
THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

[Virtual sitting held through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, before we commence with our business of the day, and mindful that this is a fully virtual sitting of the House, let me request all members to stand in their respective places, and to respectfully observe a moment of silence for all the victims of the recent devastating floods that affected extensive part of this province. Please rise.

[Moment of silence observed.]

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Thank you very much, hon members. Before we proceed, I would like to make some comments about the logistical arrangements. Today's sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules, hon

members, and in instances where the Standing Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final. The quorum requirements for the sitting of the House are as provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. Hon members, you have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Hon members, unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to only those members who are logged on for the sitting and who may cast their votes in accordance with our Standing Rules.

Hon members who are considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and will be called to order. When an hon member wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer as normal, but must ensure to mute his or her microphone when he or she has completed speaking.

Hon members, I wish to inform the House that as this sitting is being conducted fully virtual, members who are recognised to speak will be required to switch on their cameras for the duration of their contributions. This measure, hon members, is an attempt to assist the Chair in the orderly conduct of proceedings, and to ensure proper visibility and participation during the sitting. Hon members must ensure that their microphones are unmuted when they are recognised by the Presiding Officer, and to mute their microphones when they are finished speaking.

I kindly request that those who are not members of this House, to observe the decorum of the House. Hon members, I wish to also remind you that no interjections are permitted during this virtual sitting, and to this end, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. The Secretary and her administration will ensure that there is dedicated technical support at all times during the sitting. Hon members we will now proceed to the Business of the Day. We will move straight onto Interpellations in terms of Rule 197. I recognise the hon Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, Minister Meyer.

BUSINESS OF THE DAY

INTERPELLATIONS

Geopolitical volatility: citrus exports

1. Mr N P Masipa asked the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

With regard to the commencement of the 2026 Western Cape citrus harvest and the ongoing geopolitical volatility in the Middle East:

- (1) What strategic interventions is his Department coordinating with the Port of Cape Town to ensure that citrus exports from the province reach international destinations without significant delays during the

2026 harvest and export season;

- (2) whether there has been progress on greater private sector involvement at the Port of Cape Town?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to the hon member for the interpellation about the state of the Port of Cape Town, and in the context of the citrus. I am happy to report that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, participates in various forums and platforms and initiatives aimed at improving the logistics and operations of the Port of Cape Town.

Some of these strategic interventions identified to date, include the department, the development of the Port, and Cape Town Digital Logistic Planning Platform, which is expected to provide key insights to Port users, internal and external clients on the performance of the Port, and to coordinate such activities. This platform also monitors the Port activities in almost real time, to inform timely interventions to any and/or other potential delays in the Port of Cape Town.

Moreover, there are other research studies being conducted on the short and long-term Port proficiency and efficiency gains given, the various interventions, also considering other ports here in the province. I am also happy to report, hon Speaker, that while the management of the Port of Cape Town does not fall under the mandate of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, we make it our business, because we are responsible for exports.

It is fair to indicate that I have attended several engagements, and the last engagement from the Port Authority, something that the Western Cape Government instituted, was the Port of Cape Town stakeholder dialogue that took place on the 12th of February this year where my Head of the Department, Joanne, and Glen Steyn, also made some inputs during the stakeholder engagement in the Port of Cape Town. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister. I now recognise the hon member Masipa. Hon member Masipa, before you proceed, and hon members, if you look at your screen on the left-hand side, you will see the time allocation. So I ask your indulgence as the Table Staff amend the time as we proceed with the proceedings of the day. Can I just ask the Table Staff to adjust hon member Masipa's time to three minutes? Thank you, very much. Hon member Masipa, you may continue.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, our thoughts are with you, your department and all the farmers who are being affected by the devastating floods in the Western Cape. I want to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to the Western Cape Government, and everyone involved in responding to the damage.

Hon Minister, the 2026 citrus season is a defining test of our provinces' economic resilience. We are currently facing a perfect storm. Record-high fuel and fertiliser costs, prolonged transit times driven by Middle East volatility, and the persistent crippling bottleneck at the Port of Cape Town. While

industries and you are doing their best to focus and adapt, our producers are operating on a knife-edge.

Every delay caused by port inefficiencies directly compromises the shelf life and quality, ultimately threatening the financial viability of our worldclass produce. Simply put, failures at the port are a major barrier to our economic ambitions, and a direct risk to the Growth for Jobs Strategy.

Encouragingly, the industry is finding alternatives. Recent reports from Wesgro Air Access Initiative show that airfreight is on the rise within the province, with perishables making up the largest share of these volumes. While this adaptability is welcome, airfreight is an incredibly expensive exercise for farmers.

To date, no comparative studies have been concluded to evaluate the learner transport costs, differences between maritime shipping and airfreight for these volumes. However, the present question remains, hon Minister: how quickly can the Port Authority resolve crises and capitalise on our hard-earned advantage as the world's number one citrus exporter?

Is airfreight truly a viable alternative to shield farmers and producers from port failures, and in the light of these challenges, what market access initiatives are the department, both national and provincial, utilising to help our farmers get their produce abroad quickly? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Masipa. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. We must admit, this is a very strange question by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, and one understands the limited participation of the other members and parties in this interpellation. First, there is a timing issue, as we are debating against a deeply stressful period, which renders this question much untimely, maybe, and its relevance, washed away with the floods.

This industry, we seem to obsess about how Transnet is run, preoccupied with delays in the ports. We have even much bigger problems, as we speak, from the heavy floods that have uprooted trees, compromised irrigation systems and destroyed access to roads. Leadership is also about timing.

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, and the Premier, Alan Winde, followed each other on a chopper trip, with a helicopter view over the damages experienced by our farming community, including the electricity blackout that threatened produce aimed for exports, as cold storage remained under strain without energy supply.

In my constituency in Witzenberg, the areas were out of electricity and water for five days, with Michell's Pass suspected to be in danger, as no conclusive engineering was done to confirm if it is still safe after the storms. Are we really asking the right questions, or chasing winds on behalf of our handles? Why

would the Chairperson be interested in progress of private sector involvement, a topic that has received an overkill, especially by our hon Minister Meyer, who boldly told us during his Budget Vote of driving a full-scale privatisation.

Unfortunately, even that did not secure him a seat in the leadership of the DA. Maybe you must ask the Minister that, given the floods, how have you and the department moved swiftly to save and give support to the citrus industry, as we know the Citrus Growers Association has had to cancel its planned Citrus Day that was planned in Citrusdal in June, because roads have collapsed there? How have you covered the Black citrus farmers that contributed 25.6% of total citrus production between 2019 and 2023?

The SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, your time has expired.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo. I recognise the hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Just for record, hon member Nkondlo, our agriculture sector is pushed to the brink. We acknowledge that. Whilst some farmers have managed minimal losses, others have lost literally everything. Farming has become a battle for survival. We acknowledge that.

Because production values have plummeted from R100-million to zero in the

worst affected areas, commercial banks will demand security before extending credit. If our farmers are to rebuild, we need an urgent, coordinated intervention where financial institutions and the Government work hand-in-hand to restore liquidity and farm security-valued confidence. The stakes could not be higher.

The Western Cape citrus industry, which recently lagged behind the Eastern Cape, has fought hard to reclaim its position as the critical pillar of South Africa's export economy and a vital driver for job creation. Yet, this hard-worn progress is being choked because of severe operational inefficiencies at the port, critical equipment deficits, and systematic congestions at the Port of Cape Town, now dangerously compounded by a volatile climate disruption, threatening our international competitiveness, and putting high value, time-sensitive cold chains at catastrophic risk.

Furthermore, global market access is shrinking, caught between the geopolitical crisis in the Middle East and the operational failures at home. Our growers simply cannot afford to watch millions of rands worth of premier fruit rot in stationary trucks, and languish on wind-bound bursts due to aging infrastructure.

Port support strategic turnarounds look excellent on paper, but the commercial reality on the ground demands immediate decisive action. Long term transport stability will only be achieved by breaking state-enforced monopolies and accelerating proper structural private sector participation. The continued delays in securing private operational partners for the Cape Town Container Terminal

leave our entire logistics network dangerously vulnerable by global standards. Port Executive must move past vague policy promises, and provide concrete timelines. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Masipa. I recognise the Minister, Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon Chair. Will my time be adjusted?

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I was about to say, just give it – oh, there we go. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon members who took part in this interpellation. I really appreciate it, and I would also like to thank them for their concerns about especially our agricultural sector and the farmers and their agri-workers during the devastating floods.

One of my ministerial priorities, as members of this Parliament will know, is market access. And so, I have been to Maputo myself to see the impact of citrus exports in the harbour of Maputo a few years ago. I have also sent, last year, a senior member of my staff to visit the harbour of Dar es Salaam, because that harbour is being privatised, and we have seen, in six months, a magnificent turnaround in the harbour of Dar es Salaam.

That is why I will pursue the privatisation of the Cape Town Port Terminal, because we have seen the success in six months, huge success. The staff member came back and reported to me. In addition, I have sent a delegation last year to the harbour of Bremen, to the harbours of Dubai, Hamburg, Rotterdam and Bangkok on the recommendations of the World Bank.

All of these harbours are now effectively being managed, excellently, and the World Bank has recommended that we look at the harbour in Bangkok, and so I also sent a delegation there. In short, I have also been, exactly 10 days ago, on a visit to the harbour of Durban. For me, the situation is very clear.

I went to see for myself, and I had some meetings with the Durban Container Terminal, the Pier 1, to see the opportunities for the improvement of the harbour of Cape Town. The Port Terminal, hon Chair, I was there exactly 10 days ago, as I said. I went there because the Port of Durban handles about 61% of South Africa's container traffic, and it was important for me to see what is happening there.

I have requested the Premier, hon Winde, during my handover report to him this Monday, to invite Rudi Dicks, from Operation Vulindlela. He is the Head of the Project Management Office in the Presidency, to come to our next Cabinet meeting with a single, laser-sharp focus, for the privatisation of the Container Terminal of the Port of Cape Town. That will be his brief, because that is the only thing we believe will bring final solution.

In fact, Pier 2, in Port of Durban, has been privatised. It is now being operated privately by a company from the Philippines, and so we are interested in seeing the impact of privatisation of Pier 2 in Durban, because that is exactly the type of service that we want to see at a container terminal. Because we are responsible, as you know, for 58% of South Africa's primary agricultural exports, and I have made a commitment to the Premier that I want to see that we move that up to 60%.

For that to happen, we need the Port of Cape Town, the container terminal, to work effectively, and we will continue to make that particular focus. Hon Speaker, during my visit to Durban last week, TNPA agreed that Cape Town has huge potential, and they would like to see further developments.

They have made significant investment, but both in my view, in the view of the Premier of this Province, and in the view of the Executive Mayor of the City of Cape Town and the first Produce Export Forum, as well as the major stakeholders, as well as the Western Cape Exporters Forum, we are determined, and we are convinced that the only long-term transport solution to increased exports is to privatise the Cape Town Port Terminal. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That brings us to the end, hon members, of Interpellation No. 1 one as printed on ... [Interjection.] Hon member! Hon members, I have, in my introductory remarks, referred to our Standing Rules. You cannot interject when we are doing virtual sittings. We move on to Interpellation No. 2. I recognise the hon Minister of Local

Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mr Bredell.

Waste-management crisis: long-term interventions

2. Mr F C Christians asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

In the light of reports that landfill sites across the Western Cape are reaching their capacity at an alarming rate:

What (a) immediate and (b) long-term interventions is his department, is he implementing to address this growing waste-management crisis?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, thank you, and thank you to hon member Christians for this interpellation. It has been known for some time that landfill airspace is diminishing in the Western Cape. This communication has been constantly raised in the Waste Management Offices Forum and other workshops where pertinent.

The provincial position was to ensure that regional landfill sites are established to provide airspace for participating municipalities. This will be coordinated by the respective district municipalities to date. Karwyderskraal, the regional landfill is already operational in the Overberg District Municipality, and is currently serving Overstrand, Theewaterskloof, Cape Agulhas municipalities,

and the option for Swellendam Municipality is still open to participate.

This facility is currently operated by an external service provider, and the audit compliance score for this facility has been between 98% to 100% over the last few years, making it one of the best operated landfills in the country. The current airspace at Karwyderskraal can be accommodated until 2076.

The West Coast Regional Landfill Site became operational in 2025, and services the Matzikama and Cederberg municipalities, whose landfills are either reaching capacity, or has reached it. The current operational cell will provide at least eight years of landfill airspace, and should more cells be constructed thereafter, a further eight to nine years of airspace can be secured.

The Highlands Facility in Swartland operates as a regional facility, and also provides landfill airspace for Bergrivier Municipality. The new pastoral cell constructed, will provide airspace for seven years, and if the entire cell three is constructed, will provide an additional six years of airspace, giving it a total of 13 years. This can be increased, should a height extension be approved.

The Cape Winelands District Municipality have just completed the construction of the Cape Winelands District Regional Landfill Site in Worcester, which will become operational in July 2026. Participating municipalities include Breede Valley Municipality, Witzenberg Municipality, Langeberg Municipality. The total airspace for the current cell will provide seven years of airspace, and should more cells be built in future, will provide 20 to 25 years of airspace.

The Garden Route District Municipality is in the process of concluding the construction of their first cell at the Garden Route Landfill Site. This is expected to be commissioned by early 2027. The first cell will provide six to seven years of airspace, but the facility can accommodate 25 years of landfill airspace, should more cells be developed.

Then the (b) part. The department is strongly promoting circular economic principles, and not encouraging waste to be discarded and disposed of at landfill sites. Waste minimisation and beneficiation of waste streams, where materials are viewed as a source rather than waste, is strongly encouraged. I thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you hon Minister for that comprehensive answer. Just a couple of things, and I am may be speaking in my second time again. Landfill sites play an important role in maintaining environmental health, economic stability and also community wellbeing. As urban populations continue to grow, especially in the City of Cape Town, landfill sites provide an organised and regulated system for the disposal of waste generated daily by households, by businesses and industries.

Without these facilities, illegal dumping and widespread pollution would increase significantly, creating serious health and environmental hazards. Now, hon Speaker, the problem is that if you go into certain townships, you see

dumping all over open spaces. It becomes a problem because it becomes a health risk. I want to know from the Minister, we have these landfill sites, and we need to protect our environment.

But you know people? I do not know how it works, I know the City, and in the City of Cape Town, when there are reports of dumping, the people come the one day, clean all that mess up, and a week later, we sit with the same problem.

So that is why, hon Speaker, this is an important topic, because we need to educate people more and say that there are modern landfill sites, and that contributes positively. I will speak about the negatives later on, but it also contributes positively when we talk about waste management and environmental protection measures.

Many landfill sites and facilities in the Western Cape are engineered and use protective liners. It is there for a reason. That is why this, I think, I cannot overemphasise its importance, especially when we come to communities and councils where you see boys and girls playing around these open spaces where people just come and dump.

I know there are some reporting systems that you can do, but I think, hon Minister, and I know your department is doing a lot, that this should also be widely spread so that people know the importance that we do have landfill sites. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. I now recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, it is encouraging to note that your department has a target to ban organic waste at landfills by 2027. Recent parliamentary replies have shown that the strategy is diverting significant amounts of organic waste towards composting and other avenues.

Total composting reached 220 000 tonnes in 2024, is projected to spike to over 341 000 tonnes based on the preliminary 2025 data. This momentum is the direct result of the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Strategic Roadmap, which includes a target to ban 100% of organic waste from landfills by 2027.

This goal is unique to the Western Cape, and it serves as the primary catalyst for the current infrastructure expansion. The data further reveals the critical role of the private sector in achieving these targets. Private composting surged from 140 000 tonnes in 2024 to an impressive 231 000 tonnes in 2025.

By fostering and enabling policy environments through the Provincial Integrated Waste Management Plan, Western Cape Government is enabling private enterprises to lead the charge in organic waste processing. So, these steps must be lauded. But could the hon Minister perhaps expand a little bit on why keeping organic waste out of our landfills is so critical, and the

departments' next steps to ensure that we successfully reach the 100% diversion target by 2027? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bryant. I recognise the hon member Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Am I audible?

The SPEAKER: You are indeed audible.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you very much. The Western Cape has an environmental crisis. If it is not a waste pile in the informal settlements, it is sewage dumped in the sea. Lately, reports tell us that our landfill sites could be filled by the end of next year.

This is yet another reason why the Western Cape needs an environmental commissioner to provide independence, oversight, and enforce accountability where this Government has failed. Hon MEC, through you, hon Speaker, the question before us is not whether there is a plan. It is whether there is leadership equal to the scale of this crisis.

The reality is that carrying unsustainability pressure, whilst other approaches close without credible alternatives. In the immediate term, what we are seeing is not intervention, but reaction in rising tariffs, increased transport distances, and communities and businesses left to absorb the costs. This is not waste

strategy. It is a cost that should be exercised. In the long term, the failure is even more glaring. National policy led by Bernice Swarts is clear. It directs you to move decisively towards the circular economically integrated waste pickers, expand recycling infrastructure, and reduce landfill dependency.

Yet, in the Western Cape, waste pickers remain marginalised, recycling systems are underdeveloped, and landfill expansion remains in the default response. Hon Speaker, this province is not running out of landfill site space. It is running out of planning. Whilst we note initiatives like the Coastal Park Project, generating electricity from landfill gas, they are not enough.

Government must release land, and landfill development, investment in more affordable and innovative waste solutions, and stop criminalising ... (intervention)

The SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel, your time has expired. Thank you very much.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Although we know, and we know the importance of waste management, landfill sites in the Western

Cape also have several negative impacts on the environment, on the public health and also surrounding communities. I wonder if the Minister is aware that there are reports out that people living near landfill sites in Cape Town, such as Coastal Park and Vissershok, face risk of respiratory issues, asthma, TB, headaches, and say that it is out there.

I do not know if the Minister is aware of that? The other piece of information that I also received is the value of residential properties generally decreases the closer they are to landfill sites in Cape Town. Per the report, depreciation is well documented, and it is malodours, windblown litter, increased heavy traffic, noise and potential health concerns.

So, hon Speaker, as I said, landfill sites are important, and I just want to know, from the Minister, when he speaks to the district municipalities, how is the planning done if you open a landfill? Do they try to get as far away from communities, and did the Minister and his department do some of this research to say that there is illness involved, and there is also the depreciation of properties. If the Minister can maybe expand on that.

I know landfill sites also attract pests, attract rats, flies, birds and stray animals, which can contribute to a spread of disease and create unhealthy living conditions. It is a serious concern, but you plan with the one hand, and the other hand, you must also be careful.

As I said, I know the importance of landfill sites, because it also assists with

the illegal dumping and also the poor waste management practices around some sites, worsens the situation further. Hon Speaker, I want to ask the Minister, is he aware of those reports, and did he get through the department, or through municipalities, complaints about people living around these sites that say, “Listen, I have TB now, or I have a problem when it comes to health concerns”. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon members. Thank you, hon member Christians. This is a very important debate, very close to my heart. Unfortunately, this will take time. We are busy phasing it in. If you read internationally how to deal with waste, you will see that as soon as you skip a cycle, you fall back.

So, we need to build the system. The first was to license our landfill sites, then to take the decommissioned landfill sites and rehabilitate them to get the municipalities to work within the licensing conditions, and then to build a system where you can build a circular economy. Because as soon as there is an economy, you can then create jobs, and then people will deal with waste differently, and therefore, the regional landfill sites.

Although, personally, I think that in the long term, we all know that we actually

should move completely away from any landfill sites. But then you must transfer waste to energy. Those kinds of systems will also add a lot of costs, etcetera. So, we build the system slowly, because also, when you need to go from energy to waste, you also need certain volumes, and per district, you can get those volumes, but not the single municipalities.

Yes, it can be unhealthy also to live close to a landfill site, and therefore the positioning of the landfill sites is crucial. But just to say, hon member Christians, the other night, the National Waste Management Award Ceremony took place in Mangaung, Bloemfontein. The Western Cape Waste Team won eight of the ten awards, showing us that we are on the right path. Showing us that we do well, and it does not mean that we cannot do better, and that there are still hiccups within the system.

We have done a lot over the years on waste picking. We have actually started to talk about wastepreneurs, and not pickers, because they are entrepreneurs. They do a lot. We train them. Yes, the problem is that at this stage we do not have the funding to scale it, and therefore are also looking at international funding options, etc.

Hon member Bryant, thank you, as Chairperson. Yes, to reduce the generation of methane gas at waste fill sites. That is why we want to get organic gas tapped off out of the system. It will also reduce our carbon footprint. Methane gas is also highly flammable, so the burning of waste and landfill sites, we will reduce this by taking this out.

But saying this, maybe a good debate also again on the Standing Committee, because we need to push and educate our communities to take their organic waste out of the system. We cannot just think because it stands with legislation that they are going to do this. So we will need to, as a department, put a huge effort in to support and to help communities to take out their organic waste.

Unfortunately, hon member Stoffel, I cannot say much, because you just want, through you, hon Speaker, hon member Stoffel will criticise and keep on criticising, although there is nothing to criticise. Instead, I want to request that they must work either with us, to help us to train communities, to educate communities. There is a huge, huge backlog in training and education in our communities on the waste stream, the value of waste, and the benefits of a clean environment. I would rather call on her to be less critical, and to come and work with us and help us to train our communities. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellation No. 2 as printed on the Question Paper, we move on to Interpellation No. 3. I recognise the hon Minister of Local Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Minister Bredell.

Provincial Disaster Management Centre: Level 8 weather warning

3. Ms B N Stoffel asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

In the light of the recent Level 8 Weather Warning affecting the Garden Route region:

What immediate, coordinated measures has his department implemented to ensure that the Provincial Disaster Management Centre is fully activated?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Let me get all my papers ready. To the hon member Stoffel, thank you for the interpellation. Again, a very important and pertinent topic for where we sit currently.

In response to the severe weather events, a factor in the Western Cape, the Department of Local Government, through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre implemented the following immediate and coordinated measures. Early warnings received and escalation:

On the 4th of May 2026, the South African Weather Services issued impacted-based severe weather warnings, which include Orange Level 8 and 6 of a cutoff low-pressure system, affecting mostly the Southern Cape Garden Route area, the Western part of the Overberg, and parts of the Cape Winelands. This would cause severe and disruptive rainfall, damaging winds and waves, indicating significant risk and expected impacts in the areas.

The immediate activation, following technical consultation with South African Weather Services, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, was placed on

an elevated level of activation to coordinate the provincial response. The Urgent Joint Operation Centre Engagements, and Urgent Joint Operations Centre Briefing was convened by the Provincial Disaster Management Centre on the 4th of May, bringing together the provincial sector departments, all affected districts, to ensure coordinated preparedness and response measures with follow up briefing meetings on the 5th, the 6th, the 7th and the 8th as the situation unfolds.

Hon Speaker, sector-specific risk mitigation measures, school closures, etc, on the 5th of May 2026, following consultation with South African Weather Services and the Department of Education, a recommendation was made to the department to close schools in the Garden District, as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of learners and staff.

Sustained joint operation and intergovernmental coordination, the JOC, remained active throughout the event, facilitating ongoing coordination, real-time information sharing and decision-making across all spheres of government. Continuous engagement and feedback, on the ground conditions were maintained with municipal disaster management centres and key stakeholders to ensure an integrated and aligned response.

The situation monitoring and reporting, the Provincial Disaster Centre maintained continuous risk monitoring of dam levels and river flows through the Department of Water and Sanitation, weather developments and on the ground impact, through the dissemination of regular situational reports,

covering road closures, infrastructure impacts and humanitarian needs.

Public information and early warning dissemination: early warnings and safety measures were communicated to stakeholders and the public to enhance preparedness and reduce risk, via departmental communication channels and social media platforms. Resources mobilisation: the sector departments include Mobility, Health, Wellness, Social Development, Eskom, where activated and coordinated through the JOC Structure, to ensure a comprehensive response.

Furthermore, the Acting Premier, Dr Ivan Meyer, and the Acting Minister of Local Government, Anroux Marais, attended a George briefing meeting on the 8th of May 2026, to take a briefing on the recent weather events in the Garden Route District. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired. Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The recent Level 8 Weather Warnings affected the Garden Route families and vulnerable communities across the Western Cape. Severe storms, flooding, infrastructure damage and dangerous road conditions led the widespread destruction, and most tragically, the loss of lives.

Reports indicated that more than a hundred residents across the province had been affected by flooding, damaged infrastructure, road closure and disruption

to essential services. These developments are very serious concerns regarding the preparedness, coordination capacity and responsiveness of the Provincial Disaster Management structure, particularly as extreme weather events become increasingly frequent and severe, due to climate change.

The socio-economic consequences of these disasters continue to fall disproportionately lately on poor and working-class communities, especially those living in informal settlements, rural areas and under-resourced municipalities. Families lose their homes, furniture, food and personal belongings, income and access to healthcare and education and transport infrastructure.

Many communities remain trapped in cycles of vulnerability because of inadequate stormwater systems, delay in emergency response and insufficient long term disaster mitigation plans. Hon Speaker, it is not a coincidence that the farmworkers who were left stranded on the rooftops by severe flooding between Worcester and Rawsonville, were 23 people rescued and three others tragically found dead on a flooded farm,

The impact of this severe weather was not experienced before. It exposed the deep inequalities and years of negligence facing poor rural communities, farmworkers and informal settlements across the province. Whilst the Disaster Management structures may appear coordinated and functional at a provincial level, there are serious concerns at a district and local level. Disaster relief resources are not reaching the communities that need them the most.

In towns such as George, allegations continue to emerge that the disaster related funding and relief distribution are often skewed by political consideration, while deeply underdeveloped and rural communities remain neglected and underserved. Funds may be allocated to districts, but poor communities on the ground continue to wait for the meaningful assistance, emergency support and infrastructure intervention. Broader communities are often better protected and discovered far quicker. Therefore, we cannot only [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel, please take your seat. Hon member Windvogel, is that a point of order?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No, hon Speaker, sorry, it was by mistake.

The SPEAKER: Okay, no problem. I noted your hand, that is why I gave you an opportunity. Hon member Stoffel, my apologies, you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. It is an economic crisis, a social crisis, a social justice issue and a developmental issue. The same vulnerable communities continue to suffer most during every disaster, yet we see little meaningful planning and resilience in disaster ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel, your time has expired. You will have another opportunity. I now recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, climate change is no longer a future

concern. It is now centre stage. This is clearly demonstrated by the recent severe weather conditions that have impacted the province, and now with the Level 8 weather warning that may affect the Garden Route region. Hon Minister Bredell and the Western Cape Government have consistently emphasised the importance of preparing for climate change impact.

This reflects a government that understands the reality of climate risk, and is actively working to mitigate its effects, and this is a step in the right direction. Hon Speaker, we witnessed that in response to the recent severe weather events, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre was immediately activated at full capacity with coordinated incident command structures established between provincial departments, municipalities and emergency services.

This enabled real time monitoring, rapid deployment of response teams, and continuous situational reporting across affected areas. The Western Cape Government also activated municipal emergency operation centres, coordinated evacuation support where required, and deployed disaster response teams to assist with road closure, information assessments and humanitarian relief.

We can prepare as much as possible, but we cannot control every impact of extreme weather. What we can do is ensure we are prepared, and in the Western Cape, this Government has demonstrated that capability. In light of this, I ask the hon Minister, what enhanced monitoring systems are currently in place to track climate change impacts in real time, and how is this data being integrated into early warning and disaster response systems across our province?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bryant. I recognise the hon member Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The contradictions in this province, is that those who contributed the least to climate change are the ones who suffer in consequences the most, Every flood, every fire, every drought and every extreme weather event expose the deep spatial inequalities that continue to define the Western Cape, nearly three decades into democracy.

When severe flooding occurs, it is not wealthy suburbs that are submerged first. It is informal settlements, backyard dwellers and working-class communities built in floodplains and wetlands and unsafe land because poor people have been pushed further to the margins of our cities and towns.

Families living in informal structures lost everything within hours. Bags, school uniforms, identity documents and the little dignity they have managed to build under the difficult economic conditions. Climate change is therefore not only an environmental crisis. It is a housing crisis and an inequality crisis and a developmental crisis.

The increase in frequency of severe weather events demands a serious rethink of how this Province approaches human settlement, land use planning and infrastructure investment. Yet, despite repeated disasters across the province thousands of vulnerable households continue to live without proper drainage systems, resilient infrastructure, decent housing, or unequal disaster protection.

Communities are often rebuilding in the same unsafe conditions, only to face the same devastation months later. Hon Speaker, if this Government is serious about climate resilience, then climate adaptation planning cannot be separated from the crisis of informal and spatial injustice in the Western Cape.

Again, this background of specific climate adaptation and human settlement interventions, is the Provincial Government implementing the project for residents in informal settlements, in flood-prone communities from increasingly frequent climate related disaster, and how is climate response planning being integrated into future housing and land use infrastructure development strategies across the province? I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Stoffel. I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. A difficult one to answer, but let me try. Through you, to the hon member Stoffel, a figure of a hundred people needing help – it is 231 000 people that need help. We have managed, the good news story in this is we managed to save 651 people.

The sad story is, yes, we have lost 11 lives. But this is much more than just a planning issue, and maybe the ANC colleagues must also talk to their National colleagues because on Sunday evening we had a meeting with the National Minister, the Ministers in the Presidency. I have put it on the agenda and they

have accepted it. The Minister of the Presidency actually took it much further to declare no-go areas where people will not be allowed to live, etc.

But it is much more than just a planning issue. So we will take this to a national level. We will have a debate, because obviously, any storm, it is the vulnerable and the poorest of the poor that suffer the most. Stormwater is not the enemy here. Stormwater and stormwater development, you must remember when you plan your stormwater etc, you plan to take 35mm of rain an hour. If you get 300mm of rain, you are in trouble. You cannot plan for more because it will just get too expensive, etc. So thereafter, the roads become a stormwater channel, and so forth, and so forth.

Hon member Bryant, we will also, after this incident, in three weeks' time, I think, have a sitting where we will look at the lessons learnt, what we have done right, what we have done wrong, because in any incident, you can just learn and build your systems well after the questions. You will recall a year or two ago, I said that weather services struggle to predict weather because of National Government who fails to invest in the rightful science to predict weather, etc, and we will also look at international best practices, because the sooner you are aware of the weather that is going to hit you, the better you can plan.

We do have a system, when we receive the kind of weather of a warning six to eight, we plot it, and in that map, we also plot all the schools, all the pick-up points, and therefore, we can sit down with Education and tell them on the 5th,

listen, those schools need to be closed, otherwise you are in trouble.

Again, when the National Minister visited us yesterday in Cabinet, his first observation was he wants to congratulate the Western Cape, and it was his words, not mine. He used the Eastern Cape as an example, and he said, if they had these kinds of systems and these kinds of reactions, they would not have lost 10 schoolchildren. That was his words. Not mine.

They would not have lost a bus that drove into a river, because we stop, we evaluate, we make the unpopular decisions. And even yesterday, the Minister of Education had a conversation with me saying he is not happy with our communication. It takes too long. It is not on point. So, we will need to look into this.

We acknowledge that we are not perfect. We have got the system, and we acknowledge that we need to build it to become even better. It is going to become more difficult because the funding is going to be an issue. The current fix, we do with current money, with money that was actually allocated for other projects. So, the Department of Infrastructure is under huge pressure. I want to thank all the departments, the Department of Infrastructure, Social Development, Health, all the departments working with us to save lives and to accommodate our people as far as possible. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. We will now

move on to Questions for Oral Reply in terms of Rule 202. I wish to advise, hon members, that once the hon Minister or the Premier has started to reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for this sitting to indicate that they want to ask a follow up question.

As always, hon members, there are four opportunities for follow up questions, but the hon member who has posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper will have the first opportunity for the follow up. Thereafter, other hon members may use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow up question.

Before I recognise the hon Premier, hon members, we are also dealing with questions that stood over from Thursday the 14th of May 2026, as agreed by the House. I recognise the hon Premier, Premier Winde.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Questions standing over from Thursday, 14 May 2026, as agreed to by the House:

SAPS' Operation Prosper

1. Ms A P Bans asked the Premier:

In the light of his recent calls for urgent reforms to the SAPS' Operation Prosper, citing poor intelligence, weak investigations and continued gang violence despite deployments:

(a) What specific engagements has he had with the National Government to address these shortcomings and (b) what measures has he put in place to ensure that the LEAP officers support the SAPS and the recently deployed army?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon member Bans for the question. Part (a) Minister Marais, several officials and I have engaged with the South African Police Services several times in relation to the deployment of the military and other relevant matters. As this House is already aware, I have reported on this before, that I met with the acting Minister of Police, Firoz Cachalia, a number of times last year already, and then also engaged with him this year.

That was on the 4th of February, the 13th of March, the latter of which was during the Western Cape's Police MINMEC Engagement, because luckily, we managed to host that engagement. Of course, two other Premiers and of course all the MECs and the police met with the National Minister at the MINMEC.

I further wrote to him to discuss our views on the deployment of the military to the gang hotspots, on the 23rd of January 2026. Additionally, on the 26th of November, before the deployment was first announced, I wrote to both Minister

Motshekga and the Police Commissioner, Patekile, to request their assessments of the success, or the successes and perhaps the failings of the 2019 SANDF deployment.

While General Patekile delivered a brief reply, essentially stating that SAPS was unable to draw firm conclusions of the deployment, due to the overlapping effects of the COVID-19 lockdowns on crime, Minister Motshekga never responded at all.

Since the operation was announced, the matter has been discussed at the Western Cape Safety Council meeting. This was on the 22nd of April 2026. Additionally, I have been informed that officials from the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety attended an Operation Prosper PROVJOINTS meeting briefing on the 23rd of March.

That same month, the Anti-gang Priority Committee was briefed by the South African Police Services additionally to this. Minister Marais and the HoD of Parks met with the provincial SAPS management on the 21st of April 2026. A presentation was delivered at the meeting of the Western Cape Cabinet on the 20th of May 2026. As should be clear, this Government has been at great pains to engage with senior decision makers at the national level to ensure that Operation Prosper is a success.

However, our efforts to engage and offer input have not always been met with enthusiasm. We must also, hon member, be clear on this matter. The question

would seem to imply that this is a mandate of the Western Cape Government to fix the shortcomings of Operation Prosper. Sadly, this is not the case. Since the onset, we have welcomed the additional resources that have been made available through this operation. But have warned that these resources must be deployed with the benefit of strong intelligence capabilities in targeted operations that result in convictions, so as to not replace the failings of the 2019 – or replicate, sorry, the failings of the 2019 Operation Lockdown.

Thus far, our warnings have been ignored, and we now see the same mistakes being made. The fact is that this deployment takes place on the initiative of the President and under the executive control of the South African Police Services and the South African National Defence Force.

Due to the centralised model of policing that some members of this House so strenuously defend, we do not have a mandate to resolve the very notable shortcomings in Operation Prosper.

Then section (b) authorisation has been granted for LEAP officers to provide support to the South African Police Service when Operation Prosper interventions are carried out in their deployment areas. However, it must be noted that the purpose of LEAP is to act as a force multiplier to SAPS during intelligence led operations.

The Western Cape Government has been abundantly clear in its position that the commitment of LEAP officers must be matched by a more equitable

deployment of SAPS personnel and resources, as well as the restoration of the SAPS investigative capacity in order to build prosecution ready dockets and cases of repeat offences and gang affiliated offenders.

Thus far, the SAPS has not acted to address these challenges. As such, while the LEAP initiative is comparatively small compared to the resources of SANDF and SAPS, it is increasingly viewed as a solution to the problems senior SAPS management have created through continuous under-resourcing and neglecting of investigative capacity within their own organisation.

LEAP officers will assist with any workable effort to make our communities safer. They cannot be expected to fill the gaps left by inadequate resourcing, inequitable deployments, and failures to address the collapse of investigative capacity within SAPS.

And perhaps, lastly, just to say that even as of today, I received a briefing in Mitchells Plain by the local police commander. I then met with the LEAP officers and, of course, we can do that. We can also see, they gave us some of the data on the deployment times and, of course, LEAP officers can support, where possible. But, of course, you can also see in the deployment of the military, because they have not put sufficient manpower into the system and they have spread it over 17 areas. I have spoken a bit about LEAP, but LEAP only in six of those areas. So that acts as a force multiplier but we still don't have the full contingent as originally estimated by the President. We have far less. And so we will see, we will still continue to work to make sure that we

try and get the best out of this deployment and this extra set of boots on the ground to help us with crime-fighting. We have got a year to make sure that we learn as we go and obviously fix issues as we go, because, at the end of the day, we need to bring down crime in these gang-ridden areas of our province. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, are there any follow-up questions? I have pressed the chat functionality where you have to indicate that you would like to ask a follow-up question. There were no questions. Hon Walters, is that for a follow-up question or a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): My apologies, hon Speaker. I clearly did not follow your instructions properly in terms of the chat function. There is a follow-up question from my side.

It is a bit of a concern, the response that we got in terms of the efficacy and the long-term solution that this provides. Can the Premier, perhaps, give us an idea of what, in his view, would have been a better alternative than Operation Prosper, particularly in terms of arrests that actually make a difference? I think we should be visioning what National Government support to the Western Cape in fulfilling its mandate, should look like. And perhaps if the hon Premier can speak to that, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, before I allow the Premier to respond, it is against the Rules to request the Premier or a Minister to express a view. So I am going

to give you an opportunity to reformulate your question. You do not need to motivate, but can you just put the question to the Premier, because you cannot ask him to express a view.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): In what way would the Western Cape benefit most from Operation Prosper?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much to the hon member for the question. Obviously, what I have been calling for from the beginning is, how do we make sure that there is a joint operations command? And I think intelligence-driven is really key, so that when that force multiplier comes in, the military officers, who are not police officers, can actually sort of almost be out in the streets. But the actual zooming in on the intelligence to make arrests, to intervene into those drug dens, that that can then be taken by the police. So I think that is one area which we are still working on. I do not think we are there yet.

But for me, even more so than that, and it was before Prosper but now included in this time of deployment and extra focus, and that is around investigations. We know that we do not have sufficient investigators. We know that they do not have resources, whether it be computers, cell phones, vehicles, whatever resources they need, they do not have sufficient numbers. And then they also have a plethora of cases per individual. So some investigators will have up to 500 cases that they are dealing with. That is an impossibility to find solutions

for, and especially when you are on crime around gangsterism and extortion, guns are used and we see the guns coming off the street.

Now, before Prosper and this focus, and still now, we have offered: how do we help with investigations? Because we cannot have a less than 5% conviction rate when a firearm is taken away, because we need to convict that person who is caught with the firearm, who probably also will be found, through ballistics, as guilty of being part of the murder of a number of other people. So that is where we really fall short. And we keep on offering that assistance and if we had to say what it would be, I would say that would be the thing. If we could get that pipeline opened, it would definitely start to make a difference.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Premier. I recognise hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker, and good day to the Premier.

The difficulty that we are faced with now in terms of the police is that public trust has been broken, which further complicates the way crime and crime intelligence are being collected and given effect to. And I wanted to know from the Premier, in terms of all these meetings that you have held with the various stakeholders, as well as the Acting Minister of Police, to which degree will the Western Cape Government be able to restore confidence in the police, once police have been devolved to the Western Cape? Is that at all possible at this stage? Thank you.

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

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you very much to the hon Marais for the question.

Obviously, confidence and trust are something that is earned through proper management and then proper service delivery. I think what has also been happening with all of the committee processes and the special investigations into all sorts of allegations around senior police and police corruption is not helping at all when it comes to that trust deficit with our citizens. And then, of course, exacerbating crime levels on the other side. But the question is, obviously, that would be a key focus. How do you build trust?

So because, of course, we know that that is not a reality, I would sincerely hope that, just like in Gauteng, where we are seeing the leadership from the Premier there, in KwaZulu-Natal we are seeing the leadership from the Premier there, I believe it is now going to start coming from the Premier in the Eastern Cape, that they are asking exactly the same question: can we devolve power? Can we build a different policing model? And, quite frankly, I would like all of the members of this House to think about it as well. This is not about a political party position now. This is about how we deal with crime and it would be really nice if the whole Western Cape Parliament would be in a position to take resolutions that we support a new policing model, because it is not as if it is one political party asking for this. It is a number of provinces run by different political parties asking for this. And so I think that that would be a real move

in a positive direction if our whole Parliament stood up and said, yes, let us actually investigate a different policing model.

But I had the opportunity today of not only meeting with the police leadership – we had, first of all, the police leadership with the Cabinet yesterday and the Anti-Gang Unit in the Cabinet yesterday and then today in Mitchells Plain Minister Marais and I are meeting with senior police management. Then from there, we actually joined SAPS, LEAP officers and Neighbourhood Watches in a walkabout, just getting to understand, because a part of Tafelsig has been plagued by gang shootings and gang killings.

And I had the opportunity, at the end of the process, to spend a bit of time with our LEAP officers and this was the exact conversation we had. It was around trust. How do you build trust? And it is not just about straight policing and dealing with the criminals, It is also, as a police officer or, in this case, a LEAP officer, to help the auntie over the road with her shopping. Maybe on your day off, arrange a soccer game with some of the kids. Show the people in society that you really care, that you are part of society, that they can trust you. You build that trust.

Because again, also in Tafelsig, last night we got some intel and this morning early there were operations based on that intel. If that intel leads to arrests and a reduction in crime, trust is built. And, of course, that's exactly what your question is. How do you build that trust? That is what I would do in going about it. I think we have already tried to build that trust with the community and we

would do exactly the same thing should there be devolution of management around policing powers. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members. I see no further indication for follow-ups. So, that will bring us to the end of Question 1. We move on to Question 2 and I recognise the hon Premier.

Extortion: ongoing

2. Ms A P Bans asked the Premier:

In the light of ongoing extortion in areas such as Nyanga, Philippi and Samora Machel, which is now disrupting basic services, such as refuse collection, and forcing residents to live in unsafe and unsanitary conditions:

What non-policing strategy is the provincial government implementing to address the root causes of extortion?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and once again, to the hon member Bans, thank you very much for the question.

First of all, of course, the question needs me to get the answer from our departments and I am informed from the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, that is POCS, that they hosted a multi-sectoral anti-extortion summit in July 2025. Bearing in mind again from the

previous question that we do not have powers over policing, but I think your question is key. So, what are the other areas that we focus on? A multi-sectoral summit was called and hosted and it looked at the extent of extortion in six sectors.

First of all, transport and mobility. Of course, in transport and mobility, we do play a different role where we have powers of licensing, we have powers that Minister Sileku has of closing taxi ranks when there is too much violence and you can see he does exercise that power, when needed. We also dealt with issues around the construction and infrastructure extortion and the mafia that is involved there, linking in through business, so that they have got inputs into how we can find different ways of dealing with this cancer or scourge in our society. Local township and rural economy is also involved as one of the sectors of focus in this summit.

Then the financial and business sector, of course. Regarding financial, this is where we also engage with SARS, follow the money and often you can then catch the individuals. We are seeing that working when it comes to using some of the legislation around gangsters and using the POCA Act, and we have actually caught a few of those gangsters using the POCA Act, and how that can also be used when it comes to the financial and business sectors.

The nightlife economy. Of course, I think it is synonymous. Everybody understands the role that the nightlife economy has and how it is influenced and impacted by extortion and the extortionists linked also to the drug trade, et

cetera.

And then basic service delivery, so just municipal service delivery, how is it affected? What are those things that we can change, that we can do that can have better effect on making areas safer, cleaner? And obviously they also have an effect. This is a cross-sector task team that will be established to drive the implementation of the recommendations from this summit and then monitoring and progress will happen to ensure accountability.

An internal strategic planning meeting will also take place in the first quarter of this year to decide on the approach and the next steps and the broader stakeholder engagement that will take place then again in the second quarter.

POCS continually engages with SAPS on behalf of the departments regarding extortion-related matters affecting government facilities, staff, projects and services, and these engagements aim to strengthen coordination, facilitate information-sharing, and support departments affected by extortion incidents.

POCS has also developed a Transversal Standard Operating Procedure to assist the Western Cape Government departments in identifying, reporting, escalating and managing extortion-related incidents affecting government operations and service delivery. The purpose of the SOP is to promote a coordinated and standardised approach across all departments. This is to raise awareness of extortion risks and reporting procedures. And POCS also facilitated an anti-extortion webinar and conducted awareness presentations.

However, it is important to note and not to lose sight of the fact that extortion represents organised criminal activity. Its rise in our nation in recent years demonstrates what is already well-known, that criminals are able to operate sophisticated networks, including extortion rings, with impunity, in large part due to the collapse of the investigative capacity within the law enforcement community of South Africa.

Extortion rings cannot survive in an environment of strong investigative and crime intelligence-gathering capacity. However, it is precisely what has been created in South Africa. And this, in turn, leads to the situation of alarming low public trust in the South African Police Service and other law enforcement bodies, leading to a situation in which many people feel that they have no choice but to pay extortion fees. It goes without saying, where this is not the case, extortion mafias would have had no reason to exist.

At present, and as has been placed on record *ad nauseam*, the capacity to investigate and gather intelligence on crime of any kind, including organised criminal rings, rests at the national level, primarily with the South African Police Service and this capacity, especially within the Western Cape, has been allowed to fail and fall apart.

So, you know, Speaker, in this province we see alarmingly high vacancy rates in that component of the SAPS. We see it especially among the detectives. I spoke earlier about the resources or the lack of resources and the position of the Western Cape Head of Crime Intelligence has also remained vacant since

the previous occupant was dismissed and then reinstated and then dismissed a second time after alleged misconduct.

At the same time, SAPS in the Western Cape, due to budget constraints, already does not spend sufficiently on these capabilities. Just recently, the Standing Committee on Police Oversight heard that while the national SAPS budget had expanded by 23% in the last seven years, the Western Cape's operational budget has increased by just 4%. We also know that the SAPS in the Western Cape typically spends the vast majority of its budget on visible policing, leaving little funding for the capabilities to investigate, target and dismantle extortion rings.

The Western Cape government has been clear in its desire to assist in bolstering investigative capacity and has repeatedly devoted its own resources to assisting, where legally possible. Examples include the provision of legal services to certain SAP stations in order to ensure that dockets are built with successful prosecutions in mind and, of course, the forthcoming establishment of the dedicated gang observatory in conjunction with the Global Initiative Against Transitional Organised Crime. However, it remains necessary that the SAPS and the decision-makers at the national level devote further resources [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, my apologies, please take your seat. Hon Ngqentsu, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes, hon Chair. I am worried about the relevance of the issues the Premier is getting to. If you read the question.

The SPEAKER: I am not going to dictate how the hon Premier responds. You have indicated you have a follow-up question. You can pose your follow-up question then, but that is not a point of order and, hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I think it is absolutely relevant when we are creating an initiative like this, where we are putting a monitoring space which will bolster SAPS' intelligence. So it is happening exactly in the government space of the Western Cape, which is not our mandate, but we will put these in place to make sure that we enable the bringing down or the tackling of this absolute cancerous scourge that is affecting so many of our citizens across this province.

And then it also remains necessary that the South African Police Services and decision-makers at the national level devote further resources into investigative mandates, or move to mandate and resource capable sub-national governments to assist in these matters. While non-policing interventions are important, extortion represents organised crime and must be treated as such. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thanks, hon Speaker. I hope I did put my question correctly in the chat group this time around.

Hon Premier, a very simple question: what can affected residents do in terms of reporting extortion? And would you regard the systems that are in place as sufficient? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, before you proceed, I want to remind hon members that you are allowed one follow-up question. In hon Walters' submission, there were two questions. Hon Premier, I am going to allow you to respond to the first one. Hon Walters, there is another opportunity. I will give you another opportunity to pose your second part of the question.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Obviously, if residents come across extortion then we must use the toll-free hotline. That is 0800 31 44 44. But I also think that is the reason why, in the initial answer to the question, along with the global initiative, we are putting in this facility, which is able to anonymise, and this is a focus on gangs, to anonymise information so that it can be – it is public information, but it gets anonymised so it can be used by police. It was part of the discussion we had with SAPS today and we spoke about it in Cabinet yesterday, with the police leadership. Once this is up and running, obviously it is an open platform but the information can be distilled so that that information can be used as part of crime intelligence-gathering to enable police to act. And, of course, that is critical, but we call on citizens to report it. We know that they are quite scared of it, but they will be secure using

this number. They must use the number.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Premier. I recognise hon Ngqentsu and then hon Walters again. Hon member, you are muted.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes. Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thanks, hon Premier. Having listened to your response in respect of the question posed by hon Bans, I think for members of this House as well as the citizens of the Western Cape to properly understand your responses, they may perhaps need to get an understanding from the Premier as to what he understands the root causes of extortion in the Western Cape to be, that enables all of us to understand your response in context. Thanks, hon Premier. Thanks, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Obviously, organised crime is something that has been around for a very long time. I think that perhaps what we saw in our country was an exacerbation of it during the pandemic time. We also saw the general gangsterism trade change and extortion became part of how they behaved, and it had to change in order to get different forms of income. I think the problem is that it has not been dealt with decisively and quickly enough and now it has almost become a cancer that runs through society all over the place.

And, as I said in the reply, organised crime and extortion, this is specialist

crime that needs to be dealt with decisively and specifically, using special teams, intelligence and the best that we can get. And, of course, it is very difficult when you do not have a properly resourced policing system, when you do not have the investigative powers and all that, while that is happening. It just seems to be almost like a runaway fire and that is probably what drives other provinces, the same as us, to say, well, we have now had enough, we want to see a change in policing and we want to see a change in the constitutional mandate given to national government and actually enable provinces to be more involved. Because it does need a specialist focus and it is something that is affecting so many citizens across our province and this is the difficulty.

And I will continue to say, we will call for it over and over and over again. And this is one component of the crime that hits our region.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, apologies. There is a hand up. Hon Ngqentsu, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The hon Premier should not abuse the platform. He must not tell us how organised crime evolved. The question was clear. What does he understand are the causes of extortion in the Western Cape?

The SPEAKER: Hon member, [Interjection.] ... hon member, the way you have posed your question, it is not for the Chair to adjudicate on the response and, for that reason, this is not a point of order. I am going to allow you another opportunity, as you indicated, but that is not a point of order. The Chair has never adjudicated on the input provided by a Minister or, in this case, the Premier.

Hon Nkondlo, is that a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yes, Chair. And that remains the problem in how this House is managed, because what is the point of asking questions if you do not have any authority on the response, because the response can be everything and anything. Then it means we are just playing with time. How is it possible that somebody can just respond in whatever way, even if it is away from the question posed?

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, I have ruled. I think I have previously ruled, or the Chairs have previously ruled that a submission based on a question posed, it is not for the Chair to adjudicate and, whether the person likes the response or not, that is the response. And for that reason there are other mechanisms that you can also use. So, in this case, I have now ruled on this matter. Hon Ngqentsu, you will get another opportunity to pose another follow-up question, but I have ruled on this matter. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I think I was basically at the end and I

am sure that if the hon Ngqentsu goes back and has a look at what I answered, he will see I answered his question.

But secondly, I also hope that he, in his current political party or perhaps in his new political party, will do exactly as I asked before. We need to bring about change. Crime in our province is needing to be dealt with differently and I would hope that we all agree to that and we all get together to say, let us actually find solutions in dealing with extortion, gangsterism, murder, rape, the whole bang shoot. We need to change it in our country. It is a blight and a cancer across this country.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I think my second question was, in fact, answered in the first response, so it is not necessary for me to ask that.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Do you think, Premier, we will ever win the war against crime and extortion if we are led by a Premier that is clueless and nonchalant about violent crime and murders in this province? And why do you not just resign?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: And that is the answer. Hon members, are there any further follow-ups?

Ms N D Nkondlo (ANC): No responses now, no long-winded response.

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, that is unparliamentary, against the rules when we do virtual sittings. No interjections are allowed. There is a final follow-up question from hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I want to understand on this question of the root causes of extortion, do you not think that the number of squatter camps in Cape Town, in particular, and the chronic crisis of underdevelopment which manifested itself, of course, through squatter camps among other things, are part of the root causes of extortion in working-class townships in Cape Town, in particular?

The PREMIER: No, I would not say so. Thank you, hon Speaker. No, I would not say so, because you can have migration of people, informal settlements, poverty, all sorts of influencing factors, which I think the hon member is trying to refer to, in one part of a region and it will not have an extortion problem, and you might have it in another. So I would say that evidence does not support what he is saying.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question 2.

Schools: safety interventions

5. Mr P Johnson asked the Minister of Education:

What interventions are in place to protect learners' safety at schools?

The SPEAKER: We move on to Question 5 and I recognise the Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member for putting the question on the whole topic of safety in our schools.

Now, we have discussed the safety programmes currently in place within our department and, of course, collaborations with law enforcement and other departments and, of course, non-governmental organisations, extensively in the House. But I do think it is worth repeating some of the detail, considering the impact that safety matters have on teaching and learning at schools in the Western Cape.

Hon members would be aware that, in partnership with the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Education Department has facilitated the deployment of 82

of what we call School Resource Officers at schools, principally within the City of Cape Town. A risk-based, needs-driven allocation model is used to determine which schools will receive SROs. By that, I mean where they are most likely to reduce immediate safety threats, stabilise high-risk school environments and, of course, support sustained safe teaching and learning conditions.

The allocation, of course, is generally informed by a combination of safety risk indicators, contextual vulnerability, and operational feasibility, considering crime and incident data, geographic crime hotspots, school safety profiles and, of course, vulnerability, socio-economic and community context, and then, of course, strategic priority areas.

Hon members will know that an area-based team approach is a methodology applied in a number of priority areas across the Western Cape, which brings together law enforcement agencies under the control of the South African Police Service, national, provincial, and local government role players, as well as community-based structures, NGOs, and experts aimed at coordinating and maximising collective impact. Schools at risk are those where learners and teachers are negatively impacted by violence, bullying, harassment, the influence of substance use and, of course, gang violence.

In addition, there is, as hon members are aware, a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Basic Education and the National South African Police Service, which requires all schools to be linked to their local SAPS precinct, with the sector commander ensuring regular visits to

schools and patrols in the areas around schools, particularly in peak hours, such as the start and, of course, the end of the school day.

Of course, we also have a big emphasis on partnerships. Schools are encouraged to collaborate with parents, with community leaders, local organisations and Government departments, such as Community Police Forums, Neighbourhood Watches and law enforcement agencies to create a safer environment around schools. A whole-of-society approach, as many hon members know, goes a long way to improving communities and in addressing the scourge of crime and violence. And, of course, to this end, schools are always reminded that it is important to involve the community in identifying the challenges and possible solutions. Schools with strong support in the community are often safe schools.

Hon members would also know that schools have school safety committees. The Department provides training to schools on the functionality of each school safety committee, which, of course, is a subcommittee of the school governing body. And a school safety committee can function proactively to ensure the Nine-Point Safe Schools Planning Process is in place, which traverses, *inter alia*, obviously establishing a school safety committee, making safety part of the school's vision, conducting safety audits at schools, setting out major objectives, developing particularly a comprehensive safety plan, selecting and implementing safety strategies, of course, conducting audits of other safety plans in the area, creating clusters of schools and obviously evaluating and assessing progress periodically with the school safety committee.

There is also a big emphasis on security infrastructure. Schools, as hon members know, are provided with the necessary security mechanisms and training in developing an effective access control policy and are constantly reminded to ensure the effective implementation of access control.

Schools are also encouraged to liaise with their local police stations to do periodic patrols, and the armed response companies are also requested to do more frequent patrols, as we believe that visible law enforcement, of course, is a good deterrent to those who want to unlawfully enter school premises.

Hon members, there is also a big emphasis on psychosocial support. Many hon members would be aware of our Abuse No More Protocol, which spells out in detail the roles and responsibilities of all parties in dealing with the cases of abuse. It prescribes an approach for employees of the department to identify, to intervene, to report, and to provide support in cases of child abuse, deliberate neglect, and to children who are victims of sexual offences. Bullying is, of course, regarded as serious misconduct in terms of national guidelines and regulations published in terms of the South African Schools Act, and schools must deal with bullying in terms of their code of conduct.

The department has published extensive guidelines on managing discipline at schools, including, most importantly, dealing with bullying and addressing bullying is part of the interventions laid out in the framework. Learners who experience any kind of abuse, bullying or any other safety risk at schools can phone the Safe Schools Call Centre on the toll-free number 0800 45 46 47 for

assistance.

The Safe Schools Division provides extramural youth development programmes to build capacity for positive behaviour, addressing aggressive and violent behaviour. Psychologists and counsellors and social workers are based at district offices and provide training for teachers in a variety of programmes, including, of course, understanding behaviour, managing misbehaviour in the classroom, connecting with troubled learners and, of course, leadership training.

They also provide training programmes for learners, covering areas such as anti-violence programmes, specific training in anti-bullying strategies, anger management strategies, diversion programme for learners at risk of suspension and expulsion, and they also provide both individual and group counselling and therapeutic support to learners who report that they are being bullied.

All schools, of course, are encouraged to develop effective school-based support teams in order to provide an avenue of support for educators who have to deal with learners who are experiencing or manifesting barriers to learning in their classrooms. Staff from the Specialised Learner and Educator Support component in the district regularly conduct parenting skills training workshops at schools, as well as providing information on effective child-rearing practices. This includes guidance for parents on how to assist their children to deal with the pressures exerted by social media. Learners who participate in Safe Schools After-School Programmes recognise the negative influences that

social ills have on the lives of young people. These programmes attempt to restore positive values in their schools and communities as a way of preventing these problems and reducing the negative impact on young people. Through these programmes, learners gain knowledge and skills in sports and arts and cultural activities. They are exposed to different kinds of information that assist them to make informed decisions and choices in life. Learners get the opportunity to learn leadership, to learn strategic planning skills and to participate in these programmes.

Importantly, at-risk learners get involved in discussions and social activities with peers in an environment that encourages positive thinking and constructive behaviour and discourages self-destructive attitudes. Participation in annual camp outings also allows learners to engage in adult-supervised fun and educational activities. And, of course, the objectives of these various programmes are to modify negative behaviour and attitudes, reduce absenteeism, engage in active involvement in diversion programmes through sports and arts and culture, to create safe learning environments, to install a value system and to provide training sessions on creative and constructive approaches to conflict resolution.

They also advocate for the elimination of harmful practices imposed on learners at risk and provide positive influence on learners and communities. As hon members are aware, we are obviously also very concerned about gang violence and, to a large extent, our schools provide safe havens for learners who live in communities plagued by violence and gangsterism. However, our schools are

not immune to these social ills, as hon members know, because they are rooted in communities they serve.

The Western Cape Education Department chairs the Priority Committee on School Safety with the Provjoints, with representation by all departments whose goal, of course, is to promote safer school communities for learners and staff in the Western Cape and they do that with effective collaboration and partnerships.

The Anti-Gang Strategy Priority Committee of the Provjoints is led by the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, which, of course, includes implementing anti-gang intervention programmes. Our district officers work with schools to provide various forms of support, including gang-related behaviour problems. And, of course, these activities involve back-to-school campaigns, meetings with parents, absenteeism reduction operations, crime awareness, positive behaviour programmes, leadership camps and, of course, working with representatives of councils of learners.

Hon members might also be aware that the Western Cape Education Department Circular 005/2017 outlines the protocol that must be followed when an incident happens at a school. This is also included in the procedural manual on managing safety and security within our institutions. In general, it is always, of course, preferable to keep a school open when an incident has occurred in a community, to keep learners off the streets and in a safe place. Where we do need to close schools early, it must obviously be done in an orderly manner in coordination

with the district, so the information we receive from SAPS is essential in making these decisions.

Of course, what causes great concern is often, hon members, the amount of fake news about incidents that have occurred or even incidents that have never even happened that causes parents to panic and to come to school to fetch their children. We are very concerned about fake news in relation to these kinds of incidents and we do appeal to everyone to be very conscious and cautious about what information is shared when it has not been verified or does not come from official sources. Fake news makes it so much harder for our school staff and for our officials to handle safety incidents when they arise.

And, finally, we place a great emphasis on reporting and supporting our schools. The Western Cape Education Department is committed to continuous monitoring and the implementation of innovative strategies to prevent safety incidents. A real-time monitoring system that allows for the immediate identification of potential risks through data analytics and reporting tools is maintained by our Safe Schools Call Centre. The system is integrated with existing school management platforms to track incidents of violence, of bullying and, of course, incidents in relation to other safety concerns. And what this does is enable proactive interventions.

To ensure the effectiveness of these initiatives, the department regularly reviews and updates its safety protocols involving key stakeholders in the process. When reports are received by the Safe Schools Call Centre, they follow

a structured process to ensure they are dealt with effectively and, of course, appropriately.

These are just some of the initiatives and activities that our officials, our schools, our staff and, of course, the wider school communities, use to improve learner safety, and I certainly appeal to our hon members to support our schools in this effort. Thank you very much.

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

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for the reply. Through you, hon Speaker, Minister, you have briefly touched on bullying in schools, but I would like to know from you, if any parent feels that an incident of abuse or bullying has not been suitably handled by the school, what options are available to the parents? Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much for the question. I did, as the hon member notes, make fairly substantial, if you like, submissions on the whole question of bullying.

I think it is very important to understand that our Abuse No More Protocol spells out roles and responsibilities for all parties, dealing with any form of

abuse, including bullying. And bullying, as I said, is covered by, and is considered to be serious misconduct in terms of our National Guidelines and in terms of the South African Schools Act, and it is vital that schools deal with bullying in terms of their code of conduct.

But as the hon member rightly points out, from time to time, parents will not feel satisfied that an incident of bullying has been dealt with suitably. So, at the end of the day, schools must address bullying incidents in terms of their Code of Conduct. So, for the parent who does not believe that an incident has been dealt with suitably, their first port of call must be to raise their concerns with the school principal. Even if, after raising the issue with the school principal, a parent feels that an incident has still not been addressed to their satisfaction, they then have the option of escalating their complaint to the district office.

I would also remind the hon member and also any parents who might be in the session, that they always have the option of being in contact with our Safe Schools Helpline and that number is 0800 45 46 47. I will repeat that, 0800 45 46 47. And, of course, our Safe Schools Call Centre stands by with qualified psychologists and social workers to provide parents, or indeed learners, with guidance on the steps that they need to take and they are also on standby to provide advice to any parent or learner in relation to bullying, or indeed in relation to any other incident of abuse, including, for example, any sexual offences, abuse or neglect. Thank you.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Good day to the Minister. Hon Speaker, I would just like to thank the Minister for his response and I note all the soft approaches that have been taken in terms of the Nine-Point Safety Plan and programmes that he has got running that serve as intervention ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please pose the question.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I just wanted to get to the matter regarding the use of weapons. It is a physical metal that is being used to injure another pupil and has your department discussed the possibility of installing metal detectors as an intervention to ensure the safety of children, without compromising the environment, the learning environment?

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, in the interests of the citizens watching and that question being allowed, I am going to ask you to please respond, but please do so keeping in mind that the time for questions has expired.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I will be brief. We

do, of course, support our schools and invest extensively in what we call target hardening. That includes investments, for example, in alarms, gates, security gates, intercoms and, of course, fences to support our schools with target hardening. But we have not, at this stage, given any consideration to the use of metal detectors. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

We now move on to questions to the Premier without notice in terms of Rule 204. I just want to remind hon members that it is only the member that is posing the question to the Premier that may ask follow-up questions, and that member has got two opportunities for follow-up questions. The first member is hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. My question to the Premier is that, I think last week, as the Standing Committee on Agriculture, we received the report that revealed what was in the study of the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey, that actually we have 54.7% of households in the Western Cape that are experiencing some level of food insecurity. And I am interested to know what the Premier and his Government are doing about this situation?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much, hon Nkondlo, for that question and I think it is really a very good question, because I think all of our citizens are feeling this pinch and that is a very distressing number. In actual fact, there are a couple of numbers, not only the one in that report, there are also a couple of issues that are raised through our policy team, and have been for a while, around nutrition, stunting as a result of low nutrition levels. And through those reports, obviously, your question is, so what is being done about it?

I am going to start off with, there are a whole range of areas of intervention, on the one side. And, of course, I think our main Apex Priority in the Western Cape is one of growth and jobs, because nothing puts food on your table like a job. Nothing changes that malnutrition like having an income. And so we will continue to make sure that that is the biggest focus because, of course, these numbers are not only the Western Cape numbers, they are South Africa's numbers too. And the malnutrition has various gradings to it.

So I think the first straight-off intervention, which has been there for a while, would be a school feeding scheme. And obviously nearly half a million or just over half a million of our learners do get a meal at school in the school system. But, of course, sometimes that, overlaid with a nutrition map and delivery of nutrition in the system, could be a pathway and we have started looking at it. In actual fact, the working committee in the Cabinet, headed by Minister Wenger, on specifically nutrition, but then it also feeds into the focus committee that meets regularly as a subcommittee of Cabinet, which deals with

education, health, social development. It is in that platform that we have these reports.

We have asked the question: would it perhaps be beneficial if we could send a meal home over the weekend with a learner, because a learner like that gets a meal during the week, during the school day, what happens over the weekend, what happens during school holidays? And it is a question we ask and that is one intervention.

I think the stunting number is even more frightening because, through a family that is malnourished, a child also does not get any opportunity into life if we cannot deal with that stunting. And that is again another project which I think is very, very exciting and that is the Khulisa Care project.

We have spoken about it a number of times, but for those hon members that perhaps are not *au fait*, that is where the Health Department, the DG Murray Trust, the Shoprite Checkers business partner came on board, our universities. The Health Department then identify, either through pre-natal or post-natal checkups through our clinic system, whether either a mother or child is malnourished, undersized, and that is where that focus goes in. It is a sort of like extension to the first thousand days that we focused on for a while, but that then says how do we get a nutritious meal or booster to that child to get the child to the relevant weight that is needed so that they can actually develop as a normal child, that they have got the nutrition during the formation stage of their brain so that they are not disadvantaged going into the school system,

not disadvantaged throughout life and of course that really is, I think, a major intervention.

Then of course there are the nutrition schemes that come through DSD, and the programmes that get run through various departments in the Department of Health identifying people who are underweight, these are all various programmes that look at nutrition, food security. Of course those are interventions. At the same time we were hugely optimistic at the start of this year, but I think what is happening in the fuel fight that is happening around Iran and the implications, first of all just on the cost of fuel, we are seeing that now as an implication for inflation, which again is going to exacerbate this number.

So obviously it is worrying, we have a team that looks at it, we look at the various levels and how do we break it down. I remember even in the last meeting, even in my own analysis, I was asking that perhaps we could do a GIS mapping because it is not only Government interventions, I think there is a range of amazing private sector NGO interventions into food security as well, and these are from food banks to soup kitchens, big CSI funded organisations.

How do we map where those meals are going because it does not help if a family gets a meal through a soup kitchen, gets a meal through a big intervention, because their children are getting a meal at school, are also part of the Khulisa care, something coming through a social worker and intervention from that side, and the same family is getting all of that support, when perhaps GIS mapping

it will find a community somewhere where they do not get any of those supports. That really is concerning.

So we have asked that we look at a GIS mapping of where the food security is analysed, where interventions are in place, both public and private, so that we can start to identify if there are any major gaps in the system.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon member Nkondlo, your first opportunity for a follow-up.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): So, hon Premier, with what you are saying with the number of interventions that you have just indicated, are you telling us that at this point, as Provincial Government, you cannot tell us, you do not know where exactly are the households that are experiencing food hunger as a province, since you are still looking for GIS maps to tell you where are the interventions?

So all of the things that you are doing as Government, as you said there are a number of interventions, what informs those interventions if you are still looking for GIS mapping of those?

The PREMIER: So we know where the Government ones are, but I do not know where the private sector ones are. Where is Auntie Mary's Soup Kitchen delivering soup and where is the food pantry delivering food parcels, where is Gift of the Givers involving food solutions? We do not have that data, so that

is what we have asked for now.

We can give you, and if you want to put a written question or a question in to say which of those Government interventions are in place and in which areas they are - I did not know what question you were going to ask - I can just tell you what I know. We can give you the Government spaces, but I have said how do we map all of the interventions?

So it is our ones and then the private sector, NGO space, the small to big interventions, soup kitchens, etcetera, and then how do we then see is there a gap? Because of course you started off by this number and it is a concerning number, and there are various ranges to that number which are concerning.

I must say I think it is something that is obviously seemingly distressing the Presidency as well because I was very encouraged when Operation Vulindlela asked me to explain what I have just said to the hon members around Khulisa Care, because the President was also not happy by looking at these numbers across our country and was very interested in one of our interventions, which was this one on Khulisa Care.

So looking at how do we actually take the learnings from the Western Cape into other areas of South Africa, but the mapping is who else is doing it and how do we map it?

I do not know if we will ever get to a full accurate number because I spoke to

a lady today in Tafelsig who says she operates a soup kitchen. She was very grateful for the last time I saw her, which was about a year ago, and she needed a gas cooker and some pots, and she does soup kitchens for the most in need, but she said she cannot do it all the time, but she does it every now and again at least once or twice in a month. How do we map that? Who is actually getting that benefit?

So that is, for example, why I am asking that question about GIS mapping. It is not the Government interventions, it is the private sector interventions and primarily that is to look for a risk analysis to say are there areas where no one is actually intervening, and that is what we really need to look at.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon member Nkondlo, your final opportunity.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, maybe we must adopt the National Assembly approach, where a member is allowed, because the hon Premier and myself, perhaps he missed what I was asking because I was asking where are the households that have been indicated in the studies? Are they aware so that the interventions that they are doing are actually informed by those?

Actually the study in 2024 tells you that the City of Cape Town is the highest in all the metros, it is leading with 240 970 households in the City of Cape Town, and the question is where are these households, where are the programmes of Government that the hon Premier is talking about, so that we

can be able to say whether the interventions that we are doing are making any reduction onto this specific number?

So that was the question that I was asking, is do we have programmes and to understand where exactly. One question, hon Premier, in Khayelitsha and Gugulethu, as an example, in one of the studies of the UCT, these two have been actually mentioned as the highest areas where you find food hunger.

The question again, what are the Government interventions in Gugulethu, in Khayelitsha, which are directly to the households that have been mapped by Government and where Government is spending its resources? So that we can follow up in oversight and see those programmes.

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

The PREMIER: So as I said previously, we can give that to you, you just need to put it in writing, we will show you exactly where they are, what decision making was put in place as to why that intervention was in place in that specific area. We can give that to you, no problem, you just need to put that in writing. It is very hard to give you those nuts and bolts when it is an unannounced question without notice.

I think I have answered your question into what those interventions are amongst probably many more, but we can give you all of that detail should you need it.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I just ask the clock to be stopped. Hon member, Nkondlo, is that a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker. I thought you were going to do it yourself. This is the purpose of unannounced. The hon Premier cannot want to be the one that dictates what is it that I must ask in a written question because I also do not have any prescription that says for an unannounced question this is what I can ask. It is unfair of him to choose not to answer my question on the basis that I must put it in writing because then it deprives me of the questions that I am asking.

The SPEAKER: I hear your concern, hon member Nkondlo. I think I heard the hon Premier saying he does not have the information at hand and he will provide it to you by using different mechanisms.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): He does not know. The answer is he does not know.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon member Nkondlo, I am not going to get into a dialogue. You raised a point of order, I am responding to you on that point of order because I heard the hon Premier stating that he will provide you with that information, and that is nothing new, whether it is oral questions that gets asked as a follow-up in the House, or any other mechanism. That is nothing new. I am going to continue.

Ms N D NKONDLO: But you are biased, hon Speaker, because now you are

adjudicating on the question, but you had said previously you do not adjudicate.

The SPEAKER: No, no, no, no, I am not adjudicating on the question ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): No, you are.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, if you rise on a point of order and you do not agree with my ruling, there is again a mechanism. I am telling you what I have heard as the Presiding Officer. I am not adjudicating on the content, on the input, I am giving you what was stated and can be read from the Hansard. Hon member Christians, you may continue.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Premier, the ongoing Western Cape housing crisis negatively impacts our communities with overcrowding, backyard dwellers and unsafe informal settlements. This fuels social instability, hopelessness and rising inequality amongst communities.

What is your Government doing to address this housing crisis because the demand is more than the supply? In Cape Town, for instance, we had 400 000 a couple of years ago, 2024. Now we have 600 000 people on the waitlist just in the City of Cape Town.

So the demand is more because of the immigration in the Western Cape. What is your Government going to do differently because we are falling behind year

after year? Thank you, hon Premier.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I think obviously the first part of that question is that the more that people come to this province to look for housing opportunities, work opportunities, that does not drive a budget change.

So we do not just suddenly get more money because people migrate here. Unfortunately, I wish it was the other way around, and when it does happen it happens years later. In actual fact if you read the last piece written by hon Minister Simmers, it will show that in reality, in actual fact, the Human Settlements budget has decreased to the province year on year in real terms.

So that in itself is a major problem. It would be really nice if everybody was fighting for more budget.

Secondly, I think that is why we drive so hard that, exactly as I said, in poverty, nothing changes your poverty line like a job, nothing enables you to have your own home like a job, and it is going to be very difficult for the Western Cape, it is going to be very difficult for South Africa, to build ourselves out of every single person getting a free house that needs one.

We have got to try and find a mix that enables us to do it. I think some of the innovative ways in which we have been approaching this problem are very

interesting. We are trying new things and I think the innovations and the things that we are trying in the Western Cape, I am seeing them as being influencing decision making in other provinces.

So, for example, I think the biggest project that is trying to change the way we do things has been the Conradie site, and I am sure the hon member has been there a few times. The really exciting part for me is that now in Phase 2, where it has got commercial activity, it has got schools, even an Apex private school now being built there. That has influenced how our thinking has been on delivering of housing.

So quite frankly I look at the change in the announcements that have been made around affordable housing just in the inner city. I think about the number of properties that we have announced as a provincial intervention that comes on the back of the learnings there. It is not as if it is only in the City of Cape Town. I think about the developments in Mossel Bay, I think about the developments in George, in Saldanha Bay and in Drakenstein, and how we are trying to do these things differently.

Of course, what we deliver versus the budget has also changed over time. If I think about those initial houses that were delivered 30 years ago and 20 years ago in this province, you will see them if you go out to some of those rural areas, they really have not been a substantial investment because they have broken, they are falling to pieces.

Of course, the citizens have demanded much more than one little square box, which was delivered in those days. I must say that some of these housing developments that I have gone to see when hon Minister Simmers and his team have opened them and handed them over, they have substantially changed over time.

I come back to the initial part of the question, which was we have got this ever growing pressure on our system and in actual fact waiting lists are getting longer and not shorter. I do not know if there is any part of South Africa where the waiting list is dealt with and getting shorter, other than perhaps places like Butterworth, but that means everybody is leaving and maybe there is not so much demand anymore.

That is our problem in the province. We have a province that you have a better chance of getting a job than in any other province and so it attracts more people. You get the healthcare, etcetera, and that puts the pressure on us. I would be very happy for the hon member to actually come up with some different solutions on how we could innovatively solve this problem. It is about a policy position, it is about how we have to deliver housing, both free as well as affordable.

Perhaps one last point on that is an initiative tried by the City of Cape Town, which I think is going to start to bear fruit, is where people in the past received a home on a piece of land and the City has given them the opportunity by giving them the planning approvals, discounting the initial costs of development and

enabling a single HOP-huis as we know it, to then actually almost be demolished and six higher density units go up on that same property, which enables that individual to have not only their home, but actually up to six homes on their property. It enables them to build wealth over time, it fixes a demand problem and starts to supply more homes where it is not only Government supplying, but other people.

Then I think also that what we have seen by the private sector now starting to look at affordable housing in a better way because it is not only Government that is going to deliver, I think private sector also has to come in and see because of supply and demand they can also compete. Even if we have got to just put a small subsidy in they can start to compete in the affordable housing market.

That is what we are seeing about the Inner City development, where we are putting it out to tender with our properties. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Questions to the Premier without Notice. We move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145 and I recognise the DA.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr D BRYANT: (DA): Hon Speaker, National Government has finally classified the recent severe flooding and high winds in the Western Cape as a

disaster, a necessary step for the Province to access disaster relief funding from National Treasury.

Importantly, the DA in the Western Cape extends its deepest condolences to the families of the 11 people who tragically lost their lives. We also express sincere gratitude to Disaster Management teams, emergency personnel, volunteers and ordinary residents who stepped up during this crisis.

Hon Speaker, the disaster has affected more than 103 000 residents across the province, with approximately 13 350 structures impacted in Cape Town alone. At least 11 lives have been lost, while around 651 people were rescued during the emergency response phase. In addition, 104 schools sustained damage. Humanitarian relief efforts have delivered more than 18 000 cooked meals, 3 000 blankets and thousands of additional relief items to displaced households.

Infrastructure impacts remain significant, with major routes such as the N1 and the Huguenot Tunnel reopened, while many secondary roads and bridges remain damaged. Electricity restoration has reached approximately 72% of affected areas, with further recovery ongoing across municipalities.

The DA-led Western Cape Government has consistently demonstrated that it is prepared, capable and willing to act decisively during disasters. Through continuous infrastructure monitoring, 24/7 pass systems and rapid activation of emergency protocols, the Province responded swiftly.

Rescue operations included helicopter deployments from health services, SAPS ...[Interjections.] and the SANDF, while coordinated teams from EMS, NSRI and the SAPS Water Wing rescued hundreds of residents.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr D BRYANT: (DA): While recovery will take time ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, kindly conclude, please.

Mr D BRYANT: (DA): ...this response again demonstrates that effective disaster management remains one of the Western Cape's core strengths. Thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): The ANC Caucus in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament welcomes and congratulates the Leader of the Opposition, Muhammad Khalid Sayed, on being internationally honoured at the Billionaires for Peace Conclave in Mumbai, India, as an “I am Peacekeeper” champion peace and justice awardee by four Nobel Peace Prize laureates today.

This recognition comes at a time when the Western Cape increasingly resembles

a killing field for the poor, where gang violence, gender-based violence, femicide, drugs and deepening social neglect continue to rob our communities of safety and dignity.

In the face of this crisis, comrade Sayed has diligently and fearlessly executed his responsibility as Leader of the Opposition, ensuring that the suffering of ordinary people is not normalised or ignored.

Under his leadership the ANC Caucus has consistently held the DA-led Provincial Government accountable for its failures in protecting vulnerable communities, confronting rising violence and responding adequately to the cries of women and children living under constant fear.

The international recognition affirms that the work of defending communities, advancing justice and fighting for peace in the Western Cape do not go unnoticed. It confirms that principled opposition politics rooted in the struggles of the people carries global significance.

The ANC Caucus believes this honour is not only a recognition of one individual, but also a recognition of the resilience of the people of the Western Cape, whose struggles continue to inspire the fight for justice and accountability. We congratulate comrade Muhammad Khalid Sayed on this prestigious international honour and wish him well as he represents the people of the Western Cape on the global stage. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the PA.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise today with deep concern and frustration regarding the collapsing state of healthcare services in the Cape Metro and across many hospitals in the Western Cape.

What our people are experiencing is not poor service delivery, it is a humanitarian crisis unfolding inside our public hospitals. This past weekend, during a visit to Karl Bremer Hospital, I witnessed heartbreaking scenes. Patients were sitting in long queues for days without receiving proper medical attention. Elderly people were lying on chairs, on the floor, exhausted and in pain, while waiting for a bed to become available. Families stood helplessly in overcrowded passages, desperate for answers that never came.

At hospitals such as Kraaifontein and Delft Day Hospital the situation is equally alarming. Patients are arriving for urgent medical assistance, only to be forced to sit outside for hours, sometimes entire days, before they are helped. There are simply not enough staff members at the reception to process files, not enough nurses to attend to patients and not enough doctors to provide urgent care.

A particularly painful case in Kraaifontein involved a gentleman who suffered a serious injury at work on Tuesday. After falling head first from scaffolding he was rushed to hospital in critical condition, only to be placed in a wheelchair and pushed outside to sit under a dome while waiting for assistance. No human

being in need of urgent medical care should ever be treated in such a manner.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our healthcare workers are trying their best under impossible conditions. They are overworked, understaffed, emotionally exhausted and forced to operate in facilities that cannot cope with the growing demand. The blame cannot rest solely on frontline workers when the system itself is failing both staff and patients.

This week this House approved B5-2026 Budget, but the people of the Western Cape now need to see whether this Budget will truly speak to the crisis in our hospitals and healthcare facilities. Budgets cannot only exist on paper while patients suffer and they are waiting in passages and outside emergency units.

Healthcare in our country, especially in the Cape Metro, is reaching disaster levels. Our people deserve dignity, they deserve timely ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon member.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...medical treatment, they deserve hospitals that heal, not hospitals where suffering is prolonged. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the DA.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Agb Adjunkspeaker, vir wie het u *ge-recognise*?

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker, who did you recognise?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Mr N K MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker... [Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, this is a bittersweet month of May. It was in May that South Africa became the number one exporter of citrus in the world. The DA takes this opportunity to acknowledge our farmers for their resilience, despite the many challenges they continue to face.

For long our citrus farmers have been caught in trade disputes on multiple fronts, from citrus black spots to False Codling Moth regulations, where the European Union imposed a strict mandatory and treatment regime. South Africa advocated for its existing systems approach, but these concerns fell on deaf ears.

In June 2022 EU introduced stringent regulations requiring all citrus imports from affected regions to undergo specific cold treatment protocols aimed at eliminating potential pests. This required oranges to be pre-cooled to below 2°C for up to 25 days before importation. However, this method is extremely expensive and causes chilling injury to organic and premium-quality fruit, rendering it unsellable. The South African citrus industry is estimated to lose

approximately R3,7 billion annually in compliance costs and damaged stock. The matter remains locked in a tense stalemate at the World Trade Organisation, while South Africa's citrus industry continues to face severe financial pressure as the legal process drags on.

Now farmers are once again under pressure, this time due to the devastating floods that have wreaked havoc across the province. The severe weather system has left a multi-billion rand trail of destruction across the province's agricultural heartlands, resulting in widespread structural damage to orchards, vineyards, packhouses and critical transport infrastructure.

Farmers need urgent assistance and they cannot afford to lose markets due to delays in processing support.

Furthermore, BBBEE requirements must not become an obstacle to disaster relief assistance for our farmers. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Masipa. I have noted that there is no EFF member present, hence I will recognise the NCC. I recognise the NCC.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Vandag wil die NCC hulle diep ontevredenheid uitspreek oor die optrede van die DA in terme van ons plaaswerkers.

Dinge het so erg geraak nou op plase waar *even members*, en meer spesifiek ekself, deur 'n plaas in die *High Court* ge-interdik is om nie die plaas te betree om uitsettings te stop nie. Huidiglik, as lid van die Provinsiale Wetgewer, sit ek met 'n interdik teen my om nie 'n plaas te betree nie. 'n Paar weke gelede op die plaas High Noon in die Villiersdorp-area het 'n onwettige uitsetting plaasgevind, waar 'n sekuriteits-*company* genader is om 'n gesin uit te sit, en met die interdik op my kop het ek saam met die polisie tot op die plaas gegaan en ons het dit reggekry om die uitsetting te stop. Die Maandag na die Saterdag het die boer so ver gegaan om 'n dringende aansoek in die Hooggeregshof in Kaapstad te bring om die uitsetting te laat plaasvind.

Gelukkig vir hierdie plaaswerker het die NCC ingetree en gehelp met prokureurs vir hierdie plaaswerker, of die familie, en vandag kan ek met trots sê dat die uitsetting in die Hooggeregshof is nie toegestaan nie, en hierdie boer het die saak verloor in die Hooggeregshof met kostes.

Vandag is die NCC ontevrede, diep ontevrede. Dit is verkiesingstyd nou en jy sien die DA op die plase oral rond, maar as dit kom by die plaaswerkers en hul probleme, dan is hulle afwesig, en ons wil 'n oproep doen op ons plaaswerkers om die DA die rug te gee. Ek dank u, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

†Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Today the NCC wants to express their deep dissatisfaction about the actions of the DA in terms

of our farm workers.

Things have become so bad now on farms where even members, and more specifically myself, had been interdicted in the Supreme Court by a farm to not set foot on the farm to stop evictions. Currently as a member of the Provincial Legislature, I have an interdict against me not to set foot on the farm. A few weeks ago on the farm High Noon in the Villiersdorp area an unlawful eviction took place, where a security company was approached to evict a family, and with the interdict on my head I went to the farm with the police and we managed to stop the eviction. The Monday after the Saturday, the farmer went as far as filing an urgent application in the Supreme Court in Cape Town to allow the eviction to go ahead.

Fortunately for this farm worker the NCC intervened and assisted this farm worker, or the family, along with attorneys, and today I can proudly say that the eviction was not approved in the Supreme Court, and this farmer has lost the case in the Supreme Court with cost.

Today the NCC is dissatisfied, deeply dissatisfied. It is now election time and you see the DA all over the farms, but when it comes to the farm workers and their problems, then they are absent, and we want to call on our farm workers to turn their backs on the DA. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Michels. I recognise the ANC.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ANC caucus in the Western Cape Provincial Legislature conducted oversight at the Matthew Goniwe Clinic, and what we found was heartbreaking, unacceptable and deeply insulting to the people of Khayelitsha.

Thousands of residents are forced to queue for healthcare in a facility that is overcrowded, unsafe and collapsing under pressure, while the DA-led Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town continue to neglect poor and working class communities.

The clinic sees 400 patients daily and over 8 000 every month. Yet patients and healthcare workers are expected to operate in conditions marked by overcrowding, poor ventilation, infection risk, lack of privacy and severe staff shortages. Patients are sometimes treated in shared spaces because there are not enough consultation rooms. There is only one emergency bed in a facility serving one of the largest communities in the province. This is not dignity, this is not quality healthcare, this is neglect. Healthcare workers themselves describe the clinic as a health hazard that does not comply with occupational health and safety standards.

We demand urgent intervention to address occupational health and safety risks, expand staffing, restore patient dignity and deliver a properly funded new health care facility for Khayelitsha.

The ANC wants the people of Khayelitsha to know that their pain, frustration

and life reality are being raised inside this Legislature. We will not be silent while our people are treated as if their lives matter less. The ANC will continue with oversight visits because oversight is a constitutional responsibility, not a favour from the Executive. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Windvogel. I recognise the DA.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the restoration of Paarl Hospital following the devastating fire in January 2026, is now nearing completion, with major infrastructure repairs finalised and the face return of services already well-underway. What was initially expected to take up to 12 months has, through coordinated effort and disciplined implementation, been achieved in just six months, well ahead of schedule.

The Western Cape Government made R67 million available to support the urgent restoration and strengthening of the facility, ensuring continuity of care whilst repairs were underway. We commend the extraordinary commitment of healthcare workers, hospital management, infrastructure teams, contractors and support staff who ensured that services continued throughout this challenging period. Their professionalism and resilience made this rapid progress possible.

All major infrastructure work has now been completed, with most equipment and furniture delivered and installed. A number of outpatient and specialised services have already returned to restore areas of the hospital, with remaining

services expected to be fully operational by the first week in June 2026. This achievement is more than rebuilding infrastructure, it is about restoring access to care and upholding the dignity of every patient, depending on Paarl Hospital.

The DA in the Western Cape notes this kind of fast, efficient and disciplined delivery is only possible under a DA-led Government, where planning, accountability and decisive execution ensure that projects are delivered on time and often way ahead of schedule.

The DA in the Western Cape welcomes this milestone and thanks all those involved for ensuring that healthcare services are restored faster for the communities of Paarl and the surrounding areas. †Enkosi. [Thank you.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus wishes to raise a matter that emanates from a complaint received on 20 May 2026 from a resident in the Rheenendal community of Knysna.

†Die frustrasie van die betrokke inwoner bevat in die e-pos wat ons ontvang het, is omdat hierdie klagte sedert 7 Julie 2025 bestaan en was by die Knysna Munisipaliteit ingedien. Na talle geleenthede, stemnotas en e-posse, tot op hede is geen stappe gedoen om die probleem op te los nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The frustration of the citizen concerned contained in the e-mail we received, is because this complaint has existed since 7 July 2025 and was submitted at the Knysna Municipality. After numerous opportunities, voice notes and e-mails, no steps have been taken to date to solve the problem.]

The blue mobile and portable toilets were installed to accommodate informal settlements in Sonop Street of the community. However, it has unfortunately resulted in a stench due to failure on the part of the municipality to regularly service these toilets. Further to this, taps were installed to provide water to the informal settlement, but the wastewater now flows down the streets, creating health risks to children and residents living in formal houses in Sonop Street. These toilets must be relocated, serviced regularly and a suitable water drainage system must be considered immediately as winter rain worsens the situation.

†Ons doen dus 'n beroep op die Knysna Munisipaliteit om sy grondwetlike plig na te kom om 'n veilige en gesonde omgewing te bevorder, om die verskaffing van dienste aan die Rheenendal gemeenskap te verseker en om te verseker dat diensleweringkontrakteurs hulle kontraktuele verpligtinge nakom.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[We therefore call on the Knysna Municipality to fulfil its constitutional

obligation to promote a safe and healthy environment, to ensure the provision of services to the Rheenendal community and to ensure that service delivery contractors fulfil their contractual obligations.]

The Freedom Front Plus will therefore refer the details of this to the Mayor of Knysna and to the Department of Local Government, who has an oversight function for early intervention and action in the interest of the adversely affected residents and the public at large. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. †Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.] The Prophet Muhammad, Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam, [peace be upon him] said [speaking in the vernacular] actions are judged according to its intention. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ACDP in the Western Cape expresses deep concern regarding the ongoing challenges faced by learners living with cerebral palsy across the Western Cape.

Many vulnerable learners continue to face significant barriers of quality education, specialised healthcare support, accessible transport, dignified learning environments, long waiting lists for LSEN schools, shortages of therapists and inadequate disability-friendly infrastructure place an immense strain on both learners and their families.

In many communities parents are forced to travel great distances to access specialised education support for their children. Poverty and limited resources further exacerbate these hardships. The ACDP firmly believes that every child, regardless of disability, deserves an equal opportunity, dignity and access to quality education in a safe and supportive environment.

We therefore call on the Western Cape Government and the WCED to prioritise increased funding for LSEN schools, expand therapy services, improve learner transport systems and strengthen inclusive education programmes to ensure that no learner in this province is left behind. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. I have confirmed that the GOOD party is not present. I recognise the DA.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Standing Committee on Mobility recently conducted oversight at the Overberg Freight Rail Business Case pilot in Bredasdorp, a strategic initiative aimed at revitalising a key agricultural freight corridor in the Western Cape.

At present an estimated 99,8% of freight on this corridor is moved by road, with only 0,2% transported by rail, placing significant pressure on the N2 and increasing logistic costs for producers. This pilot seeks to shift at least 10% of freight from road to rail, which will remove approximately 40 000 trips annually from the N2, while reducing logistic costs by up to 30%.

The business case demonstrates that although the current volumes present a viability gap, long-term modelling shows strong public value. Over a 30 year horizon the shift to rail delivers major benefits through reduced congestion, lower emissions, fewer accidents and decreased road maintenance pressures. This is exactly the type of corridor-based freight reform that should be actively encouraged.

If we are serious about the freight reform we must back initiatives like the Overberg Corridor with the necessary investment and policy support to unlock long-term economic and environmental gains.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Professor Mbombo. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6) I now give one or more of the members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. Is there any member of the Executive?

In the order that hands are raised I will acknowledge the hon Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Deputy

Speaker. Just to respond to some of the statements made.

First, obviously we recognise that there is tremendous pressure on the system, but our healthcare workers really are doing their level best. This comes as a result of years of underfunding that the Western Cape has received for healthcare services, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, and then of course unhelpful things like DPSA regulations, which made it very difficult to recruit healthcare professionals into the service, but we are working as fast as we can to improve the services and strengthening the system as a whole.

We really do welcome the additional funding, which is allowing us to add over 825 additional staff members across the service and that include 316 nurses, 124 doctors, 38 allied health professionals, 80 emergency medical services personnel and 278 support services staff, which will make a huge difference. It is the first time in a very long time that we have a budget that is a real increase and we believe that the additional staff members will certainly help in relation to this.

On Karl Bremer specifically, just to mention that there is a repair and renovation project currently in Stage 4, which is preparation of the tender documentation, so it will be happening quite soon, which will address the occupational health and safety as well as fire risks, and will make a significant contribution to resolving the immediate maintenance concerns raised. The R and R project will also include measures to improve operational flow within the facility and alleviate some of the operational challenges that the hospital is currently facing.

In addition to this there is a new acute psychiatric unit in planning and this will also go a long way towards alleviating some of the pressures that the hon member has raised.

Further, hon Deputy Speaker, if I could say if hon members do come across issues within the healthcare system, please would they use the complaints mechanism to refer those to myself and we would happily investigate, and this also helps us to improve the services for everyone. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Wenger. I recognise hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I could not agree with the hon Ferlon Christians more, that special needs learners should have equal opportunities and safe and supportive environments, and that is precisely why this Government has prioritised special needs learners

If you look at the budget this year we will be providing an additional R78 million for learners on the spectrum with autism spectrum disorder and an additional R77 million for learners with profound and intellectual disabilities. We do this precisely to expand access to education for our special needs learners.

This was symbolised by the recent opening of our Neurodiversity Centre at the Axios School of Skills, which is a brand new world-class education facility for

learners with special needs in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, with one minute and 12 seconds remaining I see no further hands. That then concludes hon members' statements.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 151 all notices of motions by hon members required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper, these motions have been duly submitted and have been published under Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the persistent failure of race-based economic policies, such as BBBEE, to achieve genuine empowerment and the urgent need for a new framework for economic inclusion that targets disadvantage based on poverty rather than race.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the devastating impact of the recent severe

weather and flooding on the Western Cape's agricultural sector and rural infrastructure.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now proceed in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150, Motions without Notice pertaining to condolences and congratulations were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 19 May 2026. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolences will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been duly informed at the Programming Authority meeting on 19 May 2026 political parties submitted the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who have wished to move a motion without notice in this sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the minutes, call out the hon members' names who have accordingly been submitted and approved. The following members' motions have been recommended for approval by the Programming Authority. It is hon member Stoffel, hon member Nkondlo, hon member Bans, hon member Stoffel, hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Masipa, hon member Bosman and hon member Bryant.

I now put the motions duly submitted and recommended for approval by the

Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections, hon members?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of Proceedings and in Hansard in each individual hon member's name as if that hon member is reading it out aloud.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Professor Veruscha Fester on receiving the Innovation Champion Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership in advancing innovation, research translation and industry engagement in the fields of water, sanitation and advanced materials research; notes that her work continues to strengthen applied research, student innovation and collaborative partnerships that contribute meaningfully to societal development and economic growth; and commends her commitment to using research and innovation to address critical challenges facing communities and the country at large.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Dr Sune Henning, Dr Ayodele Periola and Professor Asis Patnaik on receiving the Industry Collaboration Award in recognition of their impactful partnerships across the food science, electrical engineering and textile sectors; notes that their collaborative research continues to advance applied innovation, industry development, sustainability and meaningful community impact through strong engagement with industry and research partners; and commends their contribution towards strengthening collaboration between academia and industry for the benefit of society and economic development.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Ms Sindiswa Papa on receiving the Inclusive Innovation Award for developing the Inclusive Graduation Gown, an innovative design aimed at improving accessibility, comfort and dignity for wheelchair users during graduation ceremonies; notes that this achievement demonstrates the transformative power of inclusive and socially responsive innovation in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities; and commends her for creating a meaningful innovation that advances inclusion, equality and human dignity.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B STOFFEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and expresses sincere condolences after the tragic passing away of Ms Phathiswa Mkhunjulwa who lost her life after a tree fell onto the Bolt vehicle she was travelling in during severe stormy weather on Tennant Road in Wynberg; notes with sadness that she was declared dead on the scene while the driver sustained injuries; further notes that her untimely passing away has left her family, friends and the broader community in deep shock and mourning; and calls on residents to exercise caution during severe weather conditions and wishes the injured driver a full and speedy recovery.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes the brutal killing of a 24-year-old man, Nango, who was confined to a wheelchair, and Blikkies, who were both shot and killed in Belhar; notes with grave concern the continued escalation of violent crime, shootings and gang-related activity that continue to plague communities across the Cape Flats; further notes that incidents of this nature deepen fear, trauma and insecurity among residents who are already living under the constant threat of violence; condemns the ongoing failure to protect vulnerable communities adequately from organised criminal activity and gun violence; conveys heartfelt

condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the deceased; and calls for urgent and coordinated interventions to restore safety, lawfulness and dignity in affected communities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep shock and outrage the tragic death of Ms Nonkululo Fente, a 39-year-old pregnant woman from Khayelitsha, who allegedly died following a police raid conducted by members attached to the Lingeletu West Police Station; further notes the serious allegations that she was assaulted and tortured during the operation while being four months pregnant; condemns in the strongest possible terms any abuse of power, brutality and violations of human rights by law enforcement officials; further notes that incidents of this nature erode public trust in policing and disproportionately affect poor and working-class communities; conveys heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of Ms Fente and her unborn child; and calls for a full, transparent and urgent investigation to ensure that those responsible are held accountable before the law.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Karel Bouckaert, the founder of the Paarl-based company Bouckaert-Soenen, on the momentous occasion of his 100th birthday on 12 May 2026; notes that Mr Bouckaert, who emigrated from Belgium in 1951, began his journey in the textile industry from his garage, producing small national flags before expanding into the successful factory that continues to operate in Paarl today; commends his groundbreaking contributions to the South African textile industry, including being the first in the country to produce printed T-shirts and specialised printing materials, as well as designing iconic emblems for the South African Police Service, Government departments, schools and sports teams; extends warmest wishes to Mr Bouckaert and his family on celebrating a century of a life well-lived and a remarkable contribution to South African industry.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the presentation of the first Annual Report of the Schools Evaluation Authority (SEA) to the Standing Committee on Education in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; further notes that, during the 2024/25 financial year, the SEA conducted 93 school evaluations across the province, including 89 two-day evaluations, one one-day evaluation, and three rapid-fire monitoring visits, with 2 261

teachers observed and 2 652 lessons assessed; acknowledges that the SEA is unique to the Western Cape and reflects the DA-led Western Cape Government's commitment to accountability, transparency and improving learner outcomes through evidence-based school improvement; recognises the important role played by the SEA in identifying both strengths and areas for development in schools, while promoting quality teaching, strong leadership and improved governance across the provincial education system; and commends the SEA and its evaluators for their significant contribution towards strengthening education outcomes and ensuring that every learner in the Western Cape has access to quality education and the opportunity to succeed.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Artscape Theatre Centre on celebrating its 55th anniversary on 19 May 2026, marking over five decades as a cornerstone of the Western Cape's cultural and economic landscape; notes that, since opening its doors in 1971, Artscape has undergone a profound transformation from the exclusionary Nico Malan Theatre into a vibrant, inclusive hub under the theme "A Place for All", reflecting the democratic journey of our nation; acknowledges Artscape's significant economic contribution to the Western Cape, acting as a vital engine for the creative economy by supporting thousands of jobs for artists,

technicians and service providers, while maintaining a stellar record of good governance and clean audits; and extends appreciation to the board, management and staff of Artscape for ensuring that the performing arts remain a powerful tool for education, expression and economic empowerment for all the citizens of the province.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness the loss of 10 lives and the widespread devastation caused by the recent severe weather conditions across the Western Cape, which displaced thousands of residents and damaged homes, infrastructure and essential services; conveys heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and communities who are mourning loved ones lost during this tragedy; and further recognises and thanks Disaster Management teams, emergency personnel, humanitarian organisations, volunteers, healthcare workers and municipal officials who continue to provide relief and support to affected communities under extremely difficult conditions.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape citrus industry for its remarkable resilience and its continued role as the primary engine of South African citrus exports; notes that the Western Cape remains the largest contributor to the country's citrus export volumes, maintaining a global reputation for quality that sustains thousands of rural livelihoods across the province; commends our producers for their extraordinary resilience in weathering geopolitical instability and rising input costs; and extends appreciation to the growers, packhouse workers and industry bodies whose dedication ensures that the Western Cape continues to lead the way in agricultural excellence and global trade.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will now afford the opportunity for hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Order 153(d). This could include motions without notice that have not been approved in the Programming Authority meeting. I now recognise the hon member Adams.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to all the hon members and those on the social media platforms following us today. I move without notice:

That the House notes with serious concern the widespread damage caused by recent floods and strong winds across the Western Cape, particularly affecting indigent households, backyard dwellers and residents living in

informal structures; further notes that many families are currently left exposed to dangerous weather conditions due to damaged roofs, flooded homes and destroyed structures, placing vulnerable residents, including children and the elderly, at further risk; acknowledges the efforts of emergency services, municipal workers and community volunteers assisting the affected residents during this crisis; and therefore calls on the Western Cape Government to urgently provide emergency roof repair assistance and building materials to indigent households affected by the floods and strong winds, to establish temporary emergency structures and shelter support for displaced backyard dwellers and informal settlement residents, to prioritise vulnerable communities in disaster relief interventions and to engage all relevant municipalities and the National Government departments to accelerate emergency housing and disaster recovery support for affected residents. Hon Deputy Speaker, I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I now recognise the hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the presentation of the first Annual Report of the Schools Evaluation Authority (SEA) to the Standing Committee on

Education in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; further notes that during the 2024/25 financial year the SEA conducted 93 school evaluations across the province, including 89 two-day evaluations, one one-day evaluation and three rapid-fire monitoring visits, with 2 261 teachers observed and 2 652 lessons assessed; acknowledges that the SEA is unique to the Western Cape and reflects the DA-led Western Cape Government's commitment to accountability, transparency and improving learner outcomes through evidence-based school improvement; recognises the important role played by SEA in identifying both strengths and areas for development in schools, while promoting quality teaching, strong leadership and improved governance across the provincial education system; and commends the SEA and its evaluators for their significant contribution towards strengthening education outcomes and ensuring that every learner in the Western Cape has access to quality education and the opportunity to succeed. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I now recognise the hon member Windvogel.

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

That the House notes the Western Cape Government's announcement of

the planned appointment of more than 800 additional healthcare personnel, including 316 nurses and 124 doctors, as part of the 2026/27 Health and Wellness Budget aimed at strengthening healthcare service delivery across the province; further notes that this announcement comes against the backdrop of an ongoing and deepening crisis in the public healthcare system; acknowledges that while the appointment of additional healthcare professionals represents a necessary and positive step, it is not sufficient on its own to resolve the structural challenges facing the healthcare system, especially in working-class communities, rural towns, informal settlements and historically disadvantaged areas, where access to consistent and quality healthcare remains uneven and inadequate; further notes with concern that many residents continue to experience delayed access to medical treatment, medical stock shortages, postponed surgeries and under-resourced clinics, with vulnerable groups such as the elderly, women, children and persons living with chronic illnesses disproportionately affected by the strain on the system; recognises and commends the dedication, resilience and sacrifice of nurses, doctors, emergency medical personnel, community healthcare workers and support staff who continue to deliver services under extremely demanding conditions despite systemic constraints; expresses concern that persistent challenges in healthcare planning, infrastructure investment, staffing retention and resource allocation continue to undermine the ability of the public healthcare system to meet the growing demand for services; further notes that repeated concerns raised by healthcare professionals, labour organisations and affected communities

regarding staffing levels, working conditions and infrastructure backlogs have not been adequately addressed in a sustainable and comprehensive manner; therefore calls on the Provincial Government to urgently present to the House a clear, detailed and transparent implementation plan outlining the deployment of the newly appointed healthcare personnel, measures to ensure equitable allocation to rural and underserved areas, strategies to improve retention of healthcare workers within the public sector and a long-term plan to strengthen infrastructure, reduce patient backlogs and ensure the delivery of accessible, equitable and quality healthcare services for all residents of the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes, there is an objection to the motion being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the recent taxi fare increases implemented across the province from 18 May 2026; further notes with grave concern that these increases place an unbearable financial burden on poor and working-class households who rely on minibus taxis as their primary mode of transport and are now expected to pay between R2 and R5 more on daily trips to schools, healthcare facilities and other essential services; acknowledges that many commuters in townships, squatter camps and rural communities are already struggling to survive under the weight of rising food prices, electricity costs, unemployment and the broader cost-of-living crisis; recognises that transport costs consume a significant portion of household income for low-income families, forcing many residents to choose between paying for transport, buying food or meeting other basic needs; expresses concern that the absence of meaningful Government intervention continues to leave vulnerable commuters exposed to escalating transport costs while public transport alternatives remain unreliable and inaccessible for many communities; and therefore calls on the Provincial and National Government to urgently introduce and expand public transport subsidies for taxi commuters, engage with the minibus taxi industry on sustainable relief measures and prioritise policies that protect poor and working-class residents from the devastating socio-economic impact of rising taxi cost.

I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Object that it is being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

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

That the House notes with deep concern the revelation that 837 rape cases in the Western Cape were closed between 2022 and 2025 due to victims allegedly being classified as “untraceable”; further notes that this alarming statistic reflects serious shortcomings within the criminal justice system, particularly in the investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence and sexual offences; acknowledges that survivors of rape often endure severe trauma, fear, intimidation and social stigma when reporting these crimes and that many victims from poor and working-class communities face additional barriers such as unsafe living conditions, lack of transport, inadequate victim support services and economic vulnerability; recognises that the closure of these cases not only denies survivors justice, but also emboldens perpetrators of gender-based violence and further erodes public confidence in the South African Police Service and the broader justice system; expresses concern over

ongoing reports of detective shortages, inadequate investigative capacity, poor follow-up procedures and failures in victim support mechanisms within SAPS and related institutions; condemns the systemic failures that continue to leave women and children vulnerable at a time when gender-based violence and femicide remain at crisis levels across the country; and therefore calls on the Provincial Government, SAPS leadership and the national Department of Police to urgently strengthen victim tracing mechanisms, increase resources for Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units, improve survivor support services, ensure accountability in the handling of rape cases and prioritise the effective investigation and prosecution of all gender-based violence offences. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Object to it being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

Mr B M NGQENTSU (ANC): †*Haibo* [No], Van Minnen. †*Haibo* [No] Van Minnen.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I will now note you to deliver your final motion without notice.

Mr B M NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon member Van Minnen does not follow this debate. Okay, but it is fine, I forgive her. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the announcement by the Cape Organisation for the Democratic Taxi Association (CODETA) to introduce a cashless payment system across taxi operations in Cape Town from 1 June 2026, marking a significant step towards the modernisation and digitisation of the minibus taxi industry in the Western Cape; further welcomes the potential benefits associated with this initiative, including improved commuter safety through reduced cash handling, decreased risk of robberies affecting both commuters and taxi operators and enhanced transparency and efficiency within the public transport system; acknowledges that the transition to cashless payments represents an important milestone in aligning the minibus taxi industry with broader global trends in transport innovation and digital financial inclusion, while strengthening the operational sustainability of one of the province's most widely used modes of public transport; further acknowledges the role of taxi associations, such as CODETA, in driving industry reforms that seek to improve service delivery, safety standards and organisational efficiency within the sector; recognises that the minibus taxi industry remains a critical pillar of public transport in the

Western Cape, providing essential mobility for millions of commuters who rely on it to access employment, education, healthcare and other socio-economic opportunities; encourages continued collaboration between taxi associations, Government and financial service providers to ensure a smooth, inclusive and well-supported transition to cashless systems that benefits both operators and commuters; and therefore calls on all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the implementation of the cashless payment system is rolled out in a manner that is accessible, affordable and user-friendly, particularly for low-income and unbanked commuters, while contributing to a safer, more efficient and modernised public transport system in the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

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

That the House notes with deep concern the devastating losses suffered by farmers and agricultural communities across the Western Cape following severe flooding and intense cold fronts that swept through the province; further notes that the floods caused widespread destruction to crops, vineyards, orchards, livestock, irrigation systems, roads, bridges and other critical farming infrastructure in key agricultural regions, including the Hex River Valley, Grabouw, Elgin, Ceres and Worcester; acknowledges that many farmers, farmworkers and rural communities are now facing immense economic uncertainty as agricultural production, food supply chains and export operations continue to be severely disrupted; recognises that the agricultural sector remains a vital contributor to employment, food security and economic activity in the Western Cape, particularly in rural areas where thousands of families depend directly on farming for their livelihoods; expresses concern that repeated climate-related disasters continue to expose the vulnerability of rural infrastructure, disaster preparedness systems and support mechanisms available to farmers and farming communities; further acknowledges the humanitarian impact of the floods on farmworkers and surrounding communities, many of whom have lost homes, belongings and access to essential services; and therefore calls on the Provincial Government to urgently provide disaster relief funding, infrastructure recovery support and financial assistance to affected farmers and farmworkers, strengthen climate resilience measures in vulnerable agricultural areas, and ensure that no farming community is left behind in the Province's disaster recovery efforts. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Object specifically that the motion is moved without notice.

An HON MEMBER: An objection to it being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon member Nkondlo.

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

That the House notes the latest Consumer Price Index data released by Stats SA, which indicates that inflation has remained persistently elevated and continues to place significant pressure on the cost of living for households across the country; further notes that recent figures show inflation trending at around the 3% to 4% range in early 2026, with notable upward pressure driven by key essentials such as food, transport, electricity, education and housing, all of which form the bulk of

household expenditure for low- and middle-income families; acknowledges that while headline inflation may appear moderate in aggregate terms, the lived reality for poor and working-class households is one of sustained cost-of-living pressure, as wages and social grants continue to lag behind the rising prices of basic goods and services; further acknowledges that food inflation, transport costs and administered prices, such as electricity and municipal tariffs, continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, particularly those in townships, informal settlements and rural areas where households already allocate a large share of their income to basic survival needs; recognises that inflationary pressures are compounded by broader structural challenges, including high unemployment, slow economic growth, inequality and dependence on imported fuel, which makes South Africa's economy highly sensitive to global price shocks; expresses concern that rising living costs are deepening poverty, increasing household debt and reducing disposable income, thereby limiting access to nutrition, education, healthcare and other essential services. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

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

That the House notes with serious concern the ongoing failure of the cable and telephone line infrastructure on the 4th floor of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, which has reportedly been dysfunctional for an extended period without resolution; further notes that the persistent breakdown of communication systems negatively affects the ability of members and staff to effectively perform their constitutional and legislative duties, undermining productivity, responsiveness and institutional efficiency within the Legislature; acknowledges that in a modern democratic institution reliable communication infrastructure is not a luxury, but a basic operational necessity required to ensure seamless governance, coordination and public service delivery; expresses concern that the prolonged neglect of this matter reflects poorly on the administration and maintenance standards within the WCPP, particularly in a space meant to uphold accountability, professionalism and effective governance; calls on the relevant parliamentary administration and technical support services to urgently intervene, provide a full report on the cause of the failures, outline why the issue has remained unresolved for such a prolonged period, and ensure that the cable and telephone systems on the 4th floor are restored without any further delay. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Yes, there is an objection to it being moved without notice. It affects more than just the 4th floor, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Why are you arguing?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You are always objecting. Keep quiet.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Stoffel. I recognise the hon member ...[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, there – hon member Stoffel.

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

That the House notes with grave concern reports that the City of Cape Town has threatened residents in working-class communities, particularly in Hanover Park, with fines of up to R800 000 and possible imprisonment for operating small informal businesses from their homes; further notes that many of these residents are pensioners, unemployed persons and struggling families who rely on selling baked goods, sweets, vetkoek, koeksisters and other small items simply to survive amid deepening poverty, unemployment and the rising cost of living; acknowledges that South Africa's informal economy remains a critical source of income and dignity for millions of poor and working-class households who continue to be failed by an economy that does not create enough jobs; expresses outrage that while communities across the Cape Flats continue to battle gangsterism, drugs, extortion, unemployment, housing backlogs and collapsing of social conditions, the City appears more focused on criminalising poor residents attempting to put food on the table; further expresses concern that the aggressive enforcement of by-laws against vulnerable residents exposes the anti-poor and insensitive character of governance that prioritises punitive action over meaningful economic support and community development; calls on the City of Cape Town to immediately halt all intimidation and punitive measures against affected residents, to engage communities in good faith and to develop a humane, developmental and pro-poor approach that supports rather than punishes informal traders and home-based entrepreneurs struggling to survive. I so move. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Yes!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the catastrophic impact of the intense frontal systems that have battered the Western Cape, leaving our agricultural heartlands in a state of emergency; notes that the record-shattering rainfall has caused the Breede River to burst its banks, causing widespread devastation from Rawsonville and Worcester down through the Langeberg and Swellendam Municipalities, where orchards and vineyards were submerged; further notes the severe damage to farming infrastructure in Robertson and Swellendam, including the evacuation of communities like Silverstrand and the destruction of vital access bridges,

which has left both commercial and smallholder farmers unable to reach their livestock or crops; further notes the severe blow to the citrus industry, particularly in the Langkloof and Gamtoos Valley, where farmers report losing up to 70% of their crop in certain blocks, alongside the total destruction of vital irrigation systems, farm bridges and the undermining of key export arteries like the N1 corridor; acknowledges the harrowing humanitarian toll on our rural communities, including the emergency roof-top evacuations of farmworkers and the tragic loss of lives across the province, as well as the long-term threat to food security and the livelihoods of thousands of seasonal workers; recognises the rapid response of the NSRI, provincial disaster management and the Department of Agriculture teams currently conducting damage assessments. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with serious concern the ongoing vandalism and theft at schools across the Western Cape; further notes that during an oversight visit to the Sir Lowry's Pass Primary School, I witnessed firsthand the damaging impact that vandalism has on education quality

and school infrastructure; acknowledges that vandalism incidents continue to escalate during school holiday periods, with the March school holidays alone resulting in infrastructure damage amounting to nearly R400 000, disrupting teaching and learning and placing additional financial pressure on the education system; recognises that acts of vandalism rob learners of safe learning environments and divert critical resources away from classrooms, infrastructure development and learner support; further notes the work being done by the DA-led Western Cape Government through interventions such as the expansion of the School Resource Officer Programme, strengthened school safety measures, increased investment in safer schools and ongoing support for school infrastructure protection; and calls on communities, parents, civil society organisations and law enforcement agencies to work together to protect schools as vital community assets and places of opportunity for all learners. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Professor Mbombo.

Prof N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the launch of the GoGeorge bus route 11 connecting

Themba lethu to the Garden Route Mall precinct; further notes that the route provides commuters with a direct transport connection to employment opportunities, schools, businesses and essential services, while reducing the need for multiple transfers and long travel times; acknowledges the importance of accessible and reliable public transport in improving economic mobility and connectivity for communities; and notes that continued investment in integrated public transport infrastructure remains important for supporting growing communities across the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. The final motion without notice is the hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes an entrepreneurship initiative observed during an oversight visit to Nomzamo Primary School, where Grade 7 Natural Sciences learners grow produce on school premises and sell it to fellow learners, parents and members of the community; further notes that learners are permitted to retain the profits generated from these sales, exposing them to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, responsibility and practical learning opportunities at a young age; recognises the role

schools can play in equipping learners with both academic knowledge and practical life skills; and notes the importance of supporting learner development initiatives that encourage self-reliance, innovation and economic participation among young people. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to.

Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice, but it also concludes the business of the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:15