
THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Hon members, as has been our practise to date hon members will participate in the Sitting here in the Chamber, but also online, and our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended. I will directly note and see the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I give notice and move:

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter for discussion in the name of the hon Lithakong as printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the hon Lithakong.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Ms T Lithakong: The Western Cape housing backlog, in relation to the Breaking New Ground Government project, as well as the social housing crisis.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you House Chair. Let me take this opportunity and greet you, the members in the House, member community in the gallery and the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it was exactly on 5 May 2023 when Minister Simmers was responding to a question posed by the hon member Christians. The Minister indicated at the time that the housing backlog stood in excess of 694 000 in the Metro alone, and more than 336 000 outside the Cape Metro. Hon Deputy Speaker, this then meant that the real housing backlog in this province can now safely be estimated to be in excess of 1 million, if not more.

Somlomo, since then much has not been done to reduce the housing backlog in the province. The annual reports produced by the Department headed by Minister Simmers paint a very dark and gloomy picture about the future of housing development in this province, which is often made by failure in capacity and inability on the part of this Provincial Government led by the Democratic Alliance.

Somlomo, allow me at this juncture to provide you with a bit of background and stats data on this point. In the period between 2021 to 2023 financial years, the Provincial Department of Human Settlements, which is now Infrastructure, has not been reaching its own set housing opportunity planned targets, which are often been set low to start with. In 2021, *Somlomo*, the Western Cape planned housing target was just over 8 000, and the Department was only able to achieve just over 6 000 housing targets, with an under expenditure of over R37,7 million from the allocated budget.

In 2022, hon Deputy Speaker, the same trend followed with a target of just over 8 000 housing units, which could not be reached with the Department only achieving just over 5 000 units, with a staggering housing under expenditure of R217,6 million in the process.

At this point, hon Deputy Speaker, and with these figures, I am sure you can vividly see in terms of where this province is heading. Low targets are set, coupled by failure to reach some, as well as failure to spend the allocated budget on service delivery for the people who matter the most, which is the

poor people.

In the beginning of the end for this DA-led Provincial Government becomes explicit when the housing ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lithakong, please conclude, your time has expired.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Okay. Explicit when in 2023 the housing under-expenditure went above R488 million, and I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lithakong. I see the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Lithakong for this debate, for putting it on the table, for opening up. I must say that I was hoping to see a little bit more around policy, a bit more on delivery, but perhaps just to put into context with what you have raised here, and of course we are under pressure.

But if I look at the Western Cape, and as a province, I mean we are the province of hope in South Africa. This is the province that gets things done. This is the province that has the higher rates of, or highest rates of provincial GDP growth. We have the highest business confidence. We have the highest average household income, or the best human development index, the highest unemployment, or the highest GDP capita, and the lowest unemployment

levels, or should I say the highest employment levels.

Of course at the same time, because we are this province of hope, we are also a province that grows incredibly fast. So we are a province where our population is really outstripping any other province population growth, because people want to come and live here because of the province itself, it is a province of hope. This is where you can find a better life. This is where you find opportunities. So of course our growth between 2014 and 2025 are 19,6%, and we are almost at 8 million residents in our province.

Despite that we keep on pushing these boundaries, we keep on making sure that we are delivering more and more, and of course there is a backlog. But also perhaps thank you to the bad management over the last 30 years of the ANC in our economy, we have very, very low economic growth in our country, and that is really hard because you do not get the commensurate budget.

You know, everyone knows in this House that we might be the third most populous province in South Africa, but we still only get the fifth most money, and of course to really claw back backlogs and build houses you need to have those budgets.

But just think about the housing space and the Conradie Park and the hope that that brings to people. I am sure Minister Simmers is going to talk about it, or the latest Leeuloop or Founders Garden. I just came from Swellendam

and you have a look at the new development of homes for people in Swellendam. Just go to George and have a look at what is happening in George, or Mossel Bay, or in Paarl. Go and have a look at what is happening despite these pressures and very fast growth.

But we also have a major problem; we have a major problem, because we also have places that are really put aside for making a difference in housing. I am thinking about the Helen Bowden Nurses Home, illegally occupied, should be made for the use, and we actually need parties to be standing up saying, “come, let us get these illegal people out of these places, so that we can develop them for social housing, exactly as the plan says.”

Or exactly the same thing for the Woodstock Hospital, let us actually enable that, and we need you to stand up and support us on making sure that we get this right. Or I think of the City Policy now where people who received an RDP house actually gets planning help and approval to put up 6 to 8 units on their property that they can develop, an income and wealth over time. These are great policy tools.

But that is what I said, I thought what this debate would be from the EFF is, “we have a housing policy x, y, z, and this is what really makes the difference. You have got a long backlog, whatever your reasons are, but have a look at what we are doing.”

What has the EFF done in their coalition time in Knysna? Where are the mass

housing deliveries? Or perhaps in Ekurhuleni where they actually have the MMC for Human Settlements for Housing – Mr Hollo, he is the MMC. Or what about in Metsimaholo, that is another municipality where you have the MMC, and what again? *Dololo*, nothing, zippo...

So you come here, you must talk about your policies and how you make them work, but where you are in government there is nothing happening. We are creating hope in this province. You see the developments, you see the investment and you see the change, you can see it everywhere you go.

So I thank you for this debate. I am sorry that you did not put your successes or any of your policy items on the table at all. You read a history lesson out of APPs and annual reports. That is not good enough. You need to get on your game; you are in this game for government. But in this province, please join us. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Please join us in getting the people who are illegally occupying buildings out of those buildings and let us get District 6 moving. Let us all support each other in getting it going. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier, On the hybrid system I recognised the hon Lekker. Hon Lekker, are you able to hear me?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Yes, I can hear you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise today to debate one of the most urgent matters affecting the people of our province, the housing backlog, the implementation of the Breaking New Ground programme and social housing crisis.

The Breaking New Ground Policy introduced in 2004 by the National Department of Human Settlements was designed to transform the apartheid spatial plan legacy. To promote integrated Human Settlements, its vision is to remove, or move away from mass delivery of standardised RDP houses on the peripheries of our towns, cities, and towards an inclusive mixed home and sustainable communities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the housing crisis in the Western Cape is not simply about infrastructure, it is about the dignity, justice and equality. It is about whether the working class can live in safety and dignity. Yet, under the DA-led Provincial Government this dream remains out of reach for hundreds of thousands of our people. The housing backlog in the Western Cape has grown into a humanitarian disaster.

Already in 2016, more than 554 000 households were on the housing demand database. That figure has now escalated, worsened by the urbanisation and

migration with 683 informal Settlements in Cape Town alone; 186 of which were established under COVID-19. Many of these are in floodplains under water, power lines and in unsafe areas, without proper services.

Families in Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Atlantis, George and rural towns live with the daily risk of shack fires, flooding and crime, all while being excluded from the province's economic "lifeblood", and yet hon Deputy Speaker, in the face of this humanitarian crisis, the DA-led Western Cape Government, through its Department of Infrastructure, which is tasked with Human Settlements has failed to deliver.

It is no accident that Human Settlements no longer exists as a stand-alone department in this province. The DA has deliberately downgraded the importance of housing by collapsing it into "infrastructure." Nationally Human Settlements is recognised as a core driver of transformation and dignity. Here in the Western Cape, the DA has turned it into an afterthought, just on a desk buried under roads, bridges and other projects, and the results are plain, under-spending, mismanagement and a housing crisis that deepens daily. These failures include:

In the 2024 / 2025 financial year the Western Cape was allocated R1,6 billion in the Human Settlements Development Grant and 382 million in the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant.

By August 2024 the Department of Infrastructure had spent only 33% of its

HSDG allocation, and a disgraceful 11% of its ISUPG allocation. The Department forfeited R125 million in ISUPG funds simply because it failed to submit a rollover request. Money which was meant for the poor was lost forever.

Between October and December 2024 there was a sudden and suspicious R543 million spending hike, a clear case of fiscal dumping, not genuine delivery. Much of it was wasted on unauthorised items, such as security services and unaudited subsidies outside of the Housing Code. This is not just poor governance; it is a betrayal of the people's trust.

The failures do not end there. 17 housing projects were found to have been implemented outside of the approved Business Plan and expenditures were illegally incurred in non-accredited municipalities. In violation of Section 16 of the Division of Revenue Act adjusted business plans were weak, contradictory and non-compliant, and the Department even failed to submit a revised plan when required by National Treasury.

Instead of taking accountability, the DA-led Department of Infrastructure chose to threaten litigation and issued a press statement on selective outrage. They cry foul when funds are rightfully stopped and re-allocated, yet they have benefited from re-allocations in the past without complaint.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we must ask who is being served here. Is it the families in Khayelitsha still waiting for a house? Is it the backyard dwellers in

Mitchells Plain paying higher rent for unsafe rooms? Is it the communities of Imizamo Yethu and Hangberg who have seen housing projects stall and appear as stillborn, or is it a provincial elite more concerned with politics? The ANC believes that housing is a constitutional right not a privilege.

The Breaking New Grounds programme was designed to create integrated sustainable and dignified communities, yet here in the Western Cape it has been undermined by political arrogance, under-spending and deliberate failure to release well located land for social housing. Tafelberg Site remains a stain on this Government. Instead of using the project for housing, the Province sold it off to protect the privileged and entrench apartheid spatial planning. This exposes the DA's true agenda. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, please conclude.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ANC stands with the people of Hangberg, Sea Point and Khayelitsha, who will not allow the DA to escape unaccountability. Housing grants are not the Province's money, they are the people's money, and we will ensure that they are spent to uplift the poor ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ... and not on irregular spending. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lekker. Also on the hybrid system, I recognised the hon Petrus.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise to address one of the biggest scars of inequality in our province – the Western Cape’s housing backlog and the increasing social housing crisis.

For decades our people have been promised dignity through housing, yet for many residents of the Western Cape that promise remains nothing more than a slogan. The reality is stark; families are waiting for decades on a housing list. Young people are being born, growing up and starting families of their own while still living under the same conditions in informal settlements that their parents were promised they would one day leave behind.

†Agb Speaker, die behuisingkrisis gaan nie net oor statistieke nie, dit gaan oor mense. Dit gaan oor die ma van drie in Khayelitsha wat vir 25 jaar op die waglys is. Dit gaan oor die bejaardes op die Kaapse Vlakte en die duisende agterplaashuurders in Elsiesrivier, Worcester en George, en wat sien ons in plaas van oplossings, ons sien grondbesettings omdat mense se wanhoop hulle geen ander keuse laat nie. Ons sien korrupsie in toewysings en projekte wat stil staan nog voordat die eerste baksteen gelê is. [Hon Speaker, the housing crisis is not only about statistics, it is about people. It is about the mother of three in Khayelitsha who have been on the waiting list for 25 years. It is about the aged on the Cape Flats and the thousands of backyard tenants in Elsies River, Worcester and George, and what do we see instead of solutions,

we see land invasions because people's despair leaves them no other choice. We see corruption in allocations and projects standing still even before the first brick has been laid.]

In terms of our Strategic Plan the declaration of housing delivery and the shortage of land are challenges. When last did we speak to the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for sustainable land? We are not doing enough for first time home buyers to get loans and assistance, especially for social housing in the middle income group. We definitely need a new housing delivery model for the Western Cape, hon Deputy Speaker, enough is enough, that this House commits to intensify the delivery of houses and give our people dignity of a roof over their heads and the reason to believe that Government still works for them. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Petrus. I recognised the hon Dr Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and members of the House. We greet you in this month of “manina – wathint' imbokodo, wathint' abafazi” You struck a woman, you struck a rock.” Nkosi Mawawa for sponsoring the debate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, South Africa's Bill of Rights Section 26 states that everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources

to achieve the progressive realisation of this right. Also housing is a concurrent function between National, Provincial and Local Government, with the Housing Act clarifying who does what.

The National Government develops National Housing Policy and allocates funding and resources, while the province and municipality do their other part. Hon Deputy Speaker, the National Government must take its share of accountability for the failures to address housing crisis in South Africa, just as Municipality must account for being slow in developing [Inaudible] bulk infrastructures for housing development.

South Africa's housing backlog remains one of the country's most pressing socio-economic challenges. Since 1994, the Democratic Government has delivered more than 5 million housing opportunities, but this declined sharply since 2009, creating a widening gap between the supply and demand.

Hon Deputy Speaker, addressing South Africa's housing backlog requires a fundamental shift from the current housing unit delivery approach, to comprehensive Human Settlements development. The 3,4 million national household backlog represents both a crisis and an opportunity for spatial planning.

Success depends on the coordinated Government action, private sector engagement, innovative funding mechanisms, and strong community participation. This will not only reduce the housing backlog but also

transform South Africa's spatial economy toward more inclusive sustainable human settlements that fulfil the constitutional right to adequate housing for all citizens.

Outdated legislation and lack of integrated planning frameworks hinder the shift from housing delivery to holistic human settlements development. Progressive realisation of the right to access housing includes developing precinct level plans that integrate housing with schools, clinics and jobs. It is imperative to build social infrastructure ahead of, or alongside the housing units.

Rapid urbanisation, population growth and shifting household structures have further intensified the need for affordable adequate housing, leaving 100 000 without dignified shelter. The construction industry suffers from low absorptive capacity, material cost inflation, and limited innovation, reducing their ability to [Inaudible.] delivery. The industry is also affected by the rise of construction mafias and fraudulent procurement practises which delay the projects; hence community participation is a key.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the BHD housing budget cannot keep pace with the backlog and competing priorities in National spending, and large scale acceleration is unlikely. We must involve as much of the private sector as possible to invest in social housing. Incentivise the private sector participation for affordable housing through tax breaks, risk sharing models and co-financing schemes. The DA commends the Department of

Infrastructure for established alternate models to finance infrastructure, including housing, beyond relying on Government.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, a shift from housing delivery to sustainable human settlements is long overdue. We cannot still be debating the counting of housing units. We should be now focusing on adopting a holistic approach *†ukuhlala kwabantu*. [the staying of the people.] that includes dignity. We need to bring human into the Human Settlements, and we remove the Housing Act to be a Human Settlements Act. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mbombo. Speaker 6 is neither in the House nor on the online platform. I now recognise the hon speaker 7, which is the hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, housing is a very emotional topic and many a time it is abused, used for political expediency in the run-up to local elections when title deeds are handed over for photos. But sadly, hon Deputy Speaker, in the Western Cape many people who are waiting will die before ever realising their right to adequate housing. Under-spending is the order of the day at the moment and that must be rectified, it must be corrected. Corruption must be rooted out.

Now when it comes to prioritising people for housing, hon Deputy Speaker, the question must be asked, “is the system fair? Should the first come first

serve basis not apply in the system of allocation of houses? Or is it just a myth that that is being done?" The system must be fair, hon Deputy Speaker.

Secondly, there is lack of transparency in the system adding further to the anger and frustrations of many who are not sure when they will ever be placed. Now in the Western Cape, Coloured people have a historic connection to the Western Cape, they have been living here all their lives, they have worked here, they will be buried here, but many of them are overlooked for housing in the Western Cape.

Federal autonomy should be given to the Western Cape, not just powers over policing, but also matters of this nature when we have to decide on housing and what defines adequate housing for our people. Economic migrants to the Western Cape are welcome, but they must be prioritised for social or rental housing, not ownership to begin with.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, we call for a commission of inquiry or a joint commission by the Minister of Infrastructure and Local Government to ensure that those beneficiaries of houses, ownership houses, do not rent it out and move back into informal settlements to gain economically. We thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, Premier, †agb kollegas, ons gaste in die Huis, in die galery en aanlyn. Dit is nogal snaaks dat vandag se debat deur 'n lid, [hon colleagues, our guests in the House, in the gallery and online. It is actually strange that today's debate was requested by] an hon leader of the EFF Lithakong, †ja dit is baie snaaks inderdaad [yes, it is indeed strange.] Because, hon Deputy Speaker, she is the very same member whose party cheers †as mense onwettige grond gryp [when people grab land illegally.] Yet, today she comes here and she wants to act innocent.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the fake politics are on full volume today. Now let us get it real. †Konteks is die sleutel en dit is baie belangrik, [Context is the key and it is very important,] and the context of housing is clear. Human Settlements are not only about bricks and cement, hon members, †dit gaan oor mense se hele lewens, oor waardigheid, oor hoop, oor toegang [it is about people's whole lives, about dignity, about hope, about access.] That is how we see it as the Government of the Western Cape, and might I say, the best run regional government in the world. We do not come here to point fingers. We do not sit back and blame. †Nee, ons rol ons moue op en ons spring in en ons kry dinge gedoen. [No, we roll up our sleeves and we jump in and we get things done.]

So the hon member may ask, † “hoe doen julle dit?” [“how do you do it?”] Let me break it down for you, hon member. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, you cannot talk about housing without talking about Mobility,

because Mobility is the heartbeat of dignity. It is not a “nice to have”, it is survival. Take our Golden Arrow Bus Services, †elke liewe dag klim 230 mense op hierdie busse, van Langa, Khayelitsha, Strand, Mbekweni, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga, Grassy Park, [every single day 230 people board these buses, from Langa, Khayelitsha, Strand, Mbekweni, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga, Grassy Park,] and I can go on and on and on, and with all those buses’ doors do not shut down, with those buses’ doors open.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while families wait for housing, and here I must pause and commend the work that is done by our hon Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers, driving innovation in housing delivery under difficult conditions, people still need to go to work, go to school and go to clinics. That is why we rolled out nearly 10 000 job seeker travel vouchers. Imagine this, a young man in Delft and a young woman in Khayelitsha do not have to choose between a meal and bus fare. They get to that interview, they land that job. †Dit is mobiliteit wat waardigheid teruggee. [It is mobility that gives back dignity.]

Outside the Metro look at George, †ons Go George diens vat elke dag 21 000 mense rond, [our Go George service transports 21 000 people every day,] and we are not standing, you know, we are already expanding to Uniondale, connecting more people to the economy. †Kom ons praat nou die kaal waarheid, abg Adjunkspeaker, behuising gee skuiling en mobiliteit gee toegang, en sonder toegang is daar geen ware waardigheid nie. [Let us now speak the naked truth, hon Deputy Speaker, housing provides shelter, and

mobility provides access, and without access there is no real dignity.] Housing is a long term vision, however transport is a right now solution. It keeps hope alive, it turns waiting into working, it turns surviving into winning. So, yes, hon Member, you want to govern one day, here is a free lesson to you – † “Jy kan nie bou op chaos nie. Ware leiers bou op orde, op oplossing en op dade. [Tussenwerpsel.] [“You cannot build on chaos. True leaders build on order, on solution and on deeds.” [Interjection]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please take your seat. I recognise the hon Leader of the Official Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, can the hon MEC please speak through you, and not directly, I understand the points raised by the hon Lithakong have really stirred up, so he must get personal. So can he not be personal. I know they are both from Grabouw, so they can discuss those matters afterwards, but he must speak through you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, your point is taken. I see the hon Nkondlo online.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I just wanted to ask whether the hon MEC is willing to take a question? I am not sure whether he is still governing? We have not seen him for some time, as he is talking about teaching the people a lesson about governing. Is he still an MEC anyway?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Deputy Speaker, if she was in the House, yes, but she is not here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon Member is not prepared. Hon members, for future reference in this particular Sitting, I will again caution hon members to speak via the Chair, Hon Minister. Hon Leader of the Official Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, sorry for intervening again, but I do not want an impression created that this is not a hybrid Sitting, this is a hybrid Sitting, so hon members who are not physically present in the House have full participatory powers. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, as per my opening remarks, our Rules have been amended in order to accommodate those that are in the Chamber but also those that are online and they have full rights to fully participate. Hon Minister, I will now see the ... [Interjection.] Is this a new point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The hon Member, the hon MEC indicated that if hon Nkondlo was here he was going to take a question, now that you have

made a ruling to say that being online and here is the same. Kindly make a ruling on that question. It will probably then confirms that indeed he is going to take the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Member. I read that as preference from the hon Minister. So, hon Minister, you have 46 seconds remaining. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Deputy Speaker, let me reiterate, you cannot build on chaos. True leaders build on order, on solutions and on actions. That is the difference between the DA and the rest of the other parties which we call Opposition. Thank you very much. †Baie dankie. [Thank you. Nkosi.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. On the hybrid system I recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we are a province where in some areas there are more drug dens and shebeens than schools and recreational facilities. We are a province where during the cold and the wet winter months' sewage water flood into the homes and informal settlements. We are a province in which shack fires in informal settlements have become a norm.

We are a province where farm evictions are executed without providing

decent homes to the evicted families, or the expropriation of land to farm dwellers on which they have been living on for generations. We are a province where social housing complexes, as in the case of Ruyterwacht have been sold to private developers, leaving residents, including older persons and people with disabilities, homeless. We are a province with not only a huge housing problem but also a segregation problem and on-going apartheid spatial development.

The shortage of housing in Cape Town is critical and large populations are living in substandard conditions, in fact in inhumane conditions. There is a need to establish affordable housing which should be well located, not on wetlands or far removed from the economic hubs and workplaces. There are people spending more than 40% of their incomes on transport to work.

The deep rooted spatial inequality must be addressed as well, as the exclusive and profit driven property market as to spatial inequality. The Province is not looking at viable solutions to end the housing crisis, such as the leasing land close to workplaces, to support micro developers developing in the townships and to upgrade infrastructure in these areas. Despite the City saying [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon Member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Despite the City saying, “The City works for you”, it is only

working in selected areas, in your leafy suburbs. Infrastructure in the townships remains a huge challenge; people live in sewage spills, lack of waste renewable services ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Up to seven families living on one plot. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think all, everybody and every political party agree that we have a major problem when it comes to housing, and the figures vary, the figures vary to say the backlog is 600 000, 700 000. But we all know that there is a huge backlog when it comes to housing.

But hon Deputy Speaker, let me say that with the influx and the population growth that this province is experiencing at the moment, the Western Cape Government will never be able to deliver housing opportunities to the demands of our people, and that is why the ACDP believes that there should be a partnership between the Government and the private sector communities. Get role players in to discuss this massive problem that we are experiencing.

Secondly, there should be an open discussion, whatever you want to call it, if it is a dialogue between National, Provincial and Local Government, the private sector communities in order to see how we can navigate this way forward, and we also know that people are coming in daily and the demand just gets greater and greater.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, as the previous hon Deputy Speaker also said, the problem that we have is many people live far away from work, and that is why the ACP is asking for housing opportunities to be closer to their work. But then you also have unemployment and you have, you know, no economic growth, very, very slow economic growth. So when a person moves into a house a person needs a job.

So we will have to look, Government will have to look at this as an approach and say how are we going to push this forward? To give a person a house with no income, it is also a problem. But this is a serious problem and we need an urgent National / Provincial / Local dialogue to sort this out. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I now recognise the hon Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government, under the leadership of the DA and through the Minister of Infrastructure, is fully aware of the housing

backlog in the province. That is why the Department of Infrastructure keeps on doing more with less, despite severe budget cuts from National Treasury and the on-going challenge of land invasions in the province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let us give a clear picture. National Treasury has cut the Western Cape housing budget by R300 million despite approving the Department of Infrastructure's Business Plan well in advance. Hon Deputy Speaker, this reckless decision has frozen payments to projects across Cape Town, across George, Knysna, and smaller towns across the province, threatening hundreds of housing opportunities and delaying delivery for families who have waited for too long.

Yet, hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape has shown what delivery looks like. Despite these cuts, the DA-led Western Cape Government continues to invest more than R1 billion every year in housing subsidies for the poor. Hon Deputy Speaker, that is more than R5,8 billion over the last five years. We have accelerated projects in Eendekraal, Piketberg and Gansbaai. We are handing over homes, we are issuing title deeds, we are breaking ground on major mixed income projects, such as Founders Garden and the Leeuloop Precinct.

Through the new Alternative and Blended Finance Framework, we are unlocking private development funding to build even faster, reducing our dependence on the National Government's shrinking fiscal envelope. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is why the DA once again calls for the urgent reform of

the National Housing Funding Model. Hon Deputy Speaker, South Africa needs a system that provides long term certainty that rewards good governance and that empowers provinces to plan effectively.

Hon Deputy Speaker, land invasion remains another major challenge. Projects like the Welmoed development near Elsies River has been delayed for years because of unlawful occupants. These invasions do not just stop bulldozers; they stop families in informal settlements moving into safe and dignified homes. We must confront this directly. The rule of law must stand, because every delay robs the dignity of people who needs it the most.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, let us also be clear, housing delivery is not just about building houses, it is about readdressing the legacy of spatial apartheid. Too many South Africans still live too far from jobs, transport and opportunity. That is why the DA-led Western Cape is driving transit orientated development which is building homes closer to economic hubs and closer to transport corridors. Projects like the Leeuloop is an example of a well located affordable housing that addresses the legacy of spatial apartheid, known as spatial injustice.

Another example of housing projects of this nature is Founders Garden, the largest inner city housing development yet, with more than 2 600 units being delivered under this DA-led Western Cape Government. Hon Deputy Speaker, that is what doing more with less means. It means protecting the dignity by moving beneficiaries into real homes, not false promises. Hon Deputy

Speaker, it is unlocking delivery through innovative finance and strong governance, even when National funding collapses. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is building inclusion by placing housing closer to opportunity and breaking down the walls of apartheid planning. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon member.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): This DA-led Government is ready, ready to deliver more homes, ready to protect dignity, ready to unlock opportunity. But we cannot do this alone. Urgent reform of the National Housing Model is essential. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Wessels. I now recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, listening to this debate makes it clear to me that that side of the House has no cooking clue what is going on with housing. Absolutely no clue. We are not doing more with less, we are doing nothing. Breaking New Ground, the name given to the National Free basic housing programme is ironic in the Western Cape, because very little ground is broken when it comes to housing.

According to the Minister of Infrastructure there is a person in Drakenstein who has been waiting 62 years for a house. The delivery numbers are not

great. Only 3 046 houses were built in the last financial year. It will take us 226 years to get through the waiting list, or the backlog. In fact, hon Deputy Speaker, the waiting list, or the housing demand database is a myth. It is nothing more than 688 000 names of people who have applied for housing. There is no real ranking of persons on that database and the so-called housing demand data does not inform where the little that is built is actually located.

For a government that brags about data-led decision making, the use of technology and innovation, informed decision making does not make its way to housing. Housing is not their priority. The crisis is not just bricks and mortar; it is also about spatial justice. Communities remain trapped in apartheid geographies, pushed to the peripheries, disconnected from economic opportunities and reliant on expensive transport. This is 2025, not 1975.

The Western Cape has land available to develop free basic housing, social housing and affordable housing, but we have not seen any significant developments from the Winde administration. As we saw earlier, the projects they will point to were conceived, planned and built by the Zille administration. Meanwhile families wait decades on the housing, so-called waiting list, and backyards become many cities with people living in overcrowded and unsafe conditions. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, unless the Province can take bold steps to integrate communities where opportunity lies and actually build houses, the housing backlog will remain a permanent scar. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to share with you from Witzenberg PCO in Ceres where I am at this point. Just on a meeting we had with the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform with the farmworkers and this is just an excerpt of a letter they have written to the Minister. They say:

“The Witzenberg Justice Coalition, which is the organisation of farmworkers here, is devastated by the brutal evictions of farmworker families from farms in the Witzenberg region. Despite the many years of service and farmworkers having multiple generations of families on the farms, are evicted under inhumane conditions and plunged into homelessness. Children of farmworkers who face eviction have education and schooling disrupted and delayed. Farmworkers are forced to live in informal settlements with limited space and services and often face violence and hostility from communities.”

I raise this, hon Deputy Speaker, you know, to just give a wake-up call to the Premier who boasts here about economic growth of this particular province, calling it a province of hope, which is a province of hopelessness to the poor as the province that actually mimics slavery, colonialism and apartheid, because it builds this economic growth at the back of misery of the poor people and farmworkers.

Hon Deputy Speaker and hon members, housing is not simply about bricks and mortar, It is about dignity, stability and opportunity. There are over 688 000 households in our province that are still waiting for a home. Some families have been waiting for more than 30 years. Many have died on the waiting list. This is not just a backlog; it is a crisis of dignity.

Today I rise, and it is to question whether the Provincial Government is doing enough to deliver within the framework of the Breaking New Ground programme and through social housing initiatives. Let us look at the pace of their delivery.

I must also mention to you that the message from the community of Murraysburg who have last seen houses at the time the ANC was governing the Western Cape, they are here listening and pleading for their plight to be home owners. Currently there are families of about 15 occupying a one bedroom house, and this is the pace of housing delivery in this province that the Premier boasts about and claims it is the province of hope.

In 2019 / 2020 the Province delivered 8 038 homes. By 2024 / 2025 that figure dropped to just 3 046 BNG units and 1 331 FLISP units, only 4 377 homes in total. That is a mere 0,6% of the backlog. At this pace it will take 157 years to house everyone on the list. That is not delivery, that is abandonment.

Why we must insist a house is more than a house. It is an economic tool. Housing projects can be engines of job creation, training and empowerment for working class families. Each house built should mean jobs for local youth, opportunities for women and the development of small contractors, not just profits for big construction firms.

This is a province of hopelessness to the poor, and that can be found also in the case of the George building collapse which exposed cheap labour practises. Construction companies which often rely on cheap migrant labour sidelines local unemployed youth and women who desperately need work. The tragedy exposed not only poor oversight, but also the exploitative labour practises in the building industry, which is not mentioned here and everybody wants to only speak about the construction mafia, because this is also another mafia that must be exposed.

As we listened to some members telling us that we must involve private sector and also incentivise the private sector. Nobody wants to unmask how the private sector is exploiting the very poor in this particular province with these economic opportunities. This matter of housing delivery cannot be

detached from labour dynamics. If housing projects enrich contractors whilst excluding local communities from work opportunities, then housing delivery deepens inequality rather than solving it.

In the City of Cape Town here we are seeing a crisis where the average house in this province cost about R1,6 million, yet most households can afford not more than R600 000. The housing market studies confirms a severe shortage of homes in the R300 000 to R600 000 range, while high end homes remain over supplied. This is why the gap market is growing and why backyard shacks are mushrooming.

Cape Town alone accounts for over 350 000 of the housing applications. Communities in Khayelitsha, Du Noon, Philippi, Mitchells Plain and Grabouw remain trapped in overcrowded informal settlements, often without [Inaudible 0:55:47.5] proper sanitation or access to safe transport routes. At the same time social housing projects in well located areas, such as Woodstock, Salt River and Observatory, have been stalled or resisted. The well-publicised Tafelberg Site in Sea Point is a glaring example of the Provincial Government's reluctance to release prime land for affordable housing.

Instead of breaking new ground we are re-entrenching old patterns of exclusion, whilst the BNG framework emphasises social and rental housing, the Western Cape has struggled to deliver its scale. The Social Housing Regulatory Authority SHRA, has pointed out that the province lags behind

Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal in both the number of social housing projects approved and the units delivered. Social housing is critical because it targets households earning between R1,5 and R15 000 per month, the so-called “gap” market that is too poor to access bank mortgages, but too rich to qualify for free BNG houses.

The Western Cape fails to prioritise this sector and instead condemns the thousands of working families to remain in informal housing far from their places of work. Hon Deputy Speaker, the BNG policy gave us a road map to transform our cities and towns into inclusive integrated spaces, yet in this province the housing backlog grows, social housing stagnates and land in well located areas remains locked away. The province of hopelessness to the poor, a province where South Africans of low income are reduced to an economic migrants ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ... in their own land and racialised on the basis of the hierarchy of their racial demography, by parties like the DA, and we have heard now, here, that they are economic migrants, and they must actually be last in consideration. This is done by members ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ... the oath of membership [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ... that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Thank you for your submission, hon Nkondlo. We now recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the history of Cape Town is a history of conflict, a history of removals and a history of displacements, and what started in 1652 when foreign vessels arrived on the shores of this beautiful province, is exactly history that should not be forgotten, because our people should never forget, not only who they are, but also how our misery all started here leading to what we continue to experience in this province today.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the history of this land is a history of a certain racial group who were foreign at the time, and acting with greed and who undermined the hospitality of the peaceful host. They did so by using guns and every weapon on their disposal to take what does not belong to them.

Hon Deputy Speaker, since then and until today, that specific race continue to occupy suitable parts of this land offered by the [Inaudible 0:58:56] and much to the exclusion of others who do not resemble their skin colour or

race. Hon Deputy Speaker, over the years such exclusion became a guiding policy of successive governments which firmly adopted and institutionalised a policy of exclusion. One does not have to look too far in order to pinpoint elements of resistance against inclusion.

Not too long ago a Provincial Government and City led by the DA frowned upon a request to turn the Tafelberg Site into an exclusionary housing development project which should respond to the provision of spatial planning. Hon Deputy Speaker, those running the Provincial Government and the City within the DA did not hesitate to spend millions in legal fees in order to fight the idea of the Tafelberg property being turned into an exclusionary social housing development.

They fought this idea all the way to the Constitutional Court until sanity prevailed as a result of a firm and resounding public backlash. Hon Deputy Speaker, despite the Provincial Government making a U-turn with plans to now turn the Tafelberg Site into an affordable social housing development, there are still elements within the DA in this Government who want to contradict those plans by now calling for the site to be turned into an old age home.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the housing backlog in this province is also exacerbated by a lack of proper and decisive policy on spatial planning and the provision of social housing in the inner city. Whilst the social housing development projects involving Leeuloop, Founders Garden and Prestwich, are steps in the

right direction, hon Deputy Speaker, and who target around 3 500 mixed development social housing units, it is still not enough when one looks at the current housing backlog, as well as the rate in which our people need these houses, which should be affordable and close to the areas of business activity.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the EFF we join the chorus of those that demand parking lots owned and operated by the Provincial Government to also be reconfigured and utilised to start new mixed property developments, which will also incorporate affordable social housing.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, if those who lead this Provincial Government are true to the soul and main endeavour of exclusionary spatial planning, then they should not hesitate to redevelop those parking lots as well into inclusionary social housing units. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, fellow members of the Executive online and present. Hon Members of the Provincial Parliament, and above all those law abiding beneficiaries still waiting on the waiting list.

I am very glad that we are having this debate today, and the reason I am so glad is that it gives us all the opportunity and the platform to correct misinformation which has sadly also been spewed here this afternoon with cold hard facts, and I have to apologise to you, hon Deputy Speaker, in advance, because you will hear me repeating facts that I have been trying to get across to our colleagues in front of me so many, many times since the beginning of this year. It seems that they either cannot grasp the information or that they deliberately distort the truth for political gain. I tend to think that it is the latter.

Hon Deputy Speaker, possibly the biggest distortion of the truth peddled in various forms by the Opposition is that the Western Cape Government receives increased grants, but delivers fewer houses than the number delivered 10 years ago. They are misleading the public, hon Deputy Speaker.

The truth is that the Western Cape Government is not receiving even close enough from the ANC-run National Department of Human Settlements to serve our people. It is their Minister who is delivering fewer housing opportunities. The Western Cape Government is by no means receiving its fair share and as is the case with all of infrastructure.

Are my National counterparts considering that the demand for housing is increasing because people are streaming to the only last province which gives them hope. Are they thinking about the rising cost of material, or of

transport, or even of labour? Clearly not, because on top of this, our budgets are cut year after year.

So today I again try to settle the distortion of the facts around these budget cuts. No, we did not give back any money, it was taken. It was taken without any logical justification. On 5 March 2025, R300 million of our budget was unilaterally cut by the National Department without considering the impact it has, or will be having on the many beneficiaries who are now waiting even longer for their houses to be built. But we are fighting this, hon members of the House. On the [Inaudible 1:03:26] Governmental dispute, and believe me they are worried because we did our job, we delivered.

So it is the ANC whose policy is still stuck in 1994, if you listen to them today. It is the PA who has no policy but makes a lot of noise. It is the NCC who is falling apart, and it is GOOD whose three page policy example is Knoflokskraal, it is their prime example. These are the parties standing in the way of the legal beneficiaries of the Western Cape and their right to adequate dignified housing opportunities.

To the Opposition members of the Standing Committee of Infrastructure sitting here today and online, please go to our website, acquaint yourselves with the criteria for qualifying for housing opportunity, and above all, learn how to apply and teach your constituents how to apply. Please do that as soon as possible so that we can stop the spread of misinformation around the Western Cape housing demand database.

At recent meetings, up until even last night, hon Deputy Speaker, I met with communities such as Mfuleni, Blackheath, Eerste River, and others, where we could see how people are being misinformed about the housing database. People are being told that they will be kicked off the waiting list and that we will pick and choose who is on the list. This side of the House does not govern like the ANC and other provinces. We do things right, within the law, and we are transparent in how we do it.

For this reason we are hosting a verification drive in September, specifically on the Welmoed project to ensure that law abiding beneficiaries have access to their rightful housing opportunities. Not because they are a *chommie* of this or that councillor, or some of them are connected with so-called business forums, they are supposed to be on the waiting list. Our priority as the State must be those law abiding residents who follow the correct route to get onto the list, not queue jumpers, no one else, the law abiding ones.

To the EFF who asked for this debate, again members, I apologise but I will have to repeat myself again. Social housing is not the same as BNG, or the former old RDP programme. We have moved on people. † Kom nou EFF, wees op dit, magtig man. [Come now EFF, be on it, good heavens, man.] Social housing is an affordable rental option for households earning between R1 850 to R22 000 per month, and the development and management of social housing is undertaken by accredited social housing institutions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I pray, and I seldom pray in this House, that today is the day when the facts finally sink in, but we can only hope. Despite the unwillingness of the National Government to give us our fair share and fund us efficiently, despite the National Department cruelly slashing our budgets, despite unlawful invasions and occupations, and despite all the misinformation, this Provincial Government is moving forward.

I am proud to say that the social housing sector in the Western Cape has performed well over the past financial year, out-performing all other provinces. In total an over R2,9 billion social housing project pipeline which reflects 5 845 units that must be delivered across our province within the next three years. What a difference this will make.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, to implement it and to pull this off, we need funding from the Social Housing Regulated Authority, funding they had to admit they no longer have. What is our National Department going to do about this? So our pipeline is ready, hon members, this Provincial Government under this Premier is ready. But I must say it seems like our national partners at a national level are nowhere to be found. They have to start playing their part. There is a lot at stake. We can create so much more opportunities; deliver so much more if we actually do work together.

But this is the Western Cape Government, †ons kerm en kreun nie, [we do not moan and groan,] and we are moving. You can recall the Premier and I recently launched the Inner City Housing Development in Cape Town, the

biggest inner city housing development to date, which is part of our social housing pipeline, at over R2 billion the Founders Garden mixed-use inner city development will yield in total, or just over 2 600 housing opportunities. These will be real homes within walking distance of economic opportunities, within walking distance of the Cape Town Station and the MyCiTi Centre just around the corner from where they will live.

Founders Garden was unveiled a mere 100 days after the Premier and I launched the Leeuloop 840 housing opportunities, and it will not be the only one, we announced the next one, under this Premier's legacy, not the former Premier's. We are moving, hon Deputy Speaker. In terms of delivery of housing opportunities, context however does matter. It is something our Opposition fails to understand.

Between 2014 and 2019 the Western Cape received around R2,3 billion a year for housing. Since 2019 our allocation has declined every year down to its current R1 688 billion for 2024 / 2025. Yet despite this, and including our 2025 / 2026 data we still delivered 57 458 opportunities to date, which includes the Build In Yards programme, the BNG programme, the First Home Finance programme, sites, services, and individual subsidies in a fiscal environment where we have lost close to R2 billion; cumulatively compared to, if we compare it to the 2019 baseline had it been sustained, in real terms, after inflation.

Today's budget is 30 to 35% smaller than it was in 2019. Fewer rands but more efficient delivery is still being executed by this DA-led Government. That is the real DA difference.

Hon Deputy Speaker, remember that many of these sites have fallen victim to land invasion, or attempted land invasions, and many of these projects were disrupted by so-called business forums and construction mafias who are deliberately working to derail our projects for personal or political gain, to which end we had to reallocate over R1 billion towards safeguarding our sites to be able to deliver. This is R1 billion that could have built hundreds and hundreds more houses for the people who are so desperately in need of housing opportunities in this province.

Our colleagues across the floor, hon Deputy Speaker, easily point out delays and backlogs. Why do they not help us? Why do they not raise their voices against unlawful invasions and extortion and illogical budget cuts? †Hulle bekke is stil. [They are quiet.] But as I have said we are moving.

In terms of informal settlements, hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure has adopted a transversal people-centred strategy to accelerate and simplify interventions in partnership with municipalities, but most importantly, our community. In the past financial year alone, 43 projects were targeted for funding amounting to R382 million, with 11 already in implementation, delivering 1 672 service ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please take your seat. I recognise the hon Chief Whip of the Official Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like the MEC to withdraw the way he spoke to the Opposition now. He said, “our *bekke is stil*.” That is an insult, we have mouths. [Interjection]. Can he withdraw what he just said now about the Opposition. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: No, [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bans, it is not a direct point of order. I will allow the Minister to conclude.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Delivering 1 672 service sites, 145 more than the projected target. Over the current MTEF period we are projecting a total of 1 974 server sites, with over 800 expected in this financial year alone. These upgrades include access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, and in many cases also security of tenure.

Given the limited availability of relocation of land, our Province is also intensifying the use of super blocking and re blocking approaches. This ensures incremental improvements where people live, avoiding the costly delays of Greenfield developments. Hon Deputy Speaker, through this strategy we are not only improving the physical environment of our informal

settlements, but also protecting families from disasters such as flooding, storms, fire and health risks, while opening pathways to dignity and opportunity.

To conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, I actually wish to thank the EFF for giving me the opportunity to reiterate the truth and giving the facts today. I am so pleased that there are members in this House who understand that the Province is short-changed, that the work we do is being misrepresented or sometimes sabotaged and that we can unlock many opportunities if we all work together, and I hope that this is the takeaway from today's debate, that if we work together, we can shape a future where our residents are safer and healthier. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Where should we receive a budget that speaks to our growing population...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I wanted to check whether the MEC is prepared to take a question, because he has suggested that Madam Zille has no legacy in the province.

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: After [Inaudible 1:12:59] thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. There is one minute and five seconds remaining.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Where should we receive a budget that speaks to our growing population, beneficiaries can receive their rightful homes, and where they can live prosperous and dignified lives. But now to our law abiding beneficiaries following our Sitting today, through every cut and every hurdle, this Provincial Government will keep running the race with endurance, because we seek to deliver for you, something which only a DA-led government can do. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this particular subject as brought forward by the hon Lithakong. Hon members, in terms of Rule 197, we now proceed to the Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Simmers.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

On 25 July 2025, the Western Cape Government announced its plan to develop the Founders Garden; however, the same land forms part of the Artscape Precinct, which was part of the Cape Town Central City Regeneration Programme that was announced in 2010:

- (a) Why has there been a delay in the implementation of the now-called Founders Garden Project, and*
- (b) when is the project expected to be completed?*

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and through you to the hon Member.

The (a) part of the question, the development of Founders Garden site has been complex as a result of a number of factors, including its position in relation to the Artscape Precinct, significant shifts in the economic climate, and changes to procurement processes. The announcement of the project as part of the Cape Town Central City Regeneration Programme in 2010, marked just the start of the enablement phase of the project, much of which has been dependent upon decisions which rests with other spheres of government and departments.

The enablement phase has included various intricate processes such as the removal of the title deed restrictions limiting the use to the garden in the park and incidental activities. This necessitated going through parliamentary processes.

- Secondly, the design of a development framework, precinct plans, various development impact assessments, and ultimately rezoning.
- A review of the highest and best use based on funding limitations to the Artscape Precinct, and on the identification of housing as a public need.
- Amending the original rezoning conditions in order to align them with the highest and best use referred to in the previous point.
- The subdivision and consolidation within new property boundaries, which processes includes – the registration of a servitude in favour of the City of Cape Town to protect access to the pressurised sewer (?)
- The negotiation and finalisation of stakeholder and user agreements.
- The drawing up of a financial feasibility study and the legal due diligence around the contract mechanism and procurement framework, and
- The development of a developer procurement process and the design of the relevant documentation, including a request for proposal and the relevant sales agreement.

As indicated in our opening remarks, many aspects of these processes march to the pace of institutions outside of the control of my Department.

The (b) part of your question. The compulsory briefing was held on 14 August, and the project is currently out to tender with the closing date of 29 October 2025. The developer procurement process is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2026 subject to unexpected procurement delays. Construction of the full development is expected to take three to four years from the date of development contract awarded.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, let me just go back to the Minister's request to the previous debate. We asked for members of the Opposition to assist to deliver housing where there are occupied buildings, and I want to say that I will volunteer to assist, but the Ministers must show up. We know that the DA is scared of dialogue, but if we are going to solve this problem they have to overcome that fear and engage with those communities who are occupying buildings.

Back to this debate, hon Deputy Speaker, this Government is acting less like a serious administration and more like a Hollywood stuck in a creative crisis. Instead of producing bold new projects we get endless reboots of the same tired story. This very same piece of land, Founders Garden, was announced for development in 2010 as part of the Central City Regeneration Programme, and it was re-announced in 2016 for social housing, and then again in 2019

when Cabinet approved it for release, and now here we are in 2025 and suddenly we are expected to stand, clap and act like this is a blockbuster premiere.

Why after years of fanfare, photo ops, recycled announcements, has there been no concrete progress on delivering homes for people who need them. The latest reboot promises 1 476 social housing units for households earning less than R22 000 a month. That sounds good on paper but these numbers have been floating around for years. Cape Town has one of the worst housing backlogs in the country. Hundreds of thousands of people are waiting on a list that moves slower than this project has moved in 15 years.

In fact the current count is roughly 688 824 people, so these social housing units barely make a dent in the deficit. The public does not need another staged public event; they need construction cranes, bricks and roofs over their heads. This is not just about one piece of land; this is about a pattern, a pattern of delay of smoke and mirrors of Government failure. Every time the people demand housing they get an announcement. Every time they demand dignity, they get another speech, and every time they demand action, they get another photo op.

So I ask again, are we going to see all the projects from the City Regeneration programme paraded out every few years like lame Hollywood remakes, or will this Government finally stop selling posters and actually make the damn movie, because we already have the Provincial Office

Precinct remake, AKA Leeuloop, now we are just waiting on the rest. Because, hon Deputy Speaker, after 15 years of talk, the time for trailers is over, it is time to deliver the movie. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise the hon Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Founders Garden project represents a vital opportunity, not only to revitalise the central city and strengthen our cultural precinct, but also to create jobs, to attract tourism and to stimulate the economy. I am encouraged that this development is now moving forward under the Minister's leadership, and I look forward to seeing it become a flagship example of how the Western Cape delivers urban regeneration benefits to all of our communities.

†Minister, watter spesifieke meganismes of planne word deur die Founders Garden projek geïmplementeer om die groeiende vraag na goed geleë bekostigbare behuising in Kaapstad werklik aan te spreek, en hoe sal die breër gemeenskap daarby baat? [Minister, what specific mechanisms or plans are being implemented by the Founders Garden project to really address the growing demand for well situated affordable housing in Cape Town, and how will the broader community benefit from it?] Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Wessels. I recognise on the hybrid system the hon Lekker. Hon Lekker? Hon Lekker on the online platform? You may proceed, hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are audible, you may proceed. Hon Lekker, are you able to unmute and proceed? Hon members, as you are fully aware that members have the responsibility of ensuring that they have a stable internet connection. I will make one last call. Hon Lekker, are you able to unmute and proceed?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Can you hear me now, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, yes.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The so-called Founders Garden project is yet another example of how the DA Government does not know how to get the things done. Let us remind this House that this project was first spoken about as far back as 2010 under the Cape Town Central City Regeneration Programme. That was 15 years ago.

Today in 2025 the DA is making an announcement as if this is something new. This shocking delay of more than a decade has caused the people of Cape Town dearly. While the DA was dragging its feet the people of Cape

Town were left in the backlog which has grown to over 600 000 families still waiting for homes. That is a humanitarian crisis, yet this Government continues to move at a snail's pace. The MEC must tell us why this project has been delayed for over 15 years and exactly what the Government has yet to do?

Within the city our people are desperately needing houses but also what is sounding very alarming, we do not have or not want another failed experiment like the Conradie development, where the lofty promises did not match the reality of ordinary families. If the DA could not get Conradie right, what guarantees do we have that Founders Garden will not also stumble?

The ANC demands more than just one shiny announcement, we want similar projects across the city, including the following sites, Tafelberg and Somerset Hospital Sites, both which were stalled for over years due to the DA's lack of political will and its obsession with protecting the interests of the wealthy. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, please conclude.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you. I would like to understand exactly what needs to be done without ensuring that the private deals are not made behind the scenes. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lekker. I see the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, this land could have changed lives, land in the very heart of the city, yet it was left idle while working class families were pushed further to the edges, and it is not just Founders Garden. It is Tafelberg, Dorp Street, Government Garage, Pickwick Street, Salt River Market, Pine Road, Newmarket Street.

Just today the Mayor of Cape Town reannounced the release of the Roeland Street Fruit and Veg Site. It was announced in 2017 and again by the City and Province in a ceremony on the site in February 2002 (?). Tafelberg's first feasibility study was conducted in 2011, and yet I attended another meeting two weeks ago about planning the development of affordable housing on the site. 14 years later and you are still talking while desperate people are still fighting.

No bricks have been laid, and fighting costs money, time and livelihood of people. Every delay comes at a direct human cost. Behind each stat is a child who grows up believing that the city has no place for them. Behind each delay is a grandmother who has been on the waiting list for 60 years and dies waiting for a home she was promised. Behind each broken commitment as a Government that seems more concerned with announcements than delivery.

The people we are talking about are the backbone of our society, the nurses, teachers, cleaners, police officers, service workers who keep the city

running. They are not asking for charity, they are asking for fair access to safe affordable homes close to where they work, study and live. Every year of delay is another year of displacement, another year where children spend hours commuting instead of learning. Another year where single mothers pay most of their income on transport because they cannot afford to live where their jobs are.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if we cannot prioritise housing for the most vulnerable, then what exactly are we doing here? The Founders Garden Site could have been a model for spatial justice in Cape Town; instead it has become a case study in political procrastination. It is time this Government stops hiding behind press statements and ceremonial launches. Stop treating social housing like a campaign prop and start treating it like the human right that it is, and if this Government cannot deliver on this then they must make way for those who will. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and again there are certain processes which we need to respect, it falls within the National Department's frame, it falls within the relevant Local Government, which is the City of Cape Town. Something that the hon member Herron is supposed to know because he was a Mayco member. At

some stage he did serve on the planning component as a Mayco member in the City of Cape Town.

Out of the eight steps I responded to the hon Herron, five of those are either at the City of Cape Town, or they are with the relevant National departmental body. It does not vest with my Department and it is not some movie, hon Deputy Speaker. These are the facts.

This is a law abiding Provincial Government and we do need to follow the process of the law, otherwise Founders Garden could have been a Knoflokskraal, and we all know who the initiator of Knoflokskraal was. We all know how that one is panning out in Theewaterskloof, because it did not follow the process and the rule of law, because that was political “expedation” ahead of a local Government Election. †Toe raak hulle saak [Onduidelik – 1:28:01] [Then their case became [Inaudible.]] hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot allow that as a Provincial Government where it is our land, we respect the rule of law.

Once all these projects have been concluded; something the hon Herron is well aware of because again he was a Mayco member at the City of Cape Town, during this period that he is referring to, the Premier did not go and rehash or reannounce a project, the final conclusion to the end of this legislative journey is what we could announce; the tender went out, a call for proposals.

10 years ago the process has only started in terms of what is there to enable this project? In 2010 again, that was the start of the enablement. For 15 years a lot of processes had to go its course, and judging how some of the National Departments and bodies who we had to work with operate, it makes sense why it takes so long because of their inefficiency, not this Provincial Government and my Department.

Hon Wessels, this is why when we announced Founders Garden in its form in which it is going to market, we have moved from just social housing, which was the original intent 15 years ago, but life goes on and new programmes were introduced in the Human Settlements space. That is why we talk of a mixed-use development. It still focusses on social housing, but with SHRA not being able to commit to specific funding for a number of our projects in our pipeline, a new funding model, a new development model needed to be conceptualised, which talks to mixed-use, the open market component, the private ownership, and the social housing component, while also introducing a form of retail to ensure that it is sustainable, and that is the reality.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: The DA Western Cape does not make movies. The DA in this Government does not make one-man band movies. We govern by the rule of law and we deliver.

Every project that I have announced in my previous term and in this term, under this proud Premier, we have delivered in time, on budget, within that term. Not in 10 years, not in 15 years, within a singular term, and this will

happen with all of our inner city developments as well.

So this is not the movie, but do follow us and be part of the solution. Do not encourage invasions of buildings and land, be part of the solution instead of being part of the problem. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes the interpellation as put forward by the hon member Herron.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 202 we will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper. I once again wish to advise hon members that once the hon Premier or the hon Minister has started the reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for the Sitting of the House to indicate that they want to ask a question, or for those that are in the House, with a raise of their hand.

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 a follow-up question. Thereafter other hon members may use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow-up question.

As per the Question Paper, Question 1, I recognise the hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

With reference to the reply to Question 2 of 8 August 2024:

Whether the Safety Plan has since been reviewed; if not, (a) what stage in the review process is the Safety Plan currently in and (b) how much longer is the review process expected to take?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, are you able to take us on your seat? I see the hon Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): My apologies, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The hon member from the NCC was absent earlier on. Does that mean Question 5 is then withdrawn? If we can please get an indication. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will revert back before that particular question. I see the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and to the hon member for the question.

After consulting with the Department of Police, Community Police Oversight and Community Safety, I can say that (a) the Western Cape Safety Plan is currently in review to ensure alignment with the objectives, outcomes and focus areas of the Provincial Strategic Plan 2025 to 2030.

The revised Safety Plan makes a key distinction between violence reduction, which focuses on stabilising and responding to immediate crime and violence, and violence prevention, which aims at breaking cycles of violence through long-term interventions.

Central to the Safety Plan is the issue of data-driven decision-making and evidence-based practise to direct resources where they are most needed. It includes three key objectives which are underpinned by several outcomes that stem from the focus groups held with residents of the Western Cape in the development of the Provincial Strategic Plan 2025/30.

The objectives and outcomes are as follows:

- Objective 1: Integrated violence prevention;
- Objective 2: Safe and secure communities and infrastructure; and
- Objective 3: Effective and responsive law enforcement.

Then (b). I am informed that at present the plan is on track to be presented to Cabinet in September. I will endeavour to ensure that this House is kept informed of developments in this regard.

What I can also say with regard to the plan is that we held the Provincial Premier's Council earlier this week in Swellendam, and with all municipal managers and all Mayors present, as well as the Provincial Government, and of course it was also rolled out there as part of the consultation process. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member who posed the question.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Premier for the answer.

There has been a lot of focus on the violence reduction part of the plan, that boots on the ground component, but what has the Western Cape Provincial Government's departments done with the violence prevention part in the six years that the plan has been implemented? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, and thanks for that follow-up.

So obviously in violence, the Violence Prevention Unit, which I am sure the hon member is aware of, it is based within the Department of Health, but is about the whole of government.

So it is programmes like the First 1 000 Days, Safer Schools Programmes, etcetera. The current or latest ones, for example, is Planet Youth. This is quite an unbelievable task that they set themselves. They went about consulting young scholars in our province, young learners. They went to 123 schools, interviewed 50 000 young people. That project has had a pilot roll-out and now a much bigger roll-out was launched not so long ago in Mitchells Plain.

There is the Safer City Collaboration Agreement, there is the – he has spoken about the violence prevention, I will get to more detail for him.

The multi-stake partnerships, which looks at ABTs across the region. The programmes, for example, like:

- The parenting programmes that are run by DSD.
- The programmes linked to the taxi plan and looking at reducing violence in engagements with the taxi industry.
- We have the youth unemployment and intervention programmes.
- The substance abuse and alcohol programmes.
- The gangsterism, organised crime intervention programmes.
- There is the GBV violence programmes.
- There is the climate change and crime oversight and overlay programmes.
- There is the public infrastructure and safety programmes.

- There is the access to firearms programmes.

And then there is the Secondary Public Transport Programme that I spoke of, and that is primarily in the Metro.

There is also a whole range of programmes that are run in the rural areas, plant and marine life poaching, burglary and theft on farms and tools and equipment. Continued socio-economic programmes, the influx of undocumented foreign national programmes.

So obviously the Safety Plan, on each of these programmes there are ones that will be reviewed in this process, and then of course there are other ones that are being launched all the time. I have just spoken about the latest one, which is the youth programme and Planet Youth, which is, I think, a really big programme around violence prevention, especially in those focused gang-related areas, and then perhaps the last programme, I did speak a little bit about it last time, but – or the latest violence prevention programme, which is the Khulisa Care Programme, because we know that – and I do not go into detail, I am sure the hon member listened to it – the programme about stunting and underweight children, and if you follow their lifepath you will find that because of those formation years without proper nutrition, you actually are setting those young people up to fail. They end up to be more susceptible to drop out of school, to not reach their full potential in the schooling system, and then that is a pipeline into crown, and I think this programme now is also one of those interventions that really I am super

excited about as a prevention programme.

Of course violence prevention is a whole raft of programmes that takes a long time. I mean we can talk about the SWIMS app and the data that are coming out of the SWIMS app with our Social Development teams, and then how we use that data to understand, and it is very interesting to see already as it is being developed the impact of the social workers and the pressure that they are under on 13 to 18 year olds, and then that shows you the number and those you need to focus in. That is again in violence prevention and young boys at risk, how you zoom in onto those programmes to make sure that we minimise the long-term impact on crime where you are using it for violence prevention.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Chair, thank you to the hon Premier.

Hon Premier, I just wanted to know in terms of your comprehensive strategy and one of the [1:39:38] that you touched on was the violence prevention.

Now the youth are at the forefront unfortunately of a lot of crime that is taking place in our province, and I wondered whether your plan will also incorporate networking with youth, such as the youth military cadets that have been existing for a few years now, doing fantastic work also where they

address the mental well-being of young people, boys and girls, and whether that networking is in place with that particular organisation, as well as the retired police reservists? Whether they would also be part of your comprehensive plan and specifically in fighting crime and preventing violence? Thank you, hon Premier.

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

I mean obviously the youth programmes that stand out immediately are Chrysalis, Year Beyond, the Pay Intern Programmes, which are youth that perhaps they have finished matric, but they need, they are not in employment, they are not in further learning in universities or colleges, and they are also susceptible in this, and I agree absolutely, youth has got to be a big focus, and perhaps in the earlier part of my answer I did not put some of those programme in.

On the marching – I presume it is the cadets you speak to. It is the marching bands, there definitely is work that goes into those marching bands support, and specifically in the City I know that in those wards there is definite support for those marching bands, because I agree, if it is the same, if I understand, the same part of the question.

When it comes to the reservists. The reservists is an issue that we really have also been trying to get right with National Government. I mean I have even got to the position where I have made budgetary allocations available to

them to say we will actually put some money towards the reservists, but that has not been taken up. I also agree it is an area that needs support, but it also needs national intervention, because it has got to go across into the police stations themselves, and of course this is part of a further discussion and that is devolution of power, how we can play a much better role and stronger role, decision-making in deployments, because the deployments are still very, very skew. We do not deploy officers and resources to the high crime areas.

In actual fact when you look at the data it is the opposite to that, but I must say I am encouraged. Since the new acting Minister has been put in place, I know that the City has and I have also written to him requesting a meeting, and I was encouraged from some of the comments that he was making yesterday. He was in the Eastern Cape yesterday, but he was making some comments around policing and he is open to the kind of discussion that we have been putting on the table for a long time on let us have a look at the ability to use data and use new technologies and use different policing methods and mechanisms, like we are doing through LEAP and like we are doing through the City and Province partnership, which actually shows that these things can work, that he is open to that discussion that we can – and I am looking forward to that meeting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

My questions to the hon Premier is how is the under-resourcing of the SAPS, as the national mandate at the end of the day, impacting on the Western Cape's future plans to combat crime? Especially considering the dynamic and increasingly organised nature of crime?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much to hon member Walters for that follow-up question.

You know, you have got to try and prepare yourself for as much data and detail as possible for follow-ups, and on this one – I mean over the past six years SAPS Western Cape budget allocation has grown on average of 3.1%, this is below the inflation rate, so they have the same problem that we have, and at National Cabinet level, you can ask anybody that is at that level, that when I pitch for education funding and extra funding, when I pitch for extra health funding, I also always pitch for extra police funding, even if it only goes to the national level at the moment, while we are having a discussion on how management can change, and that is quite interesting, because with a 3.1% increase annually on average over the last six years for policing at a national level into the police budget, who has the responsibility, by contrast law enforcement budget in the City of Cape Town increased by not 3% or 3.1%, by 34%.

So really trying to step into the gap, trying to make sure that while – because everywhere everybody is feeling it, this level of crime that is increasing.

So, you know, definitely those resources are not being put in place. I always say where is the highest crime rates? Well, surely we should have the best deployment and the best resources deployed to those areas.

Well, the data does not show that, and on manpower resourcing we have a 1:429 police to population ratio, that is the average. So just think of 429.

So if you are in a high crime rate, we hopefully have more police officers to population, so that number should come down one police officer to every three or 400 people, not 429, but if you have a look at that resourcing again and you just randomly look at the highest crime rate areas:

- Mitchells Plain, it is not 400, but to 600.
- Samora Machel 838
- Philippi East 435
- Gugulethu 874
- Khayelitsha 638
- Harare 773
- Kraaifontein 760
- Mfuleni 581
- Nyanga 635
- Delft 784

So that is something that can be fixed with a stroke of a pen. They can just

say, “Tomorrow you are all reporting to that precinct and all these resources are going there, because that is where the highest crime rates are.” That has not happened year after year after year.

So really it is disappointing that the resources do not get deployed to the right place and the province as a whole does not get the resourcing that it needs to make sure that we are being effective when it comes to policing and fighting crime, and that is why as a province we have had to step in more and more, as municipalities, I just come from the municipalities now this week where we got all together, they are having to step in more and more. Safety is a big issue across our province and the resources are just not there.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, for the sake of transparency and before I list the last speaker, I have noted those that put up their hands on the online platform, but also those in the Chamber. Directly after the fourth person raised his hand, which is hon member Sayed, I then noticed the hand from the hon member Herron, together with the hand from the hon member Ngqentsu. In that regard the final question goes to the hon member Sayed.

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

The hon Premier’s Government of the Western Cape has consistently highlighted, as he has now as well, highlighted the Safety Plan as a data-driven intervention to address violence and crime.

Now in light of the ... we have just heard this morning, the recent stabbing at the Nowers High School in Hout Bay, where learners protested this morning because they feel unsafe, is the hon Premier able to indicate what this data shows about the actual impact and effectiveness of the Safety Plan, particularly in improving school safety? Thank you.

The PREMIER: So obviously the question from the hon member was a bit different to this follow-up question, and I am very happy that we supply that exact data to the hon member, but the hon member, who obviously, as the Leader of the Opposition, is also quite seized with education and that is great, and he will know himself that there are many schools where you will see law enforcement deployment by LEAP officers and law enforcement officers in the City of Cape Town specifically to those schools. Why? Because SAPS, run by National, is not adequate to offer the safety of our citizens, whether in school, in hospitals, on the street where they live, they are not able to do the proper job, that is why we have to step in.

It is a massive, massive failure of the ANC and really 30 years, and there has been no change, and we know that when our Constitution was first written, it was actually a devolved policing system, but we also know at that stage it was a very volatile KZN, and the idea was temporarily to pull that power to the centre, but that is also the mindset of ANC, control that centre. Whether it is the courts and the criminal justice system, whether it is the policing, the investigation, all of those key powers. Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please speak to the Chair. Hon members, order! Hon members, order. If you have a particular question there is a platform in order to raise that questions. Hon Premier, please proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you. The hon member Windvogel obviously is feeling a bit aggrieved here. She must put the question in of whatever she wants to know, I will gladly answer that question, and really it is about data.

It is about data and effectiveness, measuring and getting those outcomes after you have measured whether you have done something that has made a difference, and these other projects that I have spoken about now, what Minister Wenger is busy with now on the Kholisa Care, we will measure that data and we will see what difference – she set herself a bold target within that framework and if we can move the number to what she said herself, well, quite frankly we will start to do things that other parts of the world will look at us and say, “Wow, how did you get that right?”

We are not scared to take on these things and we are not scared to really work hard at it, but the other thing is that we also ask the hon member Sayed and the hon members on the other side of this House, to at the same time, when they keep asking the same question over and over again, we ask them to also read the reports. Read ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Is that a

point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes, on a point of order. The hon Premier is misleading the House. This is the first time – you can go to the Hansard, it is the first time ever since 2019 that I have asked a question on the Safety Plan in this House. I have not asked at all a question on the Safety Plan. They must not mislead the House here, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon – I, can I – I see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, if the hon Sayed would like to make a substantive motion he is welcome to do that, but he cannot stand up and accuse the hon Premier of misleading the House. He needs to follow the Rules of order as set out, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Now I do not need to echo what you have just indicated. Hon Premier, please proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Perhaps also just to add to the hon member Sayed's point that he just raised. He must actually go and have a look at Hansard and see exactly the question that he did ask, because he did not ask about the Safety Plan, he asked about violence in schools and data linked to violence in schools.

So he must also be careful about how he responds, but I am responding to

him now about data and the Safety Plan and crime in our province, and the hon members of this House that keep asking these questions. I do not think they ever go and read the report. Do not read my reports, do not read the Department reports, do not read the reports what we table when we come to the Standing Committee, read the other reports that are independent outside of us, because of course – and you can ask any question, you can call the Standing Committee, you can pull data on all of these things, but go and have a look at what works for hotspot patrols in Cape Town promoting high performance policing. Go and have a look at this report. This is a report done by the Institute for Security Studies internationally, funded by the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Bavarian Government. Go and read this report and the criminologists, international criminologists that are actually measuring the work that we are doing, because that is what you must do. You must get yourself and your data that you measure, but ask other independent peers to measure you as well.

Have a look at this one. This one is an unbelievable one and of course this one is funded by the EU. It is the ENACT, Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime. This one is also the ISS, but this is also by Interpol and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime. They are the ones that produced this report. This report is about an intervention in Grassy Park, where all that happened is they funded the positioning of a legal person inside the police station. The police first pushed back against it. They did not want a lawyer inside their police station, but what has happened is this resource is now trusted by the police,

because the lawyer inside the police station, funded by an international organisation, is helping with writing up the dockets and the accuracy of the dockets, and making sure those dockets are prepared for court, because how many times does a docket get to court and the judge looks at this, they just throw it out because it is incorrect. Now in Grassy Park those dockets are now correct.

The PREMIER: What is more is the public are now starting to trust the system because they know when they go to lay a charge, when this lawyer is there, their detail is taken properly. It is put properly into a format, that there is going to be a consequence in court and there is going to be a conviction. This is an unbelievable partnership as part of the Safety Plan. Something really great.

Have any of you ever even thought to read the report? I bet you the answer is 'no'. You do not believe in looking at the independent reviews about data. You do not believe ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak to the Chair.

The PREMIER: You keep on talking against what is happening here, but the numbers do not lie and that is why ...[Interjections.] that is why I am looking forward to the discussion with the new Police Minister and I am so happy that he is happy to engage on these kinds of subjects. We are going to put this on the table because only together, we can fight crime. This part of the

House should actually start getting on site when it comes to fighting crime.

Then perhaps lastly, of course, this question was put on the table by the hon Herron. He always comes with all of his suggestions, et cetera. I thought I would go and have a look at the policy of his political party. I thought that would be a really good place to start because this House is a place for alternatives, for ‘why do you not try this if this is not working?’ Of course, you have got to do the oversight, but you can also say, ‘I have got a great idea’ and you bring a great idea. We can actually have a look at it, and we can get that idea going.

The hon Herron has a hang of a lot of say about crime. He is forever attaching the LEAP officers and the programme. He is really on this mission. It is like his sole mission, and it is interesting. So, I went to have a look at his policy on it, and you know, this is the policy. It has got one, it has got two, it has got three, it has got four, it has got five pages in the policy of his political party.

Well, the first page is just fancy pictures and a heading, and it has got no detail on it. So, that is not really a policy. The second one are the items. So, it says:

“How can GOOD fix safely and crime?”

What is the problem? GOOD will fix the problem and what will work and

sign up. So, that is not really a policy. That is just an agenda. So, now, we are getting into the meat of this policy. There are eight bullet points on what the problem is and then, a nice picture. Then, there are four bullet points on how they are going to fix crime. Then it says:

“Will it work?”

There is a big:

“Yes.”

It will work. Then, of course, the last page you cannot count because it is just ‘join our party’ or something. So, really, it is a bit light, hon Herron. We need to see a bit more depth in here and again, as I said, let us bring ideas here. I have never heard you put a constructive idea on the table to say, ‘put this in place. Let us try that.’ I have never heard you once say, ‘well done on the programme that is working.’ Not once!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am concerned, alright. The hon Premier is directly responding to hon Herron and therefore, he is beginning to be personal.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I was just about to again inform the hon Premier to speak through the Chair. I have taken the comment made by the hon Premier now, that that particular question has now been concluded. Is that correct, hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Correct.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I now see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the question to hon Minister Bredell has been withdrawn as agreed by the hon member and the hon Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Londt.

Attacks on social workers

3. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander to ask Mr J J Londt, Minister of Social Development:

(a) What is the total number of reported incidents involving attacks on social workers in the last year, (b)(i) of these incidents, how many are currently under investigation by the South African Police Service

(SAPS) and (ii) what are the details of these attacks classified as a priority crime by the SAPS, (c) in which locations or regions did these attacks occur and (d) how many social workers have resigned as a result of being attacked?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker and hon members of the House. To the hon member Kaizer-Philander on part (a):

“What is the total number of reported incidents involving attacks on social workers in the last year?”

We had a total of 54 incidents that were reported during the period 1 April 2024 up to date. In the second part you asked:

“Of these incidents, how many are currently under investigation by the South African Police Service.”

All 54 incidents were reported to the South African Police Service for investigation. The second part of the question is:

“What are the details of these attacks classified as a priority crime by the SAPS.”

These statistics include vehicle hijackings and attempted hijackings. I do not

know the details on what was classified as priority crimes. Then, if you look at part (c) there you ask:

“In which locations or regions did these attacks occur?”

In Khayelitsha there were nine, in Harare eight; Mfuleni eight, Gugulethu five; Lingeletu and Lingeletu West, four; Mitchells Plain, three; Nyanga, three, Phillipi, three; Blue Downs, two; Kleinvlei, two; Bellville, Delft, Gordons Bay, Kuyasa, Langa, Makhaza and Kuils River, one each. And then, (d):

“How many social workers have resigned as a result of being attacked?”

The answer is: none. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member that posed the question.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you to hon Minister Londt. Hon Minister, thank you very much for the response in that regard. I was asking in the second part of the question in relation to what General Patekile has informed the Committee the last time that they were invited to the Committee in terms of these crimes being prioritised on provincial level, but we will definitely follow up on that.

From your side, hon Minister, through the hon Deputy Speaker: what measures have been implemented by the Department of Social Development and SAPS, if you perhaps can indulge us, to ensure the safety of social workers in those high-risk areas. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. So, I firstly, just want to alert the hon members of this House that I will not be able to go into all the details because by sharing all the details, we will be putting our workers at risk. So, I will be sharing those details that we are able to share in the House.

The Department will continue to attend safety forums and work with law enforcement forums to report on all risks and follow their guidance where it is provided. In the meantime, the Department of Social Development and our staff, we are avoiding entering high-risk areas at certain times or staff do not go into certain high-risk areas. Residents in these areas are asked to come to our offices for meetings with social workers as far as possible.

Thanks to the collaboration with the South African Police Service and the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, officials from these departments also alert us if there are any safety risks we should be aware of. We have also removed all identifying information from our vehicles. In certain high-risk areas, security measures at offices and facilities have also been upgraded to protect our staff.

It must be noted that most hijackings of staff have occurred when they are on their way home in Government vehicles. So, we have asked staff to avoid taking these vehicles home as far as possible. Furthermore, a number of the hijackings have been of minibuses bringing staff back from shift work at the facilities. We have arranged for safe drop-off points in communities to reduce the risk. This also speaks to the bigger picture. We have staff willing and able to serve our residents in all the communities, but unfortunately, due to the lack of a safe environment, we cannot always serve residents as quickly as we want.

Therefore, we also want to reiterate the call made by the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety and the hon Premier so that we have more resources allocated to the South African Police Service based on the data that is available, so that we can then act more quickly and more efficiently when clients in these high-risk areas are in need of help. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have not seen any indication on the online platform. In the House, I see the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you to hon Minister Londt. Thank you for following up on the various measures. The last time we engaged, you said that the Department will be implementing some measures and from what you are saying, it has been done. So, thank you very much for that.

Through you, hon Deputy Speaker. What support services, hon Minister, for example for counselling, relocation or legal aid, if need be, are being provided to social workers who have been victims of these attacks. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. The amazing thing about this Department and I say sometimes I am jealous of my colleagues here in front of me, hon Minister Maynier and hon Minister Wenger, on the size of their budgets that they have got. But then other times, I appreciate that we are sometimes a lean and mean machine, that they treat one another as a family.

So, when our staff do fall victim of this, we have the supervisors, we have the chief directors all the way up to the HOD. Whenever something happens, we get alerted to it and our staff is there to support one another. So, when you are sometimes a more 'lean and mean machine', you treat one another more like a family and that support is provided to our staff when they go through this trauma of being on the receiving end of crime, when they are just trying to do their jobs. Thank you.

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

Sporting success

4. Mr T C R Walters to ask Mr R D Mackenzie, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:

(a) What are the possibilities of leveraging sporting success for job creation in the future and (b) what are the possibilities of leveraging sporting success at club and school level to help make club sport more sustainable?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me clearly, sir?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are audible. Please proceed.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you for the question, hon Walters. The possibilities of leveraging sporting success for job creation and sustainable club development in the future, are definitely significant. According to the 2018 Western Cape Case for Sport Research, sport and recreation are a major economic contributor and employment creator in the Western Cape. The study based on an extremely conservative estimate found that sport contributed over R8,8 billion annually to the Western Cape's GDP and supported more than 60 000 jobs direct and indirect across various sectors.

The report also notes that this impact is lightly underestimated and that sport

should be viewed as an important economic sector. The research suggests that major opportunities exist to position sport and recreation as a sector with a comparative advantage for increasing economic growth, tourism and related employment. Job creation possibilities arise from various aspects of the sport and recreation industry because our province has a comparative edge in hosting large-scale events which act as a pull factor for tourism and the hospitality industry.

Furthermore, cross-sectoral linkages exist with other industries such as catering and hospitality, and the study also found that a critical mass of minority sport sites hold substantive economic power and potential and that emerging types of sport like online computer gaming and social networking are growing rapidly. The research also highlights that the recreation field, although largely underestimated, contains significance in formal economic potential and holds promise for employment and income-generating activities.

The (b) part to the question, when it comes to leveraging sporting successes for sustainable school and club sport, the case for ...[2:07:49 - Audio distorted.] as the research was called, the research provided several insights. The study found that dynamic organisations managing innovative and sustainable programmes with good relationships with Government and funders, a club development programme as such an initiative funded through the mass participation and sport development grant and with DECAS, where clubs are assisted in getting established and capacitated to ensure their

functionality and longevity. The aim is to assist clubs to get established and once established, for them to get self-sustainable.

The research also suggests a significant increase in the number of registered sport participants which contributes to the economic base of sport organisations. For example, the number of registered participants increased by 21,5%. For the same sport categories between 2013 to 2014 and then, 2016 to 2017 survey, ...[2:08:44 - Audio distorted.] for categories were not included. The MOD programme which involves some 85 000 school children is successfully increasing with participation, with the number of participants being talent-identified and receiving special support. This increased participation and talent development can help create a larger, more sustainable base for club structures.

The study also notes that sport and recreation have a major impact on social development by contributing to health, education and community safety ...[2:09:17 - Audio distorted.] positive social impact and makes clubs more attractive to funders and communities as vehicles for a positive change. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member who posed the question.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I think that was quite a comprehensive answer, but perhaps, to focus on policies or

investments that can further leverage the possibilities here. Now, what policies or investments would be needed to translate that sporting success into long-term employment opportunities? I think it would also be interesting to hear, maybe at the national dimension? I do not want to pose a second question, but how can we turn this into a real job creator for the Western Cape?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and it is interesting that the hon member asked this question because just two hours ago, I was in a meeting with one of the biggest telecom providers talking about the exact same thing. Part of the reason why I am not physically in the House because I am on my way to a venue two hours from here, to talk to additional big corporates and how they can get involved in this.

Our policies are about partnerships. We cannot do this on our own, but we are a credible Government and that is why partners want to work with us as a government. What we need to do from a policy partner with the private sector which was actively driving because we do not have the kind of big budgets that our sister colleagues have that my predecessor talked about. But on a national level, it requires two big policy changes and two big policy shifts which I did go to my national counterparts about.

The one is transversal tenders, and I have raised this before in this Parliament and it is not going to go away if I stop talking about it. The one is transversal tenders. For example: right now, I can literally, hon members and any of us here can go to our local retailer and buy a soccer ball for R100 and with R1,000, you can only buy 10 soccer balls enabling 10 opportunities. The transversal tenders are a centralised procurement system at national Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. However, the equivalent of that soccer ball is likely to be R300. That means you can only buy three soccer balls enabling three opportunities for young people.

So, the policy shift requires that system to be changed so that provinces get that money and buy them themselves. We, obviously, in this province knowing what we are known for, would be likely to buy and deliver that in Grade 10 opportunities and the young people are likely to succeed. The sad reality is I understand the risk of the colleagues and national because the other provinces are unlikely to do that given their past history. But we are being punished for doing what we do.

The second one is the Municipal Infrastructure Grant. Again there, the centralisation and the coordination of that should be sitting with us and we should be able to get better value, allowing us to leverage private sector partners and work with them to get better sport facilities because municipalities do not have the money to do that because they have other priorities, like my hon colleague talked about earlier on, as well and they spoke to their own portfolios so I cannot speak to that. So, two policy shifts

can enable more sustainability, more private sector partners and more opportunities for people to succeed. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the platform online, I see no additional hands. In the Chamber I see the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Now, everything that the hon Minister has said, I just want to know from him in terms of National Government, is there adequate funding towards club sport in particular to make it more sustainable? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Van Minnen. Definitely not! Unfortunately, not, and definitely not. The easiest way to do that is through policy changes that require decentralisation to ensure provinces have better value for money because we all know there is little money and when there is little money, you are not going to find more money. It requires policy shift at National Government to allow provinces to do with the little that they have as they please to ensure club development gets more support. At the moment, there is not. Sadly so.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the MEC talks about the limited funding with regards to MIC. So, I just want to pose the question: what are the plans then to make sure that

there is additional funding or maybe, another kind of grant to support sports facilities and sporting facilities at municipal level. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you very much and thank you for that question, hon Constable. It is a really great question and really enhances my thinking also. One is the plans are to partner with the private sector partners. Just before I started this Parliament session, I met with a big corporate retailer who has expressed interest, like they do in other provinces as well, in working with Government to see how they can partner with Government to help those that are struggling because it wants to do good. They obviously do not want money to go to waste.

The second thing with MIC funding, it requires, in my opinion, a certain policy shift. We know municipalities have great needs and great priorities: water and electricity, housing, and many other matters that they have to deliver. Now, on top of that we are expecting them to deliver other facilities such as sports facilities as well.

We are saying there is a better way in doing it. Work with provincial Departments of Sport, allowing them leverage in the policy space so that we who are the custodians of sport, as the custodians, can let us say take R10, go to a private partner and say, 'we have got R10. Work with us on another or

give us another R10'. We will manage and build the facilities and if need be, we can rent it out and somebody can make money out of it.

At the moment, it is municipal. Local Government gets billed and as we know, municipalities unfortunately, do not have the operational budgets to permanently take care of a facility. They want to. They have a great appetite for it, but they do not because there are greater priorities like water, electricity, sewerage, housing that rightfully so, municipalities need to deliver. So, it requires a policy thinking enabling us. Those that can and I understand National Government's concern. Other provinces do not have the capacity.

But those that do, allow them to leverage what they have, go out to the market or to the private sector through appropriate processes, obviously, [Inaudible - 2:16:18] and the Department of Infrastructure, leverage that and help build facilities and let the sports clubs, with the private sector, manage that better.

A slightly similar model is already done by the City of Cape Town through their clubs where the clubs manage these facilities and the sport board takes control, whoever the sport board in that region is, manages that facility. But you do need a private sector partner on board to obviously look after maintenance and take care of the facility. There is opportunity there that I think as a country, that we miss, hon members.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no additional indication. Hon members, previously the hon Deputy Chief Whip raised a point of order with regards to the next question. I have been informed by the administration that with the commencement of this Sitting, the hon member that posed the question remains a valid member. I now see the hon Minister, hon Minister Wenger.

Infant death

5. Mr D G Jacobs to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

With regard to recent media reports of another infant death at the Delft Clinic ("They didn't check him" in the *Daily Voice* of 4 August 2025):

Whether her Department has implemented measures to address staff effectiveness at the clinic; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness is deeply saddened by the passing of baby Lee Hogan Jooste, and we extend our heartfelt condolences, in particular, to his mother, Ms Jooste, and their family during this profoundly difficult time. The loss of a child is an indescribable pain and one we do not wish for any family to experience.

In respect of the concerns raised regarding the Delft Community Health Centre, the CHC, the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness confirms that a patient safety investigation was conducted. The investigation established that the healthcare team at the Delft CHC acted immediately and appropriately when the baby was brought in on 29 June, with severe clinical symptoms including jaundice, lethargy and respiratory distress.

The baby was provided with respiratory support, intravenous fluids and phototherapy, and was prepared for urgent transport to Tygerberg Hospital in line with clinical protocols. Baby Jooste was considered stable enough to be transported. Tragically, his condition deteriorated en route and despite resuscitation efforts, he passed away.

Every investigation that we conduct seeks to highlight ways in which systems can be strengthened based on the findings. This is part of the Department's efforts to adopt a learning perspective during every investigation which encourages honesty and reflection when reviewing any incident. It forms part of our larger aim of creating a healthcare system that is compassionate and delivers quality healthcare and assists the Department in identifying the interventions that would strengthen the entire healthcare system and have the greatest impact on patient outcomes.

The Department has therefore implemented a set of measures to strengthen service delivery at all health facilities.

1. Strengthening staff training and effectiveness. Professional staff are in continuous training and ongoing updates which are in line with national guidelines for antenatal, post-natal and neonatal care with particular emphasis on early detection and management of neonatal jaundice and vertical transmission risks. Functional jaundices is a potential risk for all newborn infants. Mothers are urged to bring their infants to the clinic early for post-natal checks to monitor and to treat accordingly.
2. Enhanced antenatal and postnatal testing. Rapid Plasma Reagin, RPR tests for syphilis and all relevant checks are routinely conducted by competent staff at each antenatal visit with strengthened follow-up assistance to ensure early detection and intervention.
3. Improved patient communication and follow-up. Clearer protocols are being implemented to ensure that families receive adequate postnatal counselling and follow-up support before and after discharge.
4. Support for staff and patients. Counselling and debriefing services are available to both the affected family and healthcare workers involved, recognising the impact of such tragedies.
5. Monitoring and accountability. Clinical governance processes at all health facilities are ongoing and strengthening strategies include regular staff audits, case reviews and management oversight to ensure that lessons learned are embedded into our daily practice.

While the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness is committed to providing safe and quality healthcare, it acknowledges that there are always systemic errors that can be strengthened further. These measures are aimed to ensure that similar incidents are prevented and that staff effectiveness and patient safety remain at the core of service delivery. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have checked online. There are no hands. Are there any hands in the House? I see hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To the hon Minister, in respect of so many incidents of staff negligence that have resulted in loss of lives, are there any of your staff members that have been held accountable?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, there is no staff negligence. So, this is a new question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further questions in this regard. I see the hon Windvogel, if the question is linked to the specific question as printed on the Order Paper.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Ja. Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Minister mentioned that the child was seriously ill. But why was the child labelled as a 'red patient'? Can she explain that because in the report it was mentioned

that the patient was not labelled as a 'red patient'.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, so as mentioned, the matter was investigated and it was found that staff acted immediately and appropriately, and they provided respiratory support by CPAP, intravenous fluid and phototherapy, and arranged for immediate transfer to Tygerberg Hospital. So, the investigation found that our staff acted appropriately under the circumstances.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no. I see the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, just one question from my side. I hear that the hon Minister is saying an investigation was conducted. What I would want to know is whether the investigation was an independent investigation or was it an own investigation done by the Department itself. If so, if the details can be furnished as well. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: A Patient Safety Incident investigation was conducted by credible members of the Department. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Nkondlo as a final question in this particular segment.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): In the investigation that the hon Minister is mentioning, what did the investigation expose as the causes of this death and are there things that would not have been picked up during the postnatal of this particular mother and child?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am not clear on whether I am allowed to disclose certain information, but I have read the incident report and I have full confidence in the investigation that was conducted. The baby was only a few days old and had presented with very severe clinical symptoms. You know, with breathing problems, jaundice and lethargy. So, I think I will leave it there as the response for understandable reasons. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes Question 5 ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Sileku.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. Before you move on

the partial response of the hon Minister. Can I just check with you. In a case whereas the hon Minister says, she is not sure if she could divulge because the question is being asked and she answered. Whether she can then further, once we can ascertain if she can divulge, further send a written response to fully answer my question. I want ...interjected]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, I have not personally heard that the hon Minister made such undertaking in the House. But I will remind all hon members of their powers and privileges in asking additional written questions. I see the hon Minister, hon Minister Sileku.

Road safety

6. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

Given his Department's R3,2 billion budget, and its stated focus on road safety:

(a) How many people have been killed in road crashes over the past three months, (b) of those crashes, how many were linked to (i) drunk driving, (ii) reckless driving?

†The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: [Sekela somlomo, mandibulele ngokuza apha. Before ndiphendule umbuzo bendizawuqala nje udlilisa amazwi emvelwano kumalungu etraffic law enforcement. Ngoba kuleveki besikuyo

sikuyo siye sahlelwa lilifu elimnyama ngokuthi sohlukane ne traffic officer eye yathatha ubom bayo apha evekini [indistinct] siye saphulukana nomntu okokuqala wayeyi [indistinct] officer.] [Hon Deputy Speaker, I am grateful for being here. Before I can answer the question, I would like to start by passing words of condolences to the members of the traffic law enforcement. As we have had a dark leaf of the passing of one of the traffic officers during this week that has committed suicide. We have lost someone who firstly was [indistinct] officer ...[Interjection.]]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Sorry.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): There does not appear to be English translation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Table staff will engage and confirm the relevant audio number. Hon members, this is a key question. The clock has been stopped. The clock will be stopped.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: My apologies, hon Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I just want to thank our hon member Herron for the question, but just for his own benefit, I just wanted to convey our sincere condolences to the families of the two members of the traffic law enforcement fraternity because this week has been a very difficult week for us.

We have lost one young individual who was a traffic officer in Mossel Bay Traffic Centre when he took his own life. Secondly, we also lost another member who also started as a traffic officer, but ended up as an administrator for 20 years, but for her, it was based on ill health. So, this week on Saturday, we will be burying those two individuals in their final resting place.

I am also very grateful for the question because this question would allow us also to share what it is that we are doing and maybe, some of the challenges that we are confronted with when we are doing our roles and responsibilities in making sure that some of our roads are actually safe.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table staff, are you able to confirm the audio number? Number two, number four? Is it number six? Number six, hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): He is speaking English now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see so, but I think he was going to go. Hon Sileku, please continue. ...[Laughter.] You were still answering them so ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Deputy Speaker, in the past three months alone, 300 people have lost their lives on our provincial roads. That is an average of 100 lives every month. Of these, 167 were pedestrians, more

than half of the total number. Passengers are accounted to 68 deaths, drivers 41 and motorcyclists 20. When we examine crash types, 156 were pedestrian knockdowns.

These are not just numbers. Each one represents a mother, a father, who will never hold their child again. A child who has lost a parent. A breadwinner who will never return home. Each represents a family plunged into grief, a community left to mourn, and a life story cut tragically short.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot allow these tragedies to become routine. Every death is a reminder of our shared vulnerability and of our urgent responsibility we have to one another on our roads. Our thoughts are with the families affected and commitment must be to honour these lives by not becoming numb to the suffering behind these statistics.

On part two, hon Deputy Speaker, at this stage, verified figures are not yet available. When a crash occurs, preliminary information comes from the witness statements and SAPS then opens a culpable homicide case, reconstructs the scene and collects blood samples. Due to forensic backlogs, these results can take six to twelve months or longer before the courts confirm culpability.

But while the legal process runs its course, we are not waiting to act. Traffic officers are actively targeting these behaviours through random breath tests, speed enforcement operations and high visibility roadblocks. Alongside

these enforcement efforts, we implement a broad range of interventions to change behaviour and raise awareness. Central to this is a Road Safety Ambassador programme which deploys ambassadors across the province, with the bulk of them sitting in high-risk areas such as Mbekweni and Thembaletu.

These ambassadors lead community education and school-based programmes, assist learners, guide pedestrians and engage with public transport users and operators, complementing enforcement and reinforcing safe road behaviour.

Hon Deputy Speaker, road safety is urgent and requires collective effort. Government enforces and educates, and drivers must obey the law, and pedestrians must remain vigilant. Only by working together every day in every community, can we turn these tragedies into lives saved. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. With one minute and five seconds, I see the hon member who posed the question.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you to the hon Minister for the question. The Department implements the Safely Home Project which implements the World Health Organisation's world report on road traffic injuries, which has a number of essential steps to improve road safety. Can the hon Minister advise or share with us how the Department is implementing, or which steps the Department is implementing

from that World Health report?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, for that particular question. Firstly, hon Deputy Speaker, I would just want to share with the hon member. In terms of the efforts from the side of Mobility, we are all renowned for having static operations and we have moved away from having static operations and we are more focused on having visibility on our roads.

We were able to see a decline in terms of our numbers because if I have to share the stats in terms of the decline in our numbers, during our festive season we have a decline of 15,24%.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please conclude. We have reached the end of Questions time.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Okay, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Our Standing Rules are very specific. Hon members, we have reached the end of Questions time. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: Hon members in terms of Rule 145, there will now be an opportunity for Members Statements and as per the sequence in the Rules, I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the remarkable achievements of our young innovators at the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists West Coast Regional Science Fair held on 7 August 2025 at the White City Multipurpose Centre in Saldanha Bay, highlights how the Western Cape Government employs a Whole of Society approach to address the province's challenges. Government alone cannot solve all the issues our communities face. Collaborations across schools, parents, volunteers and the private sector is essential to move our province forward.

This year, 129 young scientists from Grade 4 to Grade 12, as well as TVET students from NCV Level 2 to Level 4, showcased 85 projects demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, and innovative solutions to real-world challenges facing South Africa. The fair highlighted the extraordinary talent of our young learners across multiple categories. Social Sciences was the most popular with 23 entries, followed by energy, engineering and chemistry and biochemistry.

During the award ceremony, excellence in research and innovation was recognised with 13 gold, 25 silver and 47 bronze medals. Eskom honoured outstanding young scientists with special awards, including Zewah Engelbrecht and Ovayo Somhlahlo from Grade 7 at Jurie Hayes Primary

School, who received the Best Female Award. Duran Farmer from Grade 9 at Vredendal High School was awarded Best Development. Dawie Bierman from Grade 9 at Swartland High School received Best Energy and Tiaan Lamminga from Grade 10 at Curro Langebaan was recognised with the Best Innovation Award.

Hon Deputy Speaker, events like these are vital. They nurture curiosity, inspire creativity and equip our learners with the skill and confidence to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and innovation. I extend my warm congratulations to all the learners, educators, parents, and volunteers and judges who contributed to the success of this event. Let us continue to support our young scientists, ensuring that South Africa's future remains bright, innovative and full of opportunity. I thank you.

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, every missing gun is a life at risk. We demand accountability for the 31 missing firearms in the City of Cape Town. Given this theme, today I rise to expose a crisis that continues to engulf working class communities in our province. The scourge of violent crime driven by the proliferation of illegal firearms on our streets now entrenched as a weapon of choice.

The scant attention this new liberal DA and the bourgeois media afford to this

crisis is deafening or perhaps, it would only matter once the elite are directly affected. Hon members, if urgent action is not taken, Cape Town risks descending into a state resembling that of Columbia or Mexico, places where violence and impunity rule.

In this province, it is the majority Black working class who live under siege, even as the DA Government spends millions of rands annually with no meaningful improvement in safety. Evidence shows that at the heart of serious violent crimes in the Western Cape, [2:37:51 – Inaudible.] murders or [Inaudible.] murders illegal firearms are constantly the weapons of choice. This fuels the persistent bloodshed in Black townships, week in, week out.

Against this background, we call on the DA-led Government to repurpose public resources strategically not merely to contain crime, but to tackle the root causes, particularly the proliferation of illegal firearms. Hon Deputy Speaker, despite commendable efforts by the police including raids, searches of firearms and seizure, the challenge remains daunting. A key obstacle is the inability to trace the origins of many of these.

However, we do know that the October 2022 Firearms Compliance Audit Report revealed that the City of Cape Town had failed to account for about 31 firearms, following the amalgamation of the City of Cape Town Municipality and Local Municipality. This is not a clerical oversight. This is a DA governance failure. Therefore, we demand full accountability and immediate action.

Finally, given this ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...I daresay that the DA Government is complicit in the proliferation of illegal guns in the City of Cape Town given ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired, hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...which ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Your time is up; your time is up!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the PA.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the day before yesterday, we learnt of the attack on three members of Parliament from the Democratic Alliance who were victims of what is alleged to have been a smash-and-grab while conducting oversight in Phillipi, Cape Town. This incident is deeply concerning not only because it targeted public representatives, but because it reflects a harsh reality that ordinary residents of the City of Cape Town face on a daily basis.

The Cape Flats, in particular, has become synonymous with violent crimes, gangsterism and lawlessness. This attack highlights, once again, the urgent need for increased law enforcement presence, especially in areas identified as crime hotspots. It is imperative that both the South African Police Service and local law enforcement structures coordinate more effectively to restore safety and dignity to the communities that are under siege. We are losing lives daily to ongoing violence on the Cape Flats and this matter can no longer be swept under the carpet or ignored.

The Patriotic Alliance therefore calls on the Provincial Government to intervene decisively and urgently to ensure the safety of the people. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to address the serious allegations which were made in this House recently regarding the Swellendam Municipality. It was claimed in this House, without evidence, that whistleblowers are being intimidated after exposing alleged tender fraud. These allegations raised by the hon Sayed of the ANC, demand a factual response.

The Swellendam Municipality has a fully compliant anti-corruption and fraud prevention policy by which whistleblowers are protected and not persecuted. This is a principle clearly unfamiliar to the ANC. But protection for

whistleblowers does not mean immunity from accountability, especially where there is evidence of wrongdoing.

I am referring to a matter where a senior supply chain official was placed on precautionary suspension after a direct payment from a service provider appeared in his personal bank account with no plausible explanation. A criminal case has been opened, and disciplinary action is underway and that is not intimidation, hon Deputy Speaker, it is simply due process. Information has come to light indicating that the service provider at the centre of these issues, is allegedly operating in other municipalities as well with possible links to councillors and other political parties.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is irresponsible for hon members of this House, ...[Interjections.] possibly. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is irresponsible for hon members of this House to use untested allegations to distract from the facts. If there is further information that has been provided to MPs, then this must be shared with the investigators. So, let us not confuse the pursuit of accountability with political point-scoring. I urge this House to allow the relevant authorities to do their work and to base our debates on facts and not fiction. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the honourable [Applause.] I recognise the EFF. I recognise the EFF. I recognise the NCC. I see the ANC. I recognise the African National Congress. I recognise the African National Congress. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Ja, it is about the victory in Matzikama. †Agb Speaker, vandag staan ek trots en trots op in hierdie Huis om die nuus te deel dat die Demokratiese Alliansie Wyk 7 in Matzikama behou het tydens die tussenverkiesing wat gister gehou is. Dit was 'n uiters belangrike tussenverkiesing met 'n keuse tussen die DA se veldtog om Matzikama se munisipaliteit reg te ruk en 'n toekoms van agteruitgang onder die jarelange speletjies van kaders.

Hierdie tussenverkiesingsuitslag verteenwoordig verder die hoogste aantal DA stemme sedert 2016 wat in Wyk 7 opgeteken is. Dit spreek boekdele. Dit bevestig dat die mense van Matzikama die politiek van chaos, korrupsie en ontwigting verwerp en eerder integriteit, stabiliteit en mensediens verkies. [Tussenwerpsel.] Ons wil ons gelukwense oordra na die nuutverkose raadslid, Richard van Huyssteen. Ons is vol vertroue dat hy sodra hy ingesweer is, 'n toegewyde openbare verteenwoordiger sal wees vir die DA se nalatenskap van goeie regering en dienslewering wat vir almal werk sal voortsit.

Agb Speaker, hierdie oorwinning volg kort op 'n ander DA-sukses nadat die howe tereg die onwettige en komiese poging tot 'n staatsgreep van die ANC, PA en EFF-koalisie in Matzikama gestop het, met 'n kostebevel, persoonlike kostebevel. Die Hof het homself uitgespreek, maar daarna het die mense hulself ook uitgespreek. Die oppergesag van die reg sal in die Wes-Kaap seëvier en die wil van die mense sal seëvier.

Laastens, wil ek ons toegewyde openbare verteenwoordigers en hardwerkende aktiviste bedank. Julle pogings was van kardinale belang in hierdie belangrike oorwinning. Die blou masjien het die groen en geel golf teruggedraai. Die DA bly die baken van hoop nie net vir Matzikama nie, maar vir alle Suid-Afrikaners wat na 'n beter toekoms streef. Ek dank u.

[Hon Speaker, I am standing proudly and am rising proudly in this House to share the news that the Democratic Alliance has retained Ward 7 in Matzikama during the by-election that was held yesterday. It was a highly important by-election with a choice between the DA's campaign to pull Matzikama's municipality right and a future of deterioration under the cadres' games of many years.

This by-election result also further represents the highest number of DA votes since 2016 recorded in Ward 7. It speaks volumes. It confirms that the people of Matzikama rejects the politics of chaos, corruption and disruption and rather prefer integrity, stability and human service. [Interjection.] We want to convey our congratulations to the newly elected councillor, Richard van Huyssteen. We are confident that as soon as he is sworn in, he will be a committed representative for the DA's legacy of good government and service delivery that will continue work for all.

Hon Speaker, this victory follows shortly on another DA success after the courts rightfully have stopped the unlawful and comic effort to a coup of the ANC, PA and EFF coalition in Matzikama with a cost order, personal cost

order. The Court expressed itself, after which the people also expressed themselves. The supremacy of the law will reign in the Western Cape and the will of the people will reign.

Finally, I want to thank our committed public representatives and hardworking activists. Your efforts were of the utmost importance in this important victory. The blue machine turned around the green and yellow wave. The DA remains the beacon of hope not only for Matzikama, but for all South Africans striving for a better future. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the African National Congress. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus welcomes the review of the Safety Plan as announced by the hon Premier today. We want to remind this House that the Western Cape Minister of Safety, former Minister Dan Plato, launched the Walking Bus initiative way back in 2016 and many schools were involved. Parents were involved in ensuring the safety of children as they walked to school and back. Now, when that project was handed over the City of Cape Town, it was rendered as unsustainable and ended, abruptly ended.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as part of the Safety Plan review process, we ask that the Western Cape Government would review this particular initiative and remodel it so that it can be reincorporated as part of ensuring safety for our

children. There were many positives that came from these initiatives. It prevented child kidnapping, it kept parents involved, and it entrenched a spirit of collective effort in safeguarding all our citizens and young children.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we want to thank the hon Premier for reviewing the Safety Plan and giving consideration to this request, and to look at data as the hon Premier is quite focused on data-proven facts before taking decision. On behalf of the Freedom Front Plus, I want to thank him and the Western Cape Government that this will be given consideration.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Al Jama-ah, we have no statement today. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I recognise the African National Congress.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC rises today to set the record straight. The Democratic Alliance, together with its right-winged cohesion partners, AfriForum and Solidarity, must take full responsibility for the punitive 30% tariffs imposed by the United States on South African products.

Unprovoked, these anti-patriotic parties travelled to Washington not to defend our nation, not to protect South African workers, but to actively lobby against our democratically elected Government. They mobilised foreign powers to impose sanctions on our leaders and in doing so, directly invited economic retaliation against our country.

That, hon Deputy Speaker, is nothing short of treason. Now, in a cynical act of political scheme, the DA seeks to blame the National Government claiming it failed to negotiate a better deal, but no revision narrative can disguise the fact that it was the DA and its allies who sold out sovereignty, undermined our economy and betrayed our people.

Already, hon Deputy Speaker, the consequences are being felt. Agriculture in the Western Cape is bleeding jobs at an alarming rate, contributing the highest losses nationally. Farmers, farmworkers and rural communities are paying the price for the DA's reckless betrayal and dangerous politics of sabotage. Through their racist fearmongering and anti-transformation propaganda, the DA and its right-winged cohesion have cost our nation dearly.

History will judge them harshly. They did not stand with the people of South Africa. They stood against them. Yet, amidst this turmoil, the National Government has acted decisively and responsibly. 1. On 12 August 2025, Cabinet announced a five-pillar response which includes continued engagement with the United States to resecure a better deal and reduce

tariffs, including submitting a revised offer responsive to the US concerns.

2. Urgent measures to assist vulnerable companies and workers complimented by proactive export diversification to alternate ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bans, please conclude.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, we on the side of the House, welcome the interventions of National Government. They reflect the commitment on the National Government to safeguard jobs, particularly the youth, and shield our production of capacity from external shocks. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, last week I had an oral question to hon Minister Maynier and hon Minister Maynier then replied in writing because the time ran out. The question I asked was: how many parents have (a) accepted placement for their children at allocated schools, and (b) not accepted placement for children at allocated schools as at the latest date for which information is available.

So, hon Minister Maynier gave that reply, but hon Deputy Speaker, I am still extremely concerned when I read in the media, the oversubscription of schools for Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8. The Portfolio Committee on

Basic Education has requested the Western Cape Education Department to provide a demographic profile of the 11 341 applicants who have lodged appeals to date. These appeals for Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 are open until 31 August.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, it seems that we are sitting with many, many, many appeals. Some parents are saying they have tried at so many schools and were rejected. One parent said that they must walk past their one school to go to another school where they were accepted. So, I just want to know from the hon Minister, when we read this in the paper and we see the oversubscribing of Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 at schools, in which areas are they? Is it in the poorer areas, the marginalised areas? Where does this number lie, the 11 341. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. The time has expired, hon Noko Masipa. I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, amid a well-documented budget crisis, the Western Cape Government, City of Cape Town and border management authority have unveiled a new plan for tourist arrivals. Hon Premier Alan Winde assures us that these young men and women will not only give operations a boost: they will serve as ambassadors for our province.

Tourism is important and visitors bring in revenue and support local

businesses. But what is not explained is how Government suddenly finds money to make the tourists immigration experience smoother, while ordinary South African's pleas for basic services are ignored. Cape Town and the Western Cape are beautiful places, but they remain deeply unequal.

Tourists whisked from the airport to hotels in Ubers may never experience the informal settlements that they drive past. But the people who live there, the same workers who get up at 4 AM to clean hotels, cook meals and serve tourists do not have that luxury. They navigate sewerage-filled streets, broken streetlights and dangerous commutes. That is their daily reality.

The Immigration Act and the policing laws make no mention of these assistant border control officers or law enforcement officers of this kind. So, what exactly are these so-called ambassadors and where do they get their powers from? Based on little we know, their role seems to be limited to speeding up the immigration queues. Is that really the best use of public money?

Meanwhile, there is never enough money for teachers or nurses, and we have just heard, properly funded social services. But suddenly, when it comes to making life easier for wealthy tourists, money appears. This is not governance, hon Deputy Speaker, in the public interest. This is a province that cares, but only if you are a rich tourist. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape condemns the brazen attack on members of Parliament in Phillipi on Tuesday, 19 August 2025. This shocking incident is an attack on elected representatives who sought to strengthen safety measures through robust and meaningful oversight to keep all our communities safe. It is also an assault on the very foundations of our democracy.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it forced us to ask the urgent question: what safety is guaranteed for South Africans? Before I proceed, I do want to emphasise that the way in which the South African Police Service responded to this incident is the kind of policing that everybody deserves.

The reality is that the only universal experience in South Africa is our vulnerability to crime with the common denominator being the inefficacy of SAPS applied, but it has fallen on deaf ears for far too long. The truth is stark. South Africans are living under siege. Violent crime is rampant. Communities are terrorised daily and confidence in the South African Police Service has all but collapsed.

SAPS is failing in its most basic constitutional mandate to protect and serve. Criminals act with impunity knowing there will be little to no consequences for their actions. If the hon members of Parliament can be attacked so brazenly, then who amongst us is truly safe? Mothers on their way to work? Children on their way to school?

The very people we represent are abandoned by a state that cannot guarantee their security. That is why we must urgently pursue the devolution of policing powers, empowering provinces and capable metros to protect our own communities when National Government has repeatedly failed.

As we have done before and will continue to do until we win this fight for every South African, we demand urgent accountability, proper resourcing of SAPS and an end to empty promises. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van Minnen. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or hon members of the Executive an opportunity, should they so wish, to reply collectively for not more than five minutes. Do I see any hon members? I see the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Just on the questions raised by the hon Ferlon Christians. Yes, of course, our system is under very significant admission pressure, but to provide some perspective on the appeals to which he referred.

The number of appeals is probably about 1,4% of the total number of the admission and transfer applications. Of course, also, it is important to realise that because a parent has lodged an appeal, it does not necessarily mean that the learner has not been placed. Finally, it is important to note that the question or the appeals to which he refers relate to the 2025 school

year, not the 2026 school year.

And finally, to the hon Peter Johnson, thank you so much for drawing the House's attention to the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists. I had the privilege yesterday to spend some time with our young scientists, engaging on their projects which included one project measuring the rate at which the universe is expanding, believe it or not. It was a morning spent and a wonderful reminder of the incredible talent being developed by our schools, and it was also a reminder of what is, in fact, working in our education system here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no additional hands. That concludes Member Statements.

MOTIONS

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

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates the concerning issue of school safety and negligence in the Western Cape.

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

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

That the House debates the rising cost of living in Western Cape and the City of Cape Town in particular.

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

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

That the House debates the escalating electricity tariffs (12,74% hike) burden residents. The push for private sector energy projects and water resilience planning, including drought preparation are critical.

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates stalled development on prime public land, like Tafelberg Site and Woodstock Hospital, alongside abandoned regeneration programmes pose barriers to spatial equity and affordable

housing.

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

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes Cape Town ranks among the world's top 10 most congested cities, with residents losing an average of 94 hours annually to traffic. Debates the transport frameworks, rail revival, and public transit improvements that is urgently needed.

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

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

That the House debates the 30% US tariff, introduced in August 2025, that disproportionately affects farmers in the province. The Western Cape is South Africa's largest agricultural exporter, with citrus, wine, grapes, and fruit being highly dependent on overseas markets.

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

The SPEAKER: We proceed in terms of Rule 150. In terms of Rule 150, I would like to inform the hon members that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were

submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 19 August 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that at the Programming Authority meeting of 19 August 2025, political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon Wessels, hon Van Wyk, hon Van Minnen, again, the hon Van Minnen, hon Ngqentsu, hon Bans, hon Stoffel, and the hon Lekker.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with appreciation that the Department of Infrastructure, under the leadership of hon Minister Tertius Simmers, has delivered the Eendekuil housing project ahead of schedule. This R11 million initiative, which produced 45 Breaking New Ground

housing units, was originally scheduled for completion on 26 September 2025, but through the provision of more than R19 million in electrical bridge funding for the Eendekuil, Piketberg, and Porterville projects, construction was accelerated and commends hon Minister Simmers, the Department, and all stakeholders involved for their efficient delivery and steadfast commitment to providing dignified housing opportunities to residents.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes that on 15 August 2025, the Western Cape hosted the annual Western Cape Teachers Awards to recognise the exceptional work done by our teachers in shaping young minds across the province. We congratulate all nominees and winners on their well-deserved recognition and express our heartfelt gratitude to all teachers for their dedication, passion, and tireless commitment to educating and inspiring our learners. The teaching profession remains the foundation of a thriving society and a brighter future for our province, and these awards are a fitting tribute to the invaluable role our educators play in building that future

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Amy Hartung, a Grade 10 learner from Rhenish Girls' High School, for making history as the first junior woman ever to claim the overall women's section title in the 3-kilometre Orca Harbour to Harbour Swim in Gordon's Bay, a shining achievement that highlights youthful talent, dedication, and the spirit of excellence in our province.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Dawie Snyman, a former Springbok utility back and legendary Western Province coach, extends heartfelt sympathies to his family and loved ones, and recognises his extraordinary contributions to South African rugby, both on the field in poised versatility and off it in guiding WP to five consecutive Currie Cup victories (1982–1986), whose legacy will forever inspire future generations in sport and community

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with great sadness the tragic passing of businessman Zolile Dlkana, who was kidnapped in the early hours of Sunday morning by unknown men and later found dead in Delft, we acknowledge his contribution to the local economy and community, and condemns in the strongest terms this senseless and violent act, which has robbed a family of a loved one and a community of a dedicated citizen; and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep sorrow the tragic passing of two-year-old Aluluphiwo Mtshintsho, who lost her life after being struck by a train in Philippi and further note the devastating impact this loss has had on her family and community and expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with great sadness the tragic passing of 40-year-old Davidene Witbooi, who was killed in a drive-by shooting; we further note the profound grief and loss experienced by her family, friends, and

community, and condemn in the strongest terms this brutal act of violence and extends its heartfelt condolences to her loved ones during this painful time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness the tragic passing of Julia Alam from Zwelihle informal settlement in Hermanus, who was shot dead at Whale Coastal Mall, we further note the shock and pain this incident has caused to her family, friends, and the wider community and extends its heartfelt condolences to her loved ones during this time of mourning.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections?

Hon MEMBERS: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, they are agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if the member had read out the motion aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members, the clock has been set. We have a 30-minute time period for 17 motions. I recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I hereby move without notice:

That this House notes with deep concern the escalating gang violence in Fisantekraal, Cape Town, where residents are living in constant fear due to the reign of terror inflicted by criminal gangs; that this House further notes the absence of adequate policing in the area, as there is no functioning police station, and the current mobile police station is more often closed than open, rendering it ineffective and of no assistance to the community; that this House expresses its dismay that the South African Police Service has failed to adequately respond to repeated reports of shootings and criminal activity, leaving residents vulnerable, unable to even access basic services such as affidavits, and fearful of leaving their homes; that this House conveys its heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Johnathan Africa, aged 26, who was brutally shot and killed this past weekend, as well as to the families of Shelton, aged 24, and a 14-year-old boy, both of whom tragically lost their lives in the past two weeks due to gang violence; and that this House calls on the

Provincial Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety to urgently intervene and ensure that proper policing structures and resources are established in Fisantekraal, so that residents may once again live in safety and without fear. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, agreed to. I see the hon Ngqentsu.

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

That the House notes with concern the attempted robbery of three DA members of Parliament, Mr Ian Cameron, Mr Nicholas Gotsell, and Ms Lisa Schicherling, during their oversight visit to the Police Training Academy in Philippi; extends well wishes to them for a speedy recovery, and expresses hope that they receive the necessary support following the traumatic incident; recognises that this traumatic experience is tragically common for the Black working class in the DA-led Western Cape Province, who live under the constant threat of crime and violence due

to DA failures; affirms that crime affects all South Africans, regardless of race, political affiliation ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC):

...or background; believe that the DA-led Provincial Government ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, can you take your seat. I see the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am wondering why is this hon speaker repeating the same message over and over.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of our Parliamentary Rules, Hansard is appropriately captured via the microphone, and his microphone was off. Please conclude, hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): You would not know from manager.

The DA-led Provincial Government should take full responsibility given its failures to prioritise working class communities; calls for intensified efforts to ensure communities most affected by crime are not only

resourced, and supported, but developed so that working class youth are not found in criminal activities and recruited into gangs. 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.

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

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

That this House notes and strongly condemns the shocking violence in the Western Cape, where 26 people were killed in just one week, as reported in August 2025. This bloodshed is unacceptable and has caused fear and devastation in our communities; further notes with grave concern that these senseless killings are not isolated incidents but are rooted in the deep structural failures of the Provincial Government to address the causative factors of violent crime, including poverty, unemployment, poor spatial planning that entrenches inequality, the proliferation of illegal firearms and easy access to ammunition. All these remain unchecked with no dedicated Government programmes to

intervene decisively; acknowledges that the so-called Western Cape Safety Plan is once more exposed as a big and expensive failure that has not made our communities safer; and calls for urgent, comprehensive, and people-centred interventions to address the root causes of crime, to strengthen policing, and to protect our communities from further devastation. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again see the honourable; do I again see the hon Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much. I move without notice:

That this House notes with deep concern the tragic incidents of newly born babies being dumped in Kraaifontein, following the recent discovery of one infant in a dustbin and another on the streets of Bloekombos; further notes the ongoing scourge of violent crimes against women, including a recent horrific incident in the New Rest squatter

camp in Kraaifontein, where a 60-year-old man allegedly set a shack alight, resulting in the deaths of a 58-year-old woman and a child; observes with alarm that these incidents are taking place during Women's Month, a period dedicated to reflecting on the rights, dignity, and safety of women and children; calls on the broader community of Kraaifontein, with the support of this House, to unite with local public representatives, hon member Ngqentsu, Ward 6 Councillor Nodliwa, and Ward 101 Councillor Duka, in addressing the root causes and circumstances that give rise to such tragedies; invites this House to support the upcoming Imbizo on 23 August 2025, to be led by a Deputy Minister, Dr Pule, as a vital platform for community engagement, awareness, and mobilisation; acknowledges that while the Imbizo may not in itself be a panacea for these heartbreaking incidents and the broader scourge of violence, it remains an important community-driven platform for dialogue, participation, and the collective pursuit of sustainable and preventative solutions. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

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

Order Paper. I recognise the hon Windvogel. My apologies, hon member Windvogel. I again recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): [3:10:50 - Speaking in vernacular.] Okay. Hon Deputy Speaker I move without notice:

That this House notes with deep concern the unacceptable condition of the Kwa-Nokuthula Police Station in Plettenberg Bay, characterised by the absence of proper infrastructure which has resulted in severe office overcrowding; further notes that these inadequate facilities not only subject police officers to inhumane and unsafe working conditions, but also endangers officers, witnesses, and community members; particularly during interviews and examinations; acknowledges that the land on which the police station is currently located is owned by the Bitou Local Municipality; calls on the Provincial Government, the South African Police Service (SAPS), and the Bitou Local Municipality to urgently enter into a cooperative agreement to identify and release suitable land, paving the way for the construction of a fully functional and modern police precinct; further acknowledges that the Provincial Government must demonstrate real and tangible support for policing, not only through operations, but also through infrastructure investment and comprehensive community safety initiatives. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection to being moved without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see there is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I without notice:

That this House warmly applauds the timely, compassionate collaboration between the humanitarian organisation Gift of the Givers and the South African Police Service (SAPS) Eden Cluster District in launching a concerted campaign to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in the Garden Route during Women's Month; notes with appreciation that the campaign, which began on 18 August 2025 across five SAPS stations, will be extended to include Ladysmith, Calitzdorp, Oudtshoorn, Uniondale, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay, Mossel Bay, Riversdale, and Heidelberg; acknowledges the meaningful impact of distributing over 2 500 dignity packs to women in need, supplying sanitary towels to 41 schools, and running community-based awareness programmes to educate and empower affected residents; further commends the innovative 'all-women's team' roadblocks held by female SAPS officers and volunteers, who engaged directly with women drivers, offering tokens of appreciation and solidarity; believes this initiative serves as a

potent symbol of hope, safety and unity, bringing the Garden Route to life in green, blue, and pink in support of women everywhere. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is an objection, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bans. I recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes with concern the sexual harassment case involving a prominent Cape Town lawyer, which is to be heard in secret by the Legal Practice Council, as reported on 17 August 2025; further notes that while confidentiality may protect complainants, the secrecy of such proceedings raises serious questions about transparency, accountability, and the public's trust in the legal profession; condemns any culture of silence or impunity that allows powerful individuals to evade scrutiny; and calls on the Legal Practice Council and all legal institutions to ensure that allegations of sexual harassment are investigated thoroughly, fairly, and in a manner that upholds justice, protects victims, and restores public confidence in the rule of law. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I again recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House condemns in the strongest terms the recent shooting of a Stellenbosch municipal official at his home in Kayamandi, marking the third such incident in four months; expresses deep concern over the escalating pattern of targeted violence against municipal employees, including the tragic killings of former Deputy Mayor Nyaniso Jindela and Councillor Xolile Kalipa earlier this year; calls for immediate and decisive action from the South African Police Service (SAPS) to investigate these attacks, apprehend the perpetrators, and ensure the safety of all public servants; urges the Western Cape Provincial Government to implement comprehensive measures to protect municipal officials and address the root causes of such violence; and reaffirms the commitment to upholding the rule of law and the safety of all citizens in the province. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

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

That this House supports the National Day of Action taking place today in Tshwane, Durban, and Cape Town, under the theme ‘Stop All Trade to Israel’ calling for an immediate end to all coal being sold to apartheid Israel amidst the Gaza genocide; further notes that the Western Cape exports over R195 million worth of fresh grapes to Israel annually; notes that, in line with the DA's expressed support for the Israeli occupation and their denial of a genocide in Gaza, the Provincial Government has maintained and facilitated these trade relations; expresses concern that such trade may indirectly support activities contrary to South Africa's foreign policy stance and international obligations; and calls on Premier Winde to review and assess the ethical implications of continued trade with Israel, considering the broader political context and the Province's stated commitment to human rights and international law. 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.

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

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes the 42nd anniversary of the launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF) on 20 August 1983 at the Rocklands Civic Centre in Mitchells Plain; further notes that the UDF, born in the Western Cape, united civic, labour, youth, women's, faith-based, and community organisations into a powerful movement against apartheid, keeping alive the vision of a democratic, non-racial, and non-sexist South Africa; acknowledges that the UDF's founding values of inclusivity, unity, and grassroots mobilisation are as vital today as they were four decades ago, especially in confronting inequality, exclusion, and division in our province; and therefore, calls on civil society, political formations, and communities to draw inspiration from the UDF's legacy to work together in building an inclusive Western Cape that embodies unity, justice, and democracy as a foundation for an inclusive South Africa. As the UDF was born here in the Western Cape, so too must the dream of an inclusive Western Cape be realised here, for the unity of our province and the renewal of our democracy. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon behalf of the ANC I move without notice:

That the House notes the 36th Anniversary of the brutal assassination of anti-apartheid activist and freedom fighter comrade Dulcie September, who was gunned down on 29 March 1988 in Paris, France, while serving as the ANC's Chief Representative to France, Switzerland, and Luxembourg; that the House recalls that comrade Dulcie September was born on 20 August 1935 in Athlone, Cape Town, and would have turned 90 years old yesterday, had her life not been cut short by apartheid assassins; that the House further recalls that comrade Dulcie September dedicated her life to the struggle for freedom, justice, and human rights. She was a fearless leader of the liberation movement, a teacher, a community organiser, and a principled revolutionary who stood firmly against apartheid and exposed the regime's secret arms deals and human rights violations; that the House further notes that her assassination remains unresolved to this day, and justice has been denied to her family, comrades, and the people of South Africa. Her death symbolises

both the brutality of the apartheid regime and the unfinished work of accountability for crimes committed against freedom fighters. The House therefore, honours the life and sacrifice of comrade Dulcie September, salutes her contribution to the struggle for a free, non-racial, non-sexist, and democratic South Africa, and recommits to carrying forward her legacy by defending democracy, advancing social justice, and demanding full truth and accountability for her assassination. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Lekker. I recognise the hon Lekker. I recognise the hon Lekker. I see the hon Nkondlo. I see the hon Stoffel.

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

That the House notes and congratulates the African National Congress for its decisive victory in the Ward 3 by-election in Knysna, where the ANC candidate, cadre Lukhanyiso Nohava, secured 1 074 votes; notes further that this victory is not only a triumph for the ANC but also a reaffirmation of the people's confidence in the African Nation Congress as the true custodian of their hopes, struggles, and aspirations; and

acknowledges the tireless efforts of African National Congress members, branches, and volunteers who worked with dedication to ensure this victory. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

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

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House condemns in the strongest terms the recent attacks on children, which have shocked our communities and violated the most vulnerable. We note with deep concern a newborn found dead in a wastebin in Kraaifontein, alleged sexual offences against a 15-year-old by a community leader in the Helderberg, the violent death of an 11-year-old child, a deliberate fire in Wallacedene that killed three people, including a child. That this House stands with the victims, survivors, and families affected, and urges all community leaders, civil society,

and religious institutions to protect children and vulnerable members of society, strengthen moral responsibility, act decisively against criminal elements in our communities. The safety of our children is an imperative duty, and we must act with courage and urgency. We will not stand for any attempt to politicise these incidents but rather play our oversight role robustly in the interest of every resident in our province. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I again recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That this House notes the brutal Lotus River shooting, which claimed one life and left four injured, and the shocking tally of 26 murders in just one week in the Western Cape; that these tragedies expose not isolated incidents, but a crisis of violent crime fueled by the glaring failure of SAPS and the National Government to uphold their constitutional duty to protect our people; in contrast, the Western Cape Government continues to strengthen safety efforts despite shameless attempts by the Opposition to politicise these tragedies; that this House therefore calls on SAPS and the prosecuting authorities to act with

urgency, professionalism, and the full weight of the law to deliver swift justice. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members, that concludes the business of the day. The Secretary and Table staff will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited from the Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:39.