurt-Lee Arendse scored a hat-trick and was named Man of the Match. Further notes that Grant, Canon and Kurt-Lee hail from Paarl East, from the suburbs of Lantana, New York and Amstelhof; celebrates them as true examples of tenacity, talent and grit, who exemplifies that one's background does not define one; and commends them as true heroes and examples for young people to be hopeful and to always believe in themselves.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAISER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House notes with sadness the passing of five children who tragically lost their lives on Sunday, 16 July 2023, when a bakkie they travelled in rolled on the N1 highway between Brackenfell Boulevard and the R300; notes that 3 passengers sustained serious injuries and wishes them a speedy recovery. Further notes that the family was travelling home after spending time in the Koue Bokkeveld and that the

Executive Mayor of the Witzenberg Municipality, Alderman Hendrick Smit, visited the affected families to pay his respects; and sends its most sincere condolences to the families during this tragic time of loss and mourning.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): I move without notice:

That the House wholeheartedly commends the courageous firefighters from the Western Cape who were deployed to Canada, fearlessly combating devastating wildfires; recognises and greatly appreciates the unwavering commitment demonstrated by these brave men and women, who willingly put their lives on the line each day to ensure the safety of others. Their selfless dedication to protecting lives is truly commendable; and acknowledges that these extraordinary firefighters play an indispensable role in the safety and protection of the people of the Western Cape, South Africa and internationally.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): I move without notice:

That the House sends its most sincere condolences to the families and loved ones of those who sadly lost their lives during the recent floods

that devastated some of our communities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M KAMA (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Double Olympic 800m champion, Caster Semenya, on winning her appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. Semenya filed an appeal with the court over the way Switzerland handled her legal battle against World Athletics' rules requiring her to take medicine to lower her testosterone levels, as mandated by the track and field governing body. The regulations were changed by the Federation in March of this year. World Athletics also scrapped the notion of restricted events for DSD athletes, which means that regulations now apply to all distances rather than only the ones that were previously supervised.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with sadness the passing of the former Minister in the Presidency and anti-apartheid activist, Essop Pahad, at the age of 84. Pahad was appointed Minister in the Presidency when former President Thabo Mbeki succeeded Nelson Mandela in 1999. Before that, he served

as the parliamentary counsellor to Mbeki, who was then the Deputy President. Pahad retired as a Minister after serving from 1999 to 2008. That the House wishes to extend its condolences and message of strength to the family, friends, and comrades of the late veteran.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Dominique Afrika of Vanrhynsdorp, Matzikama, on the West Coast, on his outstanding performance for the South African table tennis team at the African Union Sport Council (AUSC) Region 5 games recently held in Botswana. Dominique was the youngest member of our national team who won the tournament and was amongst the top performers. He has brought honour and pride not only to himself but to the entire community of the town.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates the spokesperson of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC), Archbishop Stephen Brislin of the Cape Town Archdiocese, being Appointed Cardinal. Since his priestly ordination on 19 November 1983, the Cardinal-Elect has

served as Bishop of Kroonstad from 28 January 2007 to 2010 when he was appointed Archbishop of Cape Town. In 2013 he was elected President of the SACBC. The Archbishop is among 21 senior clergy globally who will be installed as Cardinals in a ceremony, known as a consistory, that will be held on 30 September 2023. With his elevation, Cardinal-Elect will become a member of the College of Cardinals, who are high-ranking spiritual leaders.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M KAMA (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Western Cape's biggest community radio, Zibonele FM, on securing its broadcasting license from ICASA (Independent Communications Authority of South Africa) on July 12, 2023. By obtaining a broadcasting license, Zibonele FM has the opportunity to further expand its reach and impact, enabling it to continue serving and representing the interests of the Western Cape community. It provides a platform for local talent, promotes local culture, and delivers relevant information and entertainment to its listeners.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M KAMA (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Jade Sasman from Bonteheuwel, Cape Town, on her remarkable achievement of being crowned Africa's Region 5 table tennis champion in Botswana. Jade Sasman's victory is even more remarkable considering that she took a break from competitive table tennis for eight years before making a successful comeback last year. Her dedication, perseverance, and skill are truly commendable. This achievement not only brings pride to her community in Bonteheuwel, but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes across the region.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates 17 youngsters from Langa that will be showcasing their soccer skills at the largest international youth tournament, the Gothia Cup, in Sweden. That will be next week. The group, aged between 15-17, is part of the non-profit organisation Project Playground's (PPG) soccer skills programme. PPG has been active in South Africa since 2010 and in Sweden since 2016, working with youth from at-risk communities by providing development, educational and individual support. From its premises in Langa, youth are offered art, music, dance, soccer, and access to social worker services. That the House commends these talented youngsters for their dedication, hard

work, and commitment to their sport.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness the passing of the 15-year-old pupil who was injured in the AZ Berman Drive scholar transport crash and had been receiving treatment at Groote Schuur Hospital for over a month; that the House conveys condolences to her family and friends, and the entire school community, particularly Lentegeur High School.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of a Grade 11 learner, Sikelelwa Mona, from Taiwan, Site C. Sikelelwa was raped and murdered; that the House conveys condolences to her family and friends. We would also like to condemn the gruesome crimes and call on SAPS to work on this case until justice is served.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House conveys its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Imam Achmat Cassiem. After joining the struggle against apartheid at the tender age of 15, spending 11 years in prison on Robben Island and 11 years as a banned person, the Imam of the Cape Flats was buried as he lived, with humility and simplicity. Imam Cassiem's life could be summed up in his two aims, the unity of the Muslim community as well as fighting for the oppressed. Whether the oppressed were on the Cape Flats or in Palestine, Imam Cassiem believed and strived for the belief in human dignity for all. Though a member of the PAC, Imam Cassiem was fundamentally a humanist and will be forever remembered for his championing the cause of Imam Haroon; a cause marked by the virtues of justice, equality, and freedom for all. (27 Hoek Street, Lansdowne).

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of comrade Hans Sitera, from Ward 39, 6 Klipheuwel Street in Swellendam. Hans was an activist in the Swellendam community. Often his house was used as a hideout for other activists on the run; worked towards social cohesion in the Swellendam community; drove poor people to government offices, especially Home Affairs, to get their documents.

The House wishes to extend its condolences and message of strength to the family and friends.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if that member had read out the motion.

I will now afford the opportunity for the hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(2)(d). This will include Motions without Notice that were not approved of in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that 30 minutes stand as per the Standing Rule 150(2)(d), will begin now. I will accordingly follow the schedule as given to me and I recognise the hon Sileku.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): I move without notice:

That this House notes the result of last night's by-elections, 19 July 2023, that took place in George; that this House acknowledges that the DA prevailed victoriously at these by-elections, despite many attempts by the ANC, PBI, PA, not so good GOOD parties to derail our campaign efforts. The by-elections were hotly contested in Wards 16, 20, and 27,

on a rainy day of which the DA won Wards 16 and 27, and significantly increased its support in Ward 20. In Ward 16, the DA more than doubled its support. These wards are now in the capable hands of public representatives of the Democratic Alliance by the names of Theresa Jeyi and Marchell Kleynhans; and we are confident that they will serve their respective communities with passion and integrity. The GOOD, not so good, party truly is in crisis as they lost three of their wards in one day. Wat 'n skande. [What a disgrace.] I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sileku, I did not get that last part in ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...there. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Object! Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Murray.

Ms C MURRAY (DA): Thank you, hon Madam Deputy Speaker. I move

without notice:

That the House notes with approval the withdrawal of Vladimir Putin from the BRICS Summit to be held in South Africa; that the House notes further that the accused war criminal, Putin, should never have been allowed access to a free and democratic nation such as South Africa; that the House notes that this development has given a major boost to South Africa's chances of actually being included in the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); that the House further notes and recognises that President Cyril Ramaphosa showed no sense of justice in handling this matter and proved himself to be beholden to Russia rather than to South African interests; notes further that the Western Cape Government took a clear position on this matter by vowing to arrest Mr Putin were he to set foot on our soil. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): That is a joke!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: What a joke. We object to that.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Object! Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection ...[Interjection.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Object, object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. [Interjections.] The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Murray again. Over to you, hon Murray.

Ms C MURRAY (DA): Thank you, again. Hon Madam Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the tremendous achievement of the City of Cape Town in being named the Greatest City in the World in the *Telegraph's* 2023 Travel Awards; that the House further notes that this is a well-deserved accolade for one of the most beautiful cities in the world; and that this will provide a boost to our booming tourism industry, which is now growing, and is the source of thousands of jobs in the City; further that it recognises the successful efforts of the City of Cape Town

Metropolitan Municipality, the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and Wesgro in promoting the City as an international travel destination. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...objections to the motion being moved? There are objections.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Object that ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed ...[Interjection.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Objecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...on the Order Paper.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): It is a lie!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Fry.

Mr C FRY (DA): Hon Madam Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House congratulates Cape Town Archbishop, Stephen Brislin, on being elevated to the position of Cardinal-Elect in the Catholic Church; that Archbishop Brislin will assume the position of Cardinal on 30 September; that this House further notes that he will serve as member of the College of Cardinals who advises his Holiness the Pope on matters related to the Church; and wishes Archbishop Brislin well as he represents our Province and country in this esteemed position. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: No! No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House acknowledges the whopping R1,4-billion that the

Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport will be spending to protect Youth at Risk from participating in gang-related activities; that this House further acknowledges that although the Department does not have the sole responsibility to tackle gang-related activities, these programmes funded by the Department will no doubt have an effect on keeping young people from gang activities. These programs include Youth Development Programmes, Sports and Recreational Activities, Arts and Culture Programmes, Education and Skills, Community Engagement, and Outreach. Without these programmes, the number of youth at-risk involved in gang activities would undoubtedly rise. While some members of this House argue that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is underfunded, this House acknowledges that this Province gets much less funding from National Government's Equitable Share than other provinces like KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Limpopo, and the Eastern Cape. These provinces get much more money than the Western Cape and therefore, can have bigger budgets. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House welcomes this week's Western Cape High Court judgment in the matter between Equal Education and the South African Democratic Teacher's Union, and the Western Cape Education Department; notes that the Court dismissed the plaintiffs' challenge to provisions contained in the Western Cape Provincial School Education Act of 2018, with the Court noting that the application, quote: "cannot succeed and falls to be dismissed"; notes that this judgment reaffirms the legality and constitutionality of the Western Cape Education Department's collaboration schools model; further notes that this week's judgment allows the continuation of the collaboration schools model, and will allow the Western Cape Government's Department of Education to continue its work with private sector and non-profit partners to provide free quality education to thousands of learners in the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the City of Cape Town's 17,6% electricity tariff hike, a hike that exceeds 2% more than the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa) approved, which is an odd contradiction in the Provincial Government, proving yet again, how the DA is not in sync. In March this year, Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis said that Eskom's Nersa approved 18,49% price hike is unfair, unaffordable, and unjust for residents struggling with the rising cost of living. Four months later, the City of Cape Town is fighting tooth and nail for an increase over the agreed one. We call for the DA Government to sort out its house and stop playing with the livelihoods of our citizens. 17,6% is too much for people to be paying. We, as the ANC, reject this proposal. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Sayed.

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

That the House notes the Provincial Government's plan to convert the Tafelberg crèche into a homeless shelter. We, however, support the community's advocacy for a much needed and called for community centre instead. While we do acknowledge the importance of addressing homelessness, we believe that the proposed utilisation of the Tafelberg crèche in particular, is not suitable and that there are various other Provincial Government buildings in the City Bowl that should be seriously considered ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Let it be known ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC):

...instead ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: He does not like homeless shelters.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC):

...instead ...[Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Hon Premier.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...it is unacceptable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. No, you must proceed. I will make sure the hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...behaves.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC):

Instead, hon Deputy Speaker, we advocate for the conversion of the Tafelberg crèche into a community centre, which will serve as a hub for the residents to engage in various activities. A community centre will foster a sense of belonging and unity, offering a safe space for residents of all ages to come together, share ideas, and develop strong social ties. We call upon the Western Cape Provincial Government to consider this alternative approach and work collaboratively with the community to realise a vision that empowers, uplifts, and enriches the lives of its residents while at the same time, providing dignity to the homeless. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House strongly opposes the City of Cape Town's decision to cancel the lease agreement with the Gugulethu Sports and Development Trust for a piece of land used for sports and recreation. The City's actions have sparked widespread anger and condemnation from the community who utilises the facility and have utilized the facility for decades. While the need for a health facility is understood, disposing of this historic sports and recreation centre without adequate public consultation, is unfair and disrespectful. The ANC supports the community's efforts to reverse this decision and calls for a meaningful engagement with stakeholders before deciding the facility's future. The City's approach has alienated the people of Gugulethu and must be reconsidered. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Mvimbi. [Laughter.] Hon Mvimbi? Okay. I am going to move on to hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Am I audible, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are, you may proceed, hon Lekker.

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

That the House vehemently condemns the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape for its silence and lack of accountability regarding serious accusations of voter registration fraud during this week's by-elections in George. As a pillar of democracy, political parties must uphold the principles of fairness, transparency, and the integrity of electoral processes. The allegations of voter registration fraud raise grave

concerns about the democratic process and the protection of citizens' voting rights. We call on the DA to promptly address the accusation and cooperate fully with the investigation to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the electoral outcomes. Failure to do so, erodes public trust in the democratic system and undermines the foundation of our democratic governance. It is the duty of the DA to be transparent and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, ensuring the people's voices are heard and respected. We demand the accountability and transparency in this matter, safeguarding the fundamental tenets of democracy for the benefit of all citizens. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. That brings us to the end of the Motions without Notice. We now move over to the subject for discussion. In the name of the hon P T de Villiers, as printed on the Order Paper, I recognise the hon de Villiers.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

The Western Cape Housing Crisis

Mr P DE VILLIERS (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. With one look at the Department of Human Settlement's presentation, we find confirmation that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Close to 600 000 people are still awaiting housing. Only 5 815 units were delivered. Since taking my oath for this office, I have been inundated with the request to visit people who all live in fear of losing the roof over their heads. Struggles from landlessness, homelessness, and insecure tenure to eviction, rising rents, gentrification and unfair rental practices remind that Cape Town inherited the broken land and housing systems from the colonial and apartheid eras, and that urban inequality is getting worse.

I met with people that live in makeshift structures, City owned rental units and people who own lands and who are facing expropriation of their land. In Ruyterwacht, I visited elderly citizens that are consistently threatened with eviction. Lukomisa Matho won her case yesterday. She was informed that all her assets were transferred and if they refused to sign a new lease, their contracts will be terminated, giving them a month's notice with no need to furnish any reasons for the termination of the contracts.

Law enforcement is being used as a form of intimidation and harassment which was echoed. The hon Premier, last week whilst in Mossel Bay, introduced new armed vehicles saying they will be used for land occupations and protests, amongst others.

Despite the colours that have changed, the system of apartheid is alive and well in Cape Town. When Carol Jacobs was 13 years old, her family's home in Godfrey Street, District Six, was condemned and demolished. The impact has been devastating. Her family has been torn apart. Her granddaughter who now lives with a family friend, is no longer going to school. Her son is now serving a five-year sentence in Pollsmoor. There is so much land in the City that could be used to house people, but again, we have to move where we were put during apartheid, to the ghettos.

Auntie Carol is not alone. Families that have lived in the inner City for generations, are being prised out by rent hikes and pushed out by evictions. Month after month, families are evicted and displaced. Most families rent month-to-month, sometimes for generations, on verbal agreements. As options become unaffordable, most have nowhere to go. Although the Constitution protects tenants from unlawful eviction without a court order, most are bullied into leaving. Landlords send around thugs. New developers rip out electricity or take roofs off and lawyers threaten them with legal costs. Most evictions never reach the Court. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon de Villiers. I recognise the hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon

Deputy Speaker, I think it is both misleading and uninformed for the hon member to call the issue of housing in the Western Cape, a crisis. But let us not forget that hon member de Villiers is still new to this Committee and might not be familiar with all the intricacies of the portfolio. So, we will forgive him.

Unlike other provinces, this Province is the best performing province in South Africa. What we are, however, seeing is a massive increase in housing demand. This is due to a variety of factors but can mostly be attributed to the movement of people that have over the years been seeking a new life in the DA-run Western Cape. It is simple. The DA governments constantly outperform other governments and the people of not only South Africa, but internationally, are seeing the DA difference.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me name a few things that I think are, indeed, a crisis. Rolling blackouts costing our economy billions. That is a crisis. Failing SOEs, like SAA, the Post Office, Transnet and SABC that cost taxpayers billions of rands each financial year. Hon member, that is a crisis. Land invasion, construction mafia and extortion: that is a crisis. Crime and violence in this province: it is a crisis. Institutionalised corruption by the National Government of the ANC, it is a crisis in this country.

But lastly, the recent one: GOOD losing three wards in one day
...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: *Joh!*

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): That, is a crisis ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: *Sjoe!*

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...hon Deputy Speaker. The real problem that is facing housing in this province is the National Government who always hinders DA governments from doing even more. The reality is that the State is not able to provide enough of a subsidy, land, or budget for the development of more affordable housing. Not only is the National ANC Government unable to provide for more housing opportunities because of ...[Audio distorted.] but the ANC displays an active role in totally derailing projects that are currently underway all across the province.

We all in this House, know that housing projects throughout the province are often held up and stalled by land invasions that are brought by the ANC, EFF, and the GOOD party. The ANC has encouraged land grabs in Khayelitsha. The EFF has encouraged land grabs in Hermanus, and a GOOD party member led a land invasion in Knoflokskraal in Theewaterskloof. These are a just a few of the thousands of land invasions that have taken place in the province, which have ended up stalling critical housing projects that would bring relief to our most in need residents. As a result, hon Deputy Speaker, the Department has since spent R330-million to protect land parcels from being invaded. This is a lot of money, and it is money that could have

been used to fund even more housing projects.

I was a bit surprised as to why the GOOD party member is attacking the DA for housing in the province, when his own party's policy document on housing acknowledges that housing in the Cape Town Metro has doubled over the years, while the National ANC Government, who they are happily snuggling in bed with, has caused national housing delivery to decline by a whopping 60% over the past few years. ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Shocking. The ANC probably asked him to put the debate.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, when the DA-run City of Cape Town tried to do this in Acacia Park, Ysterplaat, and Wingfield, the leader of GOOD and then Minister of Public Works, Patricia de Lille, blocked this request and refused to hand over State land to the City. ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: *Ja.*

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): And by the way, this was initiated by her when she was still a DA member in the City, and I think that is another crisis of politicking by Minister de Lille. The land controlled by Minister de Lille and her ANC colleagues in the National Government is 72 times bigger than all of the identified City-owned sites combined and if released, would provide between 13 times and 70 times as many homes for [Inaudible.] tenants. Despite this, DA governments are continuing to think outside the

box. The City has ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): 19 hundred.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...2 500 housing opportunities in the pipeline across the Metro, while more than 32 000 square metres of land have been made available for more social housing within the next five years. ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Inaudible.].

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Not only that, but 900 hectares of land have been acquired by the City for integrated human settlement development purposes. That is the size of about 1 250 standard soccer fields, all while thousands of housing opportunities are in the pipeline all across the province. GOOD also promises to give every person land ownership but let us not forget that Auntie Pat wants your flat. [Interjections.]

So, hon Deputy Speaker, the GOOD party are rife hypocrites, period. They do not care about housing, they never have. They only care about power. They will continue to fight for their spot in the bed of the ANC. [Interjections.] We are already seeing this all over the Western Cape where hundreds of GOOD members and councillors have ditched the empty promises of the GOOD party and joined the only party that delivers on its promises: the Democratic Alliance. Maybe the crisis ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): Speaking of Transhex ...[Interjection.]

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...that the hon member should be focusing on ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): Transhex.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...again is the crisis of GOOD losing three wards in a day. Week after week, we hear of another housing project ...[Interjection.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Again ...[Interjection.]

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...that has been completed by the Department of Infrastructure and more recently, the Department has started to not only hand over keys, but also title deeds at the same time. This, hon Deputy Speaker, is a massive step in the right direction.

Not only is the Department responsible for human settlement, but infrastructure as a whole and therefore, this Department is also able to tackle the issue of spatial planning. A great example of our efforts to tackle spatial planning is that of Conradie Park, the Better Living Model, a first in this province. This R3-billion project sums up our vision for the Western Cape, an inclusive space where the City, Government, the private sector, and beneficiaries work together to create well located mixed income, mixed use developments that shatter the spatial walls created by the apartheid

government. That is the government of the Democratic Alliance, the Western Cape Government. [Interjection]

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): So now spatial ...[Interjection.]

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Access to well located, affordable housing in cities such as Cape Town is absolutely critical. But as I have mentioned before, our effort to acquire well located land has in the past been blocked by Minister Patricia de Lille. While the efforts made by the Department to tackle housing in the province are commendable, so much more still needs to be done. That is, hon Deputy Speaker, so much more can be done if the Department had more powers.

That is why the DA has tabled the Provincial Powers Bill which will enable more powers to be devolved to this Province. By devolving powers to the Provincial Department of Infrastructure, we can cut out the incapable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon member.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...National ANC Government and accelerate housing projects in the Province. In the meantime, if I have to cut my debate ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Last sentence.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): ...the DA-run Government will continue completing housing projects for those in need.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Applause.] Hon Marran, I did note your sneaky comments through the microphone, but I do hope that the hon members here are all going to be listening to your speech and not interrupting. You may proceed.

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): I was testing my signal, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I noticed. [Laughter.]

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker. [Laughter.] Am I audible? Can you hear me? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You may proceed.

Mr P MARRAN (ANC): Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the ANC to speak about the Western Cape housing crisis, a crisis that has been in the making for decades and one that is getting

worse by the day. Due to the Democratic Alliance-run Western Cape Government's failure to build integrated human settlements in the province, we have seen the housing backlog rise to nearly 600 000. This is nearly 600 000 people who live in horrifying conditions, in informal settlements, on the streets, without housing opportunities.

The governing DA has had 17 years in the City and 14 years in the Provincial Government to address this housing backlog, but they have failed dismally to do so. During this period, we have seen an exponential rise in the number of established informal settlements. According to the Department of Infrastructure's database, there have been 27 new informal settlements amounting to nearly 13 000 structures in non-metro municipalities and nearly 40 000 new structures from 172 established informal settlements in the Metro since 2019. We now have over 112 000 structures located across 417 informal settlements in non-metro municipalities, and nearly 270 000 structures across 806 informal settlements in the City of Cape Town.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of legacy the DA has built in the Western Cape. Its failure to build adequate integrated human settlements has a devastating impact on peoples' lives. In the non-metro municipalities, there are 54 informal settlements without electricity, 23 others with no access to sanitation and in 16 municipalities with no access to water. There are many other informal settlements with limited or no access to basic services in the Metro.

The influx of informal settlements and informal settlement fires are not only a symptom of landlessness and lack of housing opportunities, but it also shows that the DA does not care about Black lives in the Western Cape. Just last week, five people including a six-year-old child, died in informal settlement fires in Khayelitsha and Philippi. This is just the tip of the iceberg and scores of our people have perished in informal settlement fires and hundreds of thousands of others displaced and left destitute since the DA has taken over. This is highly unacceptable; a clear violation of people's rights and the DA must be held accountable for it. The DA is a disgrace to this province. Our people have a right to adequate housing.

When the ANC governed this Province, on average we delivered about 30 000 housing opportunities per year. In 2008/2009, our last year in government, we have delivered 31 014 housing opportunities, including 15 279 serviced sites and 15 717 houses. Hon Premier Winde's Government in 2019/2020, could only deliver under 14 000 housing opportunities, including over 8 000 houses and under 6 000 serviced sites. In 2021/2022, the DA delivered less than 11 500 housing opportunities. This means when it comes to delivering of houses, the DA is no match for the ANC. There is no comparison there.

The ANC has a far better housing delivery record than this disgraceful and uncaring Democratic Alliance. The people of the Western Cape deserve better. They deserve the ANC Government that will build them adequate housing and provide them with protection from informal settlement fires and other hazards. The DA's record of housing delivery has also been

characterised by delays and shoddy workmanship.

Take for instance, the Transhex Housing Project tender for Phase 1A of 800 top structures commencing in August 2019 and was meant to be completed in April 2022. In March this year, after a one-year delay, the MEC service finally handed over the first 44 of the much-awaited 190 houses. In June, a mere three months later, several of these houses were severely damaged during the heavy storms with reported damages of roofs, walls and windows. There are many similar stories and delays to Human Settlement projects in the province, such as the Rivieronderend Project, Grabouw Hillside Project, Paarl Vlakkeland Project, and the Qolweni Bossiegif Project in Bitou.

Winde's Government must stop hiding behind the COVID-19 pandemic and extortion syndicates for its failures to build integrated human settlements in this province. We also know that it is the DA that started and continues to sustain extortionists through awarding them lucrative Government tenders. This is why the party removed Booie as the MMC in the City, but even after his removal, gang bosses continued to be awarded lucrative government tenders.

I call on the people of the Western Cape to join the ANC in demanding accountability from the DA for the Western Cape housing crisis. We need to work together with the people to find solutions that will help the people out of this DA mess, including, but not limited to voting the DA out in 2024. I thank you.

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

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, at the heart of this debate, land as the issue of land as a primary factor and it must be a rhetoric future throughout. Hon Deputy Speaker, without our Black, Coloured, Khoi and San people, we will never recover the future throughout. Without land, poverty, hunger, homelessness will continue to be an order of the day. As our people continue to be systematically deprived of their Constitutional rights because they can never have access to housing without access to learning. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is for these reasons that the EFF summons cardinal pillar in expropriation of land without compensation for equality ...[Audio distorted.] too. [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker, 29 years ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): ...into democracy and we find ourselves giving land by a professional government led by the DA [Inaudible.] party without backward policies that are against transformation, is it then too surprising why the people of the Taiwan informal settlement in Khayelitsha still do not have access to housing, water, electricity and proper waste collection and sanitation after 37 years. The situation in the Taiwan informal settlement is also true and similar to the situation in almost all of the informal settlements

in the province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, one of the tactics used by the oppressive White political party in Government, such as the DA, is to turn the previously disadvantaged against each other. That is why the hon Provincial Minister of Infrastructure, who is controlling through a remote control, to tell Black and Coloured people that inclusive spatial planning in the inner city is impossible because land is expensive there. The DA will always put a person of colour in strategic positions so that they be the ones who tell their fellow brothers and sisters that emancipation, freedom, and dignity are costly exercises which are not worth their ...[Audio distorted.] while they must focus on some other insignificant things.

29 years into democracy in the Province and both the Province and local governments are failing to come up with a working spatial plan, and they are doing it on purpose. The modus operandi is to build few low-cost houses for Black and Coloured people in the flag outposts of the City ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): ...as it was always the case during colonialism ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that a point of order? His time is up on the zero. Thank you very much, hon Klaas. There was a question, but it was as you

reached zero, so I cannot give you more time. I now recognise hon Bredell, hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to address the House on the important matter of housing for our people today. Hon Deputy Speaker, in a perfect world, everyone has the ability or opportunity to work and to earn money. They can then rent, buy, or build their own home for their families. Shelter is one of the most basic needs we have as humans, but a house is also much more than just a shelter. It plays a central role in how we organise ourselves in communities and how we express our cultural identities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we do not live in a perfect world and that is why Government also has the responsibility towards our people in this regard. The Western Cape is a growing province. Our population is growing as more people are attracted to the province which is performing better in terms of economic growth and job opportunities. The Western Cape population growth for 2002 to 2022 was 2% annually. It means our population is growing from 4,8-million people to 7,2-million people.

For the period 2022 to 2032, it is estimated we will grow by 1,6% annually. It translates to a population growth from 7,2 million to 8,4-million people. These increases are above the national average. By 2032, the provincial population is estimated to increase with approximately 1,2 million people:

Nelson Mandela Bay's population. By 2032, the City of Cape Town's population is estimated to increase by 850 000 people to 5,6 million people, Mangaung City, that they need to build in nine years. By 2037, in 15 years' time, the Western Cape will be the home to over 9 million people. All these people need shelter and access to basic services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is also a region that is affected by climate change. We are preparing for a hotter and dryer climate which will also see more intense floods and droughts. We experienced this firsthand just a month ago with the intense cold fronts and heavy rains. We also saw the impact this had on many vulnerable people and communities whose shelters were either not strong enough or built in the wrong places. Thousands of people were temporarily displaced and dependent on Government and NGOs for food and shelter.

There are areas in our province where development should not be allowed. There are areas where people should not be building houses. Driftsands in Cape Town is a good example. This used to be a conservation area protecting the Cape Flats Dune Strandveld, while at the same time, serving as a storm water buffer for the Cape Flats area. We have lost Driftsands conservation area to illegal informal settlements, but of greater concern is the fact that many of the people who live there are at risk of flash flooding during the winter months.

Hon Deputy Speaker, where large numbers of people live, we must also

address safety issues. Each year, the Western Cape experiences between 15 000 to 20 000 potential wildfires during the fire season in the summer months. Due to a growing population and rapid urbanisation, the edge between natural areas and human settlements keeps getting smaller, thus increasing the risk of these fires to our settlements when they do get out of control.

During our colder winter months, the risks change to shack and house fires often caused by open cooking and heating flames. A single candle can then fall over and can destroy hundreds of structures in a few minutes. That is why we have a Smoke Alarm Project where we have up to date installed 13 000 smoke alarm protectors in informal dwellings. We cannot always save the structure during a fire, but we have not lost a life where we installed these smoke alarms.

Hon Deputy Speaker, housing is one part of a much larger context that also includes basic services such as water and electricity, schools and hospitals ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): [Audio distorted.]...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...economic zones, transport and infrastructure such as roads, railways, harbours and airports ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): [Audio distorted.]...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: A growing population means that more water is needed. Our 15-year Water and Drought Plan is designed to help municipalities plan and budget for water resilience going into the future. We know that the demand for water will grow by more than 4% annually in the Western Cape or in the Metro, Cape Winelands, Drakenstein and Swartland. Not only do we need more water for human consumption, but we also need water security for economic growth and jobs.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot simply build more houses if we cannot connect them to basic services such as water, electricity, and sewerage. If we build houses in areas where there are no economic opportunities, we are creating poverty traps. That is why we support municipalities with our Capital Expenditure Framework Support Programme. With this programme, we help municipalities to develop infrastructure frameworks which provide a long-term pipeline of infrastructure projects. We help them to secure the investment needed to embark on large infrastructure projects. These frameworks also offer the basis for seeking alternative forms of finance.

My Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning released our Inclusionary Housing Policy Framework last year. We know that there is a huge need for people to live closer to employment opportunities, but properties in these areas are often very expensive. This policy framework is

a powerful tool for developers and authorities to find solutions for these challenges.

Hon Deputy Speaker, my Department of Local Government is there to support municipalities with technical skills and resources to plan, budget and complete infrastructure projects which also include housing projects. Hon Deputy Speaker, although I appreciate the fact that GOOD requested this debate and I am sure we all agree that housing, especially for our vulnerable communities, is an absolute important issue, I want to ask my colleague across the isle to not do what GOOD did in Knoflokskraal, where an illegal land grab was promoted by the party's leadership and now, a small local municipality is expected to resolve the humanitarian crisis not of its own making.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the truth is that we will only make progress with housing if all stakeholders played by the rules. That means illegal activities such as land grabs, tender corruption, housing corruption and the support of construction mafia cannot be tolerated. The truth is that we as politicians from different political parties need to first look in the mirror and ask if our actions are helping or preventing progress in providing houses to those who need it most. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you. Am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are audible. You may proceed.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Am I audible, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are. You may proceed.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Marran has already given us a clear picture of the devastating impact that has been caused by the Democratic Alliance's failure to build integrated human settlements in the province. By definition, these are human settlements that are planned and developed in ways that promote socio-economic and environmental sustainability. They are settlements designed to provide a high quality of life for all residents, regardless of race, class, gender, or social status. In integrated human settlements, people of all races, different backgrounds, and all income levels live together with a good sense of community in areas that have good public transportation, healthcare, access to schools and other essential services.

In addition to the ANC's good housing delivery track record shared by the hon Marran earlier, the ANC had a clear plan to build integrated human settlements before it was kicked out of power in 2009. There then the ANC Provincial Government took a resolution for various land parcels located in

middle to higher income areas owned by the Western Cape Government, to be released to the HDA for human settlement development. The ANC Government wanted to build affordable houses in Belhar, Charlesville, Constantia, Hartenbos, Kleinvlei, Observatory and Plumstead, but these plans were stopped by the DA. Helen Zille's administration reversed this decision when it got to office.

The DA has failed to effectively use these pockets of land for integrated human settlements. Instead, they have been released to private entities for profiteering. The DA's intention was to block building to affordable housing in areas near places of opportunity in the same way they are blocking the building of affordable houses and the former [Inaudible.] school sites.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these are a few examples of how the DA is maintaining the apartheid legacy of segregated human settlement where people of different classes and income levels, races and backgrounds, are separated from each other. It is because of a DA segregated human settlement policy that crime and murder hotspots are in the Cape Flats and surrounding townships, and not in the affluent suburbs. It is this DA policy that Coloured and African youth constitute over 96% of youth unemployment in the province, while Whites contribute less than 2%.

The Western Cape's long history of segregated human settlement has had a profound impact on social development in the province. The many social ills affecting youth such as involvement in crime and gangs, drugs and substance use disorder, teenage pregnancies and many others are partly due to growing

up in these communities characterised by a high level of poverty, violence, poor education and poor health. In these communities, there are limited work and economic opportunities as well as a lack of recreational and sport facilities.

It is not only the poor people that have felt the devastating impact of living under the DA Government. The elderly persons with disabilities and the homeless have not been spared. One example to emphasise the DA's uncaring attitude for the poor, elderly and persons with disabilities is that of Ms Cynthia Bless who continues to live under poor conditions in an abandoned building in Nduli, in Ceres. Despite her housing subsidy having ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): We do not hear anything this side.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Hon MEC Simmers and hon MEC Fernandez are aware of her case but have not yet intervened after three years. In these heavy storms, Ms Bless and her son continue to live in an unsafe building with a makeshift roof and windows, with no access to electricity, water, and sanitation. To this uncaring DA Government, we say: give Ms Bless her house. Give her children a home. How long must she wait to finally get her house?

Hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, the Western Cape people must unite to abolish this DA segregated human settlement policy. We must bring in a

government that will deliver integrated human settlements. Integrated human settlements must also take into account the plight of homeless people in the province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Homelessness is a very complex issue ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): ...with many contributing factors, including poverty, unemployment, mental illness, substance disorders ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bakubaku-Vos, your time is up.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): ...overcrowding and a lack of housing opportunities and for this reason, the homeless should not be criminalised ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): People do not end up in the street by

choice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): This is why the ill treatment of the homeless ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Thank you very much, your time is up. Hon Christians, over to you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is in a housing crisis and this problem is even bigger when you get to illegal land invasions by the irresponsible, careless, and reckless EFF, telling people to invade land and this is a major problem.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to ask the hon Minister that when the hon Minister said 2019, when it was still Human Settlements, on Cape Talk, that there are new plans to fix the housing crisis. The hon Minister said that he spoke about innovative measures for increasing the number of sites in the Western Cape. Now, hon Deputy Speaker, when you look at the budget and we look at Programme 4 of Human Settlements, R2,6-billion will deliver 9 395 houses in the 2023/2024 year. Now, this is totally inadequate if you look at the waiting lists of almost 600 000. So, I do not know what the Government is going to do, but the housing backlog is getting bigger and

bigger as people come to the Western Cape on a daily basis.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when you visit the people out in Leonsdale, people are waiting almost 30 years for a house, when you visit people in squatter camps waiting for houses. I want to tell the hon Minister today I do not know how you are going to do it, but something needs to be done because I just met somebody yesterday from Beacon Valley saying, listen, if Government does not listen, we are going to occupy land. So, lawlessness is going to increase, and this is a timebomb we are sitting on. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Sileku.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, municipal governance is a field that is simple in concept, but often difficult in practice. For some governance at a local level, governments must manage their resources effectively and then deliver quality services with these resources. If we are to discuss the issue of housing today, we must understand that the challenges surrounding this issue are impossible to resolve without sufficient management of finite resources. And this is something which consistently only takes place under the DA governments.

Of only 38 clean audits awarded to South African municipalities in the latest Auditor-General's Report, 21 were found here in the Western Cape. Hon members opposite us have questioned what it means in real terms and the answer is simple. It means that money for housing has not been stolen or

wasted. It means that the resources we need to solve the housing crisis are being preserved. And while this alone does not allow us to build more houses, it puts the necessary building blocks in place to do so. Housing is a complicated issue and one which even wealthy nations struggle to address.

But if we do not address issues such as corruption and mismanagement, we do not stand a chance of resolving it in our country. Yet again, it is the governance of the ANC which stands in our way. They refuse to release land for housing and they refuse to implement a workable policy on the issue. More than this, their constant looting of State funds has stripped this country of vital resources which could have been used to house countless South Africans.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we know all of this and we have covered it in this House already by the different speakers. But with that in mind, allow me to take a moment to indulge in some self-criticism of myself and my caucus. We often take the time to call out the ANC's failings. This is important because so often, those failings stand in the way of our progress in this province, but we often forget to discuss with those parties who shamelessly compromise their principles for power. Today's debate has been sponsored by the hon coach and hon member/friend on behalf of the GOOD party. So, let us devote some time to discussing the party's track record.

The party GOOD claims to stand for some noble goals, such as the eradication of poverty and homelessness and a basic income grant. But as we

all know: praat is min werd [talk is worth little]. Talk is cheap. Actions speak louder than words. And their actions show a clear desire to sacrifice the people of the Western Cape on the altar of their own political ambition.

In Knoflokskraal, in my own constituency, just on the N2, GOOD councillors encouraged people to illegally invade land. They did so despite the fact that this land belonged to the National Department of Public Works, which was presided over that time by their leader who was the Minister of Public Works, Madam Patricia de Lille. That same Department would later deploy the Red Ants to destroy the peoples' shacks and push them off the land. GOOD promised people land, encouraged an illegal invasion and took no responsibility for their actions. The hypocrisy is staggering.

Hon Deputy Speaker, where was GOOD's concern for the unhoused then? How do they account for the suffering they brought to Knoflokskraal's residents? The answer is that there was no concern for the people of Theewaterskloof or if there was, it only extended as far as the ballot box as they gained three members in the Theewaterskloof council. Far from seeking to make things better for the people of this province, GOOD only seeks to make this debate about politics and as we have heard from my colleague, hon Maseko, there is a lot that we have done as this Province when it comes to the delivery of human settlements, yet we do not see them holding their ANC partners to account in other provinces of the country.

There are provinces where it is worse than what is currently happening, but

we do not hear anything being said by GOOD. Hulle is so *obsessed* met die DA. [They are so obsessed with the DA.] They are here in a desperate attempt to win votes. The only way they know how, by talking a big game ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, if you can just take your seat and stop the timer please. We have a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, is the hon Sileku willing to take a question, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sileku?

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): He can send me a DM, I will answer to.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. You may proceed. Continue the timer. [Interjections.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): By talking a big game, making hospital pass alliances with no plan on how to get past the try line. Their shameless politicking does not even end there. This week we have seen this same party attempting to erode the foundations of our democracy by attempting to politices the process of our democracy and weaponize the IEC. GOOD claims to stand for some noble goals such as the eradication of poverty and homelessness, but

their true goal remains nothing more than power and extending their fading relevance. They will do and say anything, including aligning with the ANC, to extend their fading relevance. And while I welcome this debate for opportunity, it provides to showcase this Government's work, I believe it is abundantly clear that this debate has been proposed to make it seem as if GOOD is actually doing something.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we all know: leë blikke maak die meeste geraas. [empty vessels make the most noise] Let us not pretend that this debate is anything more than a shallow attempt to smear this Government. Let us not pretend that we are here today to make any sort of progress. Let us see clearly that this debate represents a shambolic attempt to discredit the only government in South Africa that is making real change. Let us take pride in the progress we have made, despite the obstacles placed in our way and let us unite behind the vision of a better South Africa, that can only and will be achieved in 2024.

Concluding, hon Deputy Speaker, I would just want to speak to the Leader of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have about 15 seconds.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Yes, in 15 seconds, that I would appreciate that next time when he goes to campaign, that he takes some tips from me on how to be elected as a provincial leader. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise hon Marais. [Laughter.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the housing crisis must be seen as part of the ANC's broader political strategy to keep their voters loyal to the struggle mindset and preventing them from becoming politically independent. They know that when Black people become financially independent, they tend to break the bonds that tie them to the ANC and swearing allegiance to them because they depend on social grants. The DA also cannot solve this problem, the housing crisis. They are not financially capable to do so. Now, we have a situation, Housing Article 28 says: everyone has a right to access to adequate housing, but the State must take reasonable legislative measures to achieve this.

Now, allowing people to cross our border uncontrolled, millions of them homeless people, is not reasonable. You, the DA, should take the Government to court. This is not reasonable. If they want to solve the local housing problem, allowing people into the country who are jobless, who are homeless, who have got nowhere to stay and every piece of open land, they invade. How is that reasonable in terms of the housing rights of our own citizens?

Now, people cross our borders and I challenge voters that they must please give a new government a chance to show how to solve problems, housing,

health, electricity, water, education. These problems you have given in the hands of people whose only credibility lies in the fact they can toi-toi, where an ANC shirt ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...and sing struggle songs.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We cannot solve the housing problems with struggle songs.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Ons as die ANC verwelkom die debat in die Huis vandag want eintlik maak dit nie saak wat die agb Bredell, Maseko of Sileku sê nie. Feit soos 'n koei dat dit 'n groot ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[We as the ANC welcomes the debate in the House today because actually, it does not matter what the hon Bredell, Maseko or Sileku say. It's an

undisputed fact that it is a large ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: ...krisis in behuising in ons provinsie is. [The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...crisis in housing in our province.] So, hon Deputy Speaker, the issue here is that ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to deal with the – sorry?
Is there a problem?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed. You may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay. To deal with the housing crisis ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just speak up, hon Dugmore, please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: *Ja*, no. To deal with the housing crisis you need the land to do it, you need the finance to do it and you also need the political will to do it. Now, we have the land, there is the finance, but because there is no political will from the DA, you have a

situation where land belonging to municipalities and the Province, is deliberately being withheld from actually helping to create sustainable human settlements.

Both our province, KZN and Gauteng deal with the issue of in-migration, people looking for work, but if you actually go to Gauteng, and you see the incredible strides they have made in regard to providing housing, it is very clear that this province like in the matric results, is down to fourth or fifth place when it comes to housing. Because as hon member Marran said, our Province when the ANC governed, used to build double the number of houses that this DA Provincial Government is now building, even with bigger finances.

So, we welcome hon de Villiers and *hy het eintlik 'n drie gedruk, eintlik when he het eintlik die DA gesê en hulle prontuit gesê* [actually scored a try, when he actually told the DA and told them unequivocally] that they are failing the competencies that are actually in this Constitution. And yet, they have the audacity to ask for the devolution of other competencies, together with education, health, integrated human settlements which are a constitutional obligation that must be provided by national, provincial and at a local government sphere.

So, I think this was probably the weakest speech that hon MEC Bredell ever made. He talked about the problems. He is leading this Government, but he did not have a single solution that he proposed in regard to land, in regard to

political will to make that land available and that is really the problem with the DA. They essentially are there to preserve the privileges of those who benefitted from apartheid, from colonialism and from racism, and therefore, they do not want to rock that boat and they are unwilling to provide land that is critically needed.

This hon MEC for Infrastructure knows very well that his Mayor in Hessequa has openly called on DA members to defraud the housing beneficiary process, yet he does nothing about it. And it is clear that when it comes to the fact that three years ago, a High Court ruled that the sale of Tafelberg must be set aside, the Provincial Government, the City, continue to refuse to break down apartheid spatial planning. And we as the ANC will continue to insist that Tafelberg, like other sites, must be used for social housing purposes.

And we know that just two days ago, people of Brown's Farm marched to the Civic Centre and the Western Cape Department to demand better housing. The lives of backyarders have not improved; the informal dwellers have simply not been upgraded by the City, even though they have been given money. We have had a situation in Borchers where the community there led by the ANC fought ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and obtained jou grond [your land], but the DA ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...is refusing to allow the people of Borchers to access that land ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...those houses.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Dit is 'n skande! [It's a disgrace!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Dit is 'n groot skande. [It's a big disgrace!]

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the House, guests in the gallery. A gift and a curse. A juxtaposition of a

gift and a curse is evident in the ongoing debate we are having here today, which brings to light the sponsor party's disillusionment and disconnection with the prevailing societal realities. Not only within the Western Cape, but across the entire country.

As a Government, we prioritise evidence-based decision making and remain committed to providing a service delivery that is guided by scientific data. Recent data indicates a notable surge in semigration to the Western Cape reaching its peaks in years. The statistics speak for themselves with transaction volumes associated with semigration currently constituting 14% of the total domestic relocations, the highest since tracking commenced in Quarter 4 of 2007. Conversely, emigration related volume sales stand at 8% as reported by FNB senior economist, Siphamandla Mkhwanazi. Additionally, based on Ratings Africa rankings of municipalities, there is a compelling reason to relocate to the Western Cape as our municipalities are more financially robust and therefore, more likely to consistently deliver services.

These sentiments were expressed by Andrew Gold, Chief Executive of the Pam Golding Property Group. However, for the Western Cape Government, the efficacy and transparency that define our administration also carry a dual aspect presenting both a gift and a challenge. We acknowledge the advantages that stem from being an efficient and transparent government, but we are equally aware of the responsibilities that come with it.

Maar, agb Voorsitter, ons kla nie. Ons bewys deur ons werk. [But hon Chair, we do not complain. We prove through our work.] The Opposition calls it a crisis because our housing database waiting list numbers are transparent and precise, at 601 044. Unlike the rest of the eight other provinces, we know the targets and numbers we are working with and towards. Yes, indeed, our data is more precise than any other province, so what are we doing about this?

We are the only province that has openly undertaken the initiative of hosting verification drives. Yes, between September 2019 and March of this year, my Department visited all five districts for a database verification drive, and I am about to commence the second round of verifications focused on affordable housing across all five of our districts in the Western Cape because we believe the construction of any building must start with a solid foundation. So, we do not complain, we mitigate.

To clear the backlog of the waiting list in one go, hon member, I have often said that we would need in the excess of R100-billion. However, it is essential to acknowledge the reality as such an extensive budget cannot be provided for. So, as the DA-led Government we do what we do best: we formulate strategies that are informed by scientific data. The Department is taking focused research to identify options aimed at enabling the social housing sector. It is also maximising housing opportunities by developing key inner-city projects at greater densities and pace. The research also identifies some of the regulatory and institutional questions related to these

resourcing options.

One of these is in the Mill Park Project in Cape Agulhas, the first project of its kind in the country. It is called a deferred ownership project, validating the Western Cape Government's innovation-driven approach. There is such demand across our province, yes, but for this initiative we had to pilot it to ensure that we can roll it out into other municipalities in due course. Once again, it is proof of the accuracy of our research across this province.

This rent-to-own option offers applicants to rent for a period of up to 36 months, during which time prospective buyers will be assisted by our Department and other key stakeholders, improving their credit records and the level of affordability. And after 36 months, the purchase is then done through what is now called the First Home Finance and Subsidy Programme. And by the end of this financial year, we will be delivering the first 30 pilot units occupied by individuals who would never have ever had a housing opportunity. And we are also making social housing affordable to all. We were so convinced about this, hon member, that the funding capital for this pilot site in Cape Agulhas came from my own Department's money because National does not want to finance creativity in the housing sector.

Furthermore, over the next five years, we will be building 4 946 social housing units. I need to emphasise: a social housing unit is a rental option, not an ownership option. This against a budget of R2,17-billion. We have a total of 21 projects in our pipeline ready to deliver and will be delivered by

this Government, hon member.

But I must address a misconception put forward by the Opposition members that our projects are far from economic hubs. We believe in integrated development that benefits our communities and as an example, hon Deputy Speaker, I invite any hon member and Opposition members to take the eight-minute drive from these Chambers to Maitland Mews in Maitland and see for themselves that our commitment to enhance economic growth and accessibility is evident in brick and mortar. But making affordable housing more affordable has been our key drive since 2019 because over the last few years we have proven to be the leader in delivering affordable housing for those possible beneficiaries earning between R3 501 and R22 000 through the First Home Finance programme, formerly known as FLISP.

We have delivered 5 103 for the period 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2022. Once again, outperforming any other province as I speak. This is only the beginning, hon Deputy Speaker because between 2022 and 2023 until 2026/2027, we will further deliver an additional 6 820 housing units focused for this specific market. Because between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2022, this Department created – and I would like the hon Marran to listen now – 42 134 housing opportunities between 1 April 2019 till the end of March 2022. This consisted of 16 249 sites and 25 885 houses. Numbers do not lie, and the quality also does not lie overall.

But did we not deliver more, you may ask. It is a very good question, and

you are right that we could have delivered way more than the figures I have just given, but again, certain leaders of certain parties encouraged communities and incited them to invade land that was developable for human settlement development. And we cannot deny the impact of land invasions on the human settlements cluster and also the impact of what is now called the construction mafia. Yes, because as much as policing is not my Department's responsibility, to ensure the safety of our sites and the safety of the land that we can still develop, we have had to spend R499,655-million between April 2020 until the end of June 2023. A staggering amount!

However, we are solutions orientated as a governing party and on the eve of the pandemic, to ensure that we give power to our people to ensure that they can firstly register themselves on the database to know when a project is coming, we were the first and still remain the only province that has a housing app called the WCG app. And up until 18 July, on Tata Madiba's birthday, we have seen 24 000 people download this app. We have assisted 1 726 people to register themselves properly. Once again, in the palm of their hands wherever they are in this province and we have also seen 1 081 people who would in other instances, never have got access to the housing offices to actually update information.

So, hon members, I spoke about innovation when I started my term. These are the first steppingstones of innovation under this DA-led Government. But dit lyk vir my dat ons moet altyd voor wees vir die res van die land [it seems to me we always have to be ahead for the rest of the country], because

hon Deputy Speaker, the National Department is now looking to our Province to see how they can use our technology in the eight other provinces.

But as much as we build with brick and mortar, as much as we are innovative, our policies and our projects also empower communities from an economic perspective. And between 1 April 2019 and 31 March last year, we ensured that through our various projects across this province, just under 4 000 job opportunities were created. We empowered 727 women on these sites. We gave 2 037 youth work. I need to emphasise youth, hon member Bakubaku-Vos. But another component which we are responsible for is sadly military veterans and I use the word ‘sadly’ because as much as I know what the Western Cape’s data is, you cannot trust the Department of Military Veterans’ database which is why even as low as 142 units might sound, that is more than any other province as well.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion. We are committed to improving the quality of people’s lives which is why earlier this year, I spoke of our investment of R24-million to deliver ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, could you finish off.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...976 solar geysers. So, we are here for our people. We do care for our people. Ons bou voort want ons kan nie meer wag vir die zombie ANC nie. Baie dankie. [We continue building because we cannot wait for the zombie ANC. Thank you.]

Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, Minister. [Applous.] [The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. [Applause.] I now recognise you, hon de Villiers.

Mr P DE VILLIERS (GOOD): Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you so much and for everybody who took part in this debate. I heard about a few things and statistics, and we talk around the problem that apartheid caused us to be in this predicament that we are now. So, I am going to pose a few questions here.

Speaking about Knoflokskraal, is the DA aware of the Woodstock family being evicted from their home with a housing kit without land? So, where do they go? Are they aware of the children of Flamingo Heights? Are they aware of the people who live daily in fear of being evicted and that has nothing to do with GOOD losing three wards. Because if the hon Premier and the DA, if they do not know or if they do about all these things, the GOOD party categorically states here that he is a custodian of apartheid principles that are still alive and well in the Western Cape and in Cape Town. And if the hon Premier is not aware of these situations, hon Deputy Speaker, which are in this province and which are entrusted to him, then the GOOD party categorically says that the hon Premier is well out of his depth and is now playing rugby in a swimming pool. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon de Villiers. That

concludes the debate for today and that concludes the business for the day.

The House is hereby adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:20.