
THURSDAY, 22 MAY 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. [Interjection.] Order members, order! Before we proceed I would like to remind members of the logistical arrangements. We have already had a number of Sittings and I would want to refer to members to the newly adopted Standing Rules.

Today in the gallery we have Crestway High School. It is indeed my honour to welcome you to the Sitting and I trust that you will have an amazing time with us today. Every learner in every classroom across our province deserves quality education. Thank you so much for being here.

Also members with us today we have the RLabs Cape Town team, which is

accompanied by the Bloemfontein RLabs team which is led by Isaiah and Gwyneth Norris. In this particular House, together with the Western Cape Government and numerous other entities, have acknowledged the work that RLabs is doing in youth development, in innovation, and in changing lives across our province. The RLabs model has been replicated across 24 countries and now it will also be founded in Bloemfontein, so to those from Bloemfontein and the RLabs team in Cape Town, welcome to our Sitting.

You are allowed to clap. [Applause]

Hon members, I now see the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: 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: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections. Agreed to.

I again recognise the hon Chief Whip.

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

That owing to the introduction of the Appropriation Bill by the National Minister of Finance on 21 May 2025, the decisions on the Principle 3 April 2025 and the finalisation on 7 April 2025 of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill, were referred back to the House by the Premier for reconsideration in terms of Rule 168 of the Standing Rules be rescinded.

I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections. Agreed to.

I again see the Chief Whip.

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

That notwithstanding Rule 163, the House considers the Principle and Finalisation of the Western Cape Library Services Bill, Bill B1-2025 on Thursday 22 May 2025. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections. Agreed to.

Hon members, we will now deal with the subject for discussion in the name of the hon F Kamfer, as printed on the Order Paper.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Addressing the systemic neglect and abuse in elderly care facilities:

A call for urgent reforms to protect vulnerable seniors in the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Kamfer.

Can I see the Deputy Chief Whip for the ANC? Is he online? Hon members are aware that those that are participating online, you are responsible for the stability of your network, but also to be signed in accordingly. Hon Kamfer? [Interjection.]

An HON MINISTER: Hon Deputy Speaker, just, I know maybe you can rule me out of order, but just condolences to the hon Kamfer, †sy grootmaakmoeder is hierdie week oorlede, so net dat die Huis dalk net ook medelye aan die agb Kamfer oordra [his foster mother passed away this week, so that the House perhaps conveys its condolences to the hon Kamfer.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, duly noted hon Minister. Hon members, hon member Kamfer is not online. What I will do in this regard, that we will attempt to get hold of him and I will then shift the speaking times accordingly. I see the hon Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you hon Kamfer in absentia for raising this critical topic, especially as we approach the Africa Day. Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, do you have the timing, is it working?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, hon member Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Yeah, because when it is smaller, so you have to make sure that I use the time. This year, let us remember that Africa Day is not only about celebrating our diversity and resilience, but also about reaffirming our values of Ubuntu, compassion, dignity and community. This speech, hon Deputy Speaker, is about one thing only, let us bring back the spirit of Ubuntu and care for our elders.

The core roots of Ubuntu tell us older persons are our assets in society. They are the calabash of wisdom, they are walking encyclopaedias, they are † “kwathi kaloku ngantsomi” the [“once upon a time”] storytellers, the organic parliamentarians who reminded us to show respect to others by being hon members of our communities, and do not call others by names, but use the uncle, mamma, tata, sisi to any person older than you. They reminded us that you cannot just say to another that “you are a liar”; this reflects the Rules of Parliament of which most of them were taught by elders.

In many African countries’ cultures, hon Deputy Speaker, they become ancestors when they pass on, and as such † “abantu abadala” [older people]

continue to guide us. We visit their graves, seeking their blessings and strength during the difficult times, yet in South Africa generally, we as society forget to honour and respect the same group of people who raised us, guided us, and nurtured us. As families, institutions and society, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to do better for them by growing our understanding of conditions like dementia, Alzheimer's, illnesses that seniors often experience, and that society do not understand, to provide the necessary care and support.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it was our grandparents who once chewed our food when we could not, who gave of themselves so that we could thrive. Now it is our turn to make sure they are not only fed and safe, but that they feel seen, valued and cared for, with the compassion and Ubuntu they so generously modelled for us.

Our country is not short on laws for the elderly. From the South African Charter of Older Persons to the Constitution, but we need more to implement in these laws. In the Western Cape, hon Deputy Speaker, to make an example, we made strides to, actually during Covid, the Provincial Government prioritised psychogeriatric services, extending outreaches from hospitals to local communities. Mental health pilot projects for the elderly were run in Klipfontein and Witzenberg to better understand and support the older persons.

Furthermore, hon Deputy Speaker, in the mobility they actually – it is

encouraging to see that they are developing a Rural Intertown Transport Solution to provide reliable affordable transport for the elderly, improving access to healthcare, pensions, and key services. Targeted towns will be selected based on their need, especially where there are a high proportion of older persons. This initiative will promote dignity, well-being, and inclusion, and a true reflection of the Ubuntu our elders taught us.

Hon Deputy Speaker, caring for elders is not only a Government duty, it starts at the home. As the Charter says, when I conclude, I quote:

“We, the older persons of South Africa lived through troubled times. We worked hard, raised children, carried burdens; all we ask now is to be treated as human.”

†Ndiyabulela kubantu abadala, [I am giving thanks to the elderly people,] specifically my paternal and my maternal grandparents, who are no more. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Professor Mbombo. I see the hon Petrus.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, it will be the hon member Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members

and distinguished guests. An old age home is meant to take care of the most vulnerable of our society, namely our elderly and disabled. As previously highlighted the law is clear. We have a legal and moral obligation to protect and care for our elderly in our province. More than not, the sad reality is that this does not happen. Instead abuse, neglect and malnutrition are the order of the day at these facilities across the Western Cape. There are also constant shortages of essential items such as nappies, toiletries, food and cleaning materials. Staff shortages also have a big impact on the care of our elderly and disabled. Lack of sufficient funding to run these facilities effectively is a huge contributor to the ill treatment of our most vulnerable.

It needs to be mentioned that for the first time in seven years, funding has been increased by National Government. The National Government failed to increase funding for six years to these facilities. There seems to be a trend in the Western Cape that old age homes that are mostly negatively affected by these poor conditions are situated within the less fortunate and previously disadvantaged areas.

During the Western Cape Parliament's oversight visits to some of the old age homes, this issue was patently raised by nearly all facilities visited this far. Even though the Government has a pertinent role to play, the public have a bigger role to play and needs to take ownership and be more involved in the care of our elderly and disabled. Charity begins at home and in many cases family members just drop their family at these facilities and are then only seen and heard from on the passing of the loved one. This behaviour must

change and family members must realise that they also have a responsibility towards the care of their family members.

In majority of the cases where mismanagement of funds is reported, it can be directly or indirectly linked to board members involvement, it therefore stands to reason that a more stringent process must be followed when board members are elected as to eradicate the election of friends or board members that are political parties related and are only in it for their own benefit. Hon Deputy Speaker, therefore we ask that an independent task team needs to be established to assess the governance, care standards, and the role of board members in the management of all old age homes.

In conclusion, we need to ensure dignity where it has been stolen. Let us provide solutions where there is being silence, and let us remember that how we treat our elderly is a direct reflection of our humanity. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stephens. I see the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to all. I greet you all in the name of his imperial majesty king of kings and lord of lords. Hon Deputy Speaker, currently in the Western Cape, the Department of Social Development funds about 118 old age homes in the Western Province. The issue here is that the Department does not control the admission and the day-to-day running of these facilities. When it comes to old age homes, I have seen the best of the best, and I have seen the worst of the worst.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the sad part of it all is the Department allows this negligence to continue, especially in the non-white facilities. Last year we went on an oversight visit and we found facilities where board members are non-existent, but the Department is entertaining three people. Two weeks ago we attended a meeting in Kraaifontein where allegations of mismanagement of funds were reported again. The board was only three people, accounting for funds and making sure that the new selection of board members never takes place. The funds in the day-to-day running of these facilities are managed by a board, a board that is elected by the people for the people. But, hon Deputy Speaker, as long as we have the three musketeers operating and they are getting the support of the Department to keep communities out, we will have mismanagement of funds, we will have the elderly people dying of negligence, we will have unmaintained facilities where the entire facility smells like a landfill.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when board members see these elections as a cash cow for themselves, the end user is the elderly that suffer. Our elderly is the most vulnerable in the society and we owe it to them. Our plea, MEC, is that the way the Department of Social Development distributes and manages the old age home funding; that is something that should seriously be addressed as a matter of urgency. *Aesa!*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Jacobs. I now recognise the hon Kamfer. Hon Kamfer, are you able to hear me?

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I am here. Can you hear me?

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

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you hon members in the House, †waardige inwoners van die Wes-Kaap. Vandag staan ons hier, agb Adjunkspeaker, nie om politieke punte te maak nie maar ons diep onsteltenis oor die morele versuim in ons samelewing uit te spreek, en dit is die stelsel van verwaarlosing en mishandeling van ons bejaardes in sorgfasiliteite regoor die provinsie. Die ANC bring hierdie debat na die Huis omdat ons aanspreeklik is en diegene aksie belowe regoor ons land en steek ‘n provinsie mees kwesbare senior burgers en hartseer families en [Onhoorbaar.] en die *NGO* wat ons daaglik ywer om ondersteuning te vind.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, hierdie bejaardes is die mense wat aan ons land gebou het. Hulle het ons grootgemaak, vir ons geveg en het verdien om in die laaste jare in beter omstandighede te behoort en versorg te word. Wanneer ons hulle in die steek laat, agb Adjunkspeaker, dat ons ook die samelewing van hierdie ‘n politieke kwessie sal maak nie, dit is die mense wat die kwesbare mense in ons samelewing is, agb Adjunkspeaker, dit gaan daaroor om die kwessie – om te verseker dat nie nog van ons bejaardes in stilte hoef te ly nie, en dat geen familie in hartseer gebreek word, deur die stelsel verwaarloos... en amptelike versekering hê.

Verlede jaar, agb Adjunkspeaker, het hulle die skokkende toestand van die Beacon Valley [Onhoorbaar.] aangespreek. Ons het hulle, die inwoners se onsteltenis aangeraak in hierdie Huis, agb Adjunkspeaker. Wat het werklik gebeur van die Beacon Valley geval, agb Adjunkspeaker? Agb, Adjunkspeaker, die probleem by die Beacon Valley is nie 'n geïsoleerde geval nie, dit is 'n simbool van 'n diepe krisis van bejaardes regoor ons provinsie. Daar is gevalle waar inwoners dae lank sonder behoorlike toesig gelaat word, waar onvoldoende voeding en onhigiëniese toestande heers, en waar mediese sorg ernstig versuim word. Klagtes word geïgnoreer, agb Adjunkspeaker. Hierdie krisis beperk ons nie net tot een gebied nie. In Khayelitsha sien ons hoe die *NGOs* wat bejaardes ondersteun doelbewus gefrustreer word, en probleme in Kraaifontein, hier veg die gemeenskap vir die regte van die bejaardes en die tuisversorgers.

Twee weke gelede het 'n afgevaardigde delegasie die gemeenskap in Kraaifontein gaan besoek saam met die aktiviste, Bianca Boysen en haar span, wat vandag in die galery sit, en gesels oor die probleme. Agb Adjunkspeaker, die toestand van die Kraaifontein Tehuis wat waargeneem is, is onaanvaarbaar. Die LUR moet dringend ondersoek instel, agb Adjunkspeaker, na bewerings van die finansiële wanbestuur deur hierdie raad wat moontlik ongrondwetlik optree. Hierdie is 'n administratiewe kwessie, dit het lewens geëis. In die afgelope week alleen het twee bejaardes by hierdie fasiliteite gesterwe, agb Adjunkspeaker. As ons nie daadwerklik ingryp nie, waag ons om herhaardelik van hierdie gevalle nog te sien.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, dit laat my – ons het geen keuse nie, agb Adjunkspeaker, en daarom wil ons vandag vir hierdie Huis vra dat die LUR daadwerklik moet optree, en ons eis die volgende.

- Eerstens om ‘n volledige onafhanklike ondersoek in te stel na alle bejaarde versorgingsfasiliteite in die provinsie.
- Tweedens om dadelik aanspreeklik op te tree, en dwing fasiliteite wat versuim om behoorlike sorg te verskaf.
- Derdens, om te verseker dat daardie voldoende befondsing deurlopend oor toesig gehou word om die bejaardes te beskerm.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek sluit af, die tyd van beloftes is verby, die tyd van verskonings is verby, die tyd van daadwerkend optree is in aksie. Ons bejaardes verdien beter. Om ‘n samelewing te bou, doen om beter te doen. Dankie, agb, Adjunkspeaker.

[worthy residents of the Western Cape. Today we stand here, hon Deputy Speaker, not to score political points, but to address our deep concern about the moral neglect in our society, and that is the system of neglect and abuse of our aged in care facilities all over the province. The ANC brings this debate to the House because we are accountable and promise action to those people all across the country and neglect a province’s most vulnerable senior citizens and sad families and [Inaudible.] and the NGO that we daily strive to find support.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these aged are the people who helped build our country.

They brought us up, for us and deserve to belong in and be cared for in because circumstances in their last years. When we neglect them, hon Deputy Speaker, that we will not make political issues of this, they are the people who are the vulnerable in our society, hon Deputy Speaker, it is about the issue – to ensure that not more of our aged have to suffer in silence, and that no family be broken in sadness, neglected by the system ... and have official assurance.

Last year, hon Deputy Speaker, they addressed the shocking of the Beacon Valley [Inaudible.]. We touched on the concern of the inhabitants in this House, hon Deputy Speaker. What has really happened with the Beacon Valley case, hon Deputy Speaker? Hon Deputy Speaker, the problem at the Beacon Valley is not an isolated case, it is a symbol of the deep crisis of aged all across our province. There are cases where inhabitants are left for days without proper care, where there are insufficient nutrition and unhygienic conditions, and where medical care is seriously neglected. Complaints are ignored, hon Deputy Speaker. This crisis is not just limited to one of the areas. In Khayelitsha we see how NGOs supporting the aged are deliberately frustrated, and problems in Kraaifontein, here the community fights for the rights of the aged and the home carer.

Two weeks ago a delegation visited the community in Kraaifontein along with the activists Bianca Boysen and her team who are sitting in the gallery today, and spoke about the problems. Hon Deputy Speaker, the condition of the [Inaudible.] in Kraaifontein Home that was observed is unacceptable.

The MEC should urgently investigate, hon Deputy Speaker, and allegations of financial mismanagement by this council that probably acts unconstitutionally. This as an administrative issue cost lives. In the past week alone two aged died at these facilities, hon Deputy Speaker. If we do not intervene, we run the risk of repeatedly seeing more of these cases.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it leaves me – we have no choice, hon Deputy Speaker, and therefore we want to ask this House today that the MEC acts decisively, and we demand the following.

- firstly to conduct a full independent investigation into all care facilities for the aged in the province.
- secondly to act accountably immediately and force facilities guilty of neglect to provide proper care.
- thirdly, to ensure that there is continuous oversight over that sufficient funding to protect the aged.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I conclude, the time for promises is past, the time of excuses is past, the time of decision is in action. Our aged deserve better. To build community, do to do better. Thank you hon Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kamfer. I now recognise the hon Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, let me inform those who might not be aware that the easiest position in Government is to be in Opposition, because it is easy to play the blame game. You can make allegations; you can throw mud and hope that something would stick onto the ruling party.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this 7th Administration strives at all times to enhance and to improve the plight of the elderly. I am not aware, hon Deputy Speaker, of any incident in this province, where this Administration purposefully went to these, to abuse and or to play and or to neglect the elderly or those who are frail. Hon Deputy Speaker, we must also bear in mind that the Province does not run these facilities.

We are aware of isolated incidences and we pick this up during our oversight visits, and where we do find some strife it is not necessarily the Province's problem, but we found that some board members and the management of these facilities from time to time, they are at loggerheads, and where there is political interference, these are matters that we try by all means to address to ensure that the beneficiaries are not negatively affected. Chairperson, hon Deputy Speaker, also ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] a few minutes for [Inaudible.] just the time to [Inaudible.] so the Bill [Interjection.] Thank you gents, thank you.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, I am not sure whether you can hear me, I am interrupted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Booysen, we will stop the clock. The Administration will ensure that the person is muted. Those that are logged in, please note that you are to remain muted. Hon Booysen, you may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we also acknowledge the challenges, and some of these challenges are the budget constraints and also the fact that social workers are not regarded as frontline workers, because if they were frontline workers, hon Deputy Speaker, that would have had a huge positive influence in terms of the budgeting processes.

Now Chairperson, hon Deputy Speaker, also when it comes to budgetary constraints, obviously something has to give, and we are aware that in this instance the Golden Games were usually affected because of the financial constraints. But Chairperson, nothing stops, nothing stops the NGOs, the province to engage the local municipalities within which these facilities are residing, so that they can also come on board, and Chairperson, what I would like us to encourage is for us to take hands instead of trying to blame the one party over the other party.

The matters and the plights of the elderly should not be politicised. Hon

Chairperson this is a whole of society approach, we should get the private sector also involved, and Chairperson, I would recommend that going forward we should actually encourage family days where siblings and grandchildren come together on a regular basis and make it worthwhile for our elderly and our frail in their last days. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the preservation and the protection of human dignity demands a financial commitment, especially when older persons must be cared for. It has been reported that the Western Cape provincial funding to frail care centres have been reduced, some up to 50% in the past few years. Further it has been reported that the Western Cape has the lowest take-up rate in terms of the grant-in-aid funding, standing at only 4%. This is potentially contributing to the neglect of older persons at certain residential homes and old age underfunded facilities, while grappling to provide sufficient nutritional meals to pensioners. There has undoubtedly been an escalation in complaints received, especially in facilities caring for SASSA dependents.

Secondly, my question is, are we making sure that staff that are employed are suitable, suitable for the type of services that are to be rendered. Some people are just not cut out to do this type of work of serving the elderly and the frail. The abuse of our elderly by the inept must be stopped, criminal

charges must be brought and this must be done in haste. Broken trust is another type of pain that requires a special branch of well trained and sympathetic police officers to attend to these matters. The Freedom Front Plus calls for greater collaboration between the Health Department and the Social Welfare Department so that this can be resolved, I thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is changing. Our fertility rate has fallen below replacement level of 2.1, driven by higher education levels, especially amongst women, delayed childbirth, smaller families, and rising living costs. At the same time people are living longer [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I would sincerely trust that our mobile devices will be placed on silent. Hon Minister, apologies, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: We now have the highest life expectancy of all provinces. Life expectancy has risen from 58 to 67 for men and from 61 to 71 for women. These trends mean that our population is beginning to age. We are at the cusp of a new phase in our demographic journey, one that brings with it a rising demand for chronic disease management, long term care, more geriatric services, and more accessible

integrated care. So we have to plan for this future. As Theodore Roosevelt once said:

“Old age is like everything else, to succeed at it, you need to start young.”

That is why prevention is central to our approach; healthy ageing begins with healthy living. Early detection, proactive care, and positive lifestyle choices all have a role to play, and that requires a comprehensive life course approach from us as Government. We want our residents to start well, live well and age well, and reason why we have included “age well” in our strategic intent.

But this is not something Government can do alone. Caring for older persons is everyone's business; we need families, communities and young people to join us. We all have someone, a parent, a teacher, a grandparent, who shaped our lives and cared for us when we needed it the most. Now it is our turn. Older persons are sources of wisdom, of love, and memory. They are our storytellers, our caregivers and our mentors. They deserve to be seen, supported and celebrated.

In April this year, as part of deepening our work to ensure that our residents age well, the Department of Health and Wellness, in partnership with the Department of Social Development, academics and the Samson Institute for Ageing Research, came together to identify key interventions to support

healthy ageing and to support older people beyond the walls of old age homes, and to reach every home and community.

First we must address the deep and often hidden struggles of loneliness, isolation and safety that many older persons face, challenges that deeply affect their mental health. That is why we are working to establish Geriatric Care Groups in every community. Through initiatives like WOW Clubs and wellness hubs, older persons can join group activities that promotes physical health, good nutrition and emotional well-being, especially in rural and underserved areas, such as monthly health screenings and social events to help them feel connected and valued. Our Community-Oriented Primary Healthcare Model enables teams to proactively identify older persons with unmet needs and refer them to support services.

Secondly we are building capacity in the health system. This means strengthening geriatric training at all levels of care, especially in the primary healthcare, and incorporating modules into training for medicine nursing and allied health professionals. We have already delivered targeted training to nurses and community health workers, helping them to better recognise the signs of dementia, depression and elder abuse.

Since 2023 more than 300 community health workers in our rural districts have received specialised elder care training. We are also working with NPOs to support informal caregivers, equipping them with basic skills they need such as hygiene, mobility support, and chronic disease monitoring, to care

safely and compassionately for those they look after, and to prevent possible neglect. Mobile wellness teams conduct regular screenings to identify issues such as hearing loss, cataracts, and dental problems that might otherwise go undiagnosed.

Our teams visit old age homes with medical officers to deliver chronic medicines and to facilitate support groups, including older people in farming communities. Community health workers provide regular home visits to vulnerable elderly residents ensuring continuity of care and support. We are distributing assistive devices such as hearing aids and crutches, and palliative care is being delivered directly in people's homes, allowing for compassionate, dignified end of life care.

While we plan for the future, we continue to care deeply for those who need us today. We work closely with the Department of Social Development to strengthen and expand care for older persons including at homes. Our Older Person Service Centres – we are co-locating services to ensure easy access to chronic screening, health education and medication delivery. Community health workers serve as a bridge connecting elderly residents to social services and reporting cases of neglect or abuse, so that early interventions are made. We also schedule regular visits to old age homes to assist staff and residents, and through transitional care facilities help patients recover in supportive environments. I want to say this clearly, there is no place in society to neglect or abuse of older persons. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Just to check that my time was recuperated from the incident?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, earlier on already.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Okay, alright, so there is no [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Minister, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Okay. There is no place in society for the neglect [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have requested that the hon Minister conclude. I have done it with all of the members on that side of the aisle and that side of the aisle to read their last sentence. Hon Minister, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: There is no place in society for the neglect or abuse of older persons. Let us protect and be champions of dignity and ageing. Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members! I do appreciate the subject for discussion as further input from member Kamfer. I know that there are many entities and NGOs that are also listening online, so please let us maintain the decorum of the House. I see the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim. I rise on behalf of Al Jama-Ah, in full support of this urgent call to address this systemic neglect and abuse in elderly care facilities across the Western Cape. This is not merely a service delivery failure, it is a moral failure, and it lies squarely at the feet of the DA-led Provincial Government that continues to treat the vulnerable as invisible. Our elders, the very people who build our communities, raised generations and contributed to this province, now face shocking conditions in state-subsidised care centres, under-staffed facilities, under-paid caregivers, crumbling infrastructure, and inadequate oversight have become the norm.

This is not accidental; it is the result of chronic under-investment in a cold bureaucratic indifference to the humanity of our elderly. Reports of abuse, neglect and isolation have surfaced again and again. Where is the Province's leadership? Where is the commitment to dignity, to Ubuntu? Instead of increasing budgets and improving inspections, we see a Government more concerned with optics and outcomes.

The Western Cape cannot claim to be a leader in good governance while it fails the most vulnerable among us. We demand immediate reforms, increased funding, regular and independent facility audits, proper training and remuneration for caregivers, and strong accountability measures for violators. In Islam the prophet Muhammad reminded us, “he is not of us who does not show mercy to our young and respect to our elderly.” This Province has shown ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, please conclude.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): The lives of our seniors matter. Their comfort, safety and dignity should be non-negotiable. [Interjection.]

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Anything less is a betrayal. 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, when I saw the debate I was reminded [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Yes?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you able to take your seat, I see the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, firstly congratulations on chairing for this – I think you will be chairing the entire Sitting. I think we look forward to that. Maybe there will be someone else as well, but I think for starting the Sitting [Interjection.] No, I am busy speaking, can we – yeah.

Just on a point of order. The hon Brinkhuis was not allowed to conclude. The precedence set with the hon Wenger, and particularly with members on this side of the House, and sometimes with members here as well, has been that we allow people to conclude. Now you did not allow him to conclude, you just gave over to the hon Christians. I think that must be noted, and it is quite unfair. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. We are in the initial stages of our Sitting today. We will proceed accordingly, but thank you for the inputs member Sayed. I now see the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, when I saw the debate I thought of the interpellation that we had with the spotlight on Beaconvale Frail Care in Mitchells Plain. Now hon

Deputy Speaker, the problem that I see here is because this was brought to the attention of the hon Minister Londt, so I know there were investigations done, there was a lot of emphasis, because it was also in the Plainsman media coverage. So I am saying this because I am sure that the hon Minister Londt will give us an update, to say, “listen, this was done, this was found by the investigation.”

But hon Deputy Speaker, the main problem that they have is we cannot come here and report cases. We must go to the relevant authorities when we see these atrocities, when we see of elder abuse, when we see there is neglect in our frail care facilities. Why must we wait for a debate? Why do we not go and report it, and then we can come and say, “but I have reported the case”, and why did the hon Minister Londt not do something about it?” But to come here and debate these things over and over again, we are getting nowhere slowly. That is what I am saying.

But hon Deputy Speaker, the important thing is this is the whole of society problem. It starts at home first. When we see the neglect of the elderly at home, and there was research done, and I believe that the hon Minister Londt was at that function, where Ikamva Labantu had a – if I pronounce it, but [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, are you able to take your seat?

An HON MEMBER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, is the hon

member prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): I do not take questions from juniors, but let me go on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have requested. Please proceed.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, please take your seat. Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much. I note the remark by the hon Christians that he does not take questions from juniors. He must just know the last person in this House who said that he does not take questions from juniors, finds himself without a political career, Albert Fritz [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: In response to myself and ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... [Inaudible.] so you better be careful. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon member Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Acting Speaker, I am just concerned that there is serious identity confusion here. He is from the SACP, they are ANC, and he is referring to the EFF, I just believe we should be clear who we are referring to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Walters, that is not a point of order. [Interjection.] Order members! Crestway High School is in the gallery and they would love to listen to each and every speaker. Crestway High School has grannies and older persons that they deeply love and they want to listen attentively. Hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, I also want to say that in the previous financial year the Department helped open 106 cases for elderly abuse, so I am saying it again, do not do political grandstanding here, go and report where you see abuse. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Christians. I see the Chief Whip, hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I can answer the question the hon Christians asked earlier, “why are members coming here and not reporting?” Because they struggle to find cases to report, and they come here to grandstand, because not only is the hon Minister, the National Minister of Social Development a member of the ANC, the Deputy National Minister of Social Development is part of the Al Jama-Ah party.

But hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise to speak on an issue that demands our deepest concern and our most urgent action. There is no systemic neglect and abuse of elderly people in this province, but I am sure as soon as you leave the boundaries of this province you will find it, because when abuse rears its head in the Western Cape, it is reported, those people are supported through the Department of Social Development, and the criminal justice system is allowed to take its course. So I challenge members opposite to bring some of those cases forward so we can follow their trajectory.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, it is ironic that a political party that pretends to represent those vulnerable in our community brings a subject for discussion, but does not even bother to so show up on time to introduce that subject of discussion. So how seriously do you take the plight of the elderly in this province, because we know you are the very political party that will allow older people to stand in SASSA queues for days because you do not care.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our seniors are the backbone of our communities. They have contributed to the growth of our communities and they demand our respect, and I do implore the members opposite me to ask their colleagues in the National Executive, through the hon Minister of Social Development, to respect our elderly people ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ... to make sure that older people do not have to stand outside SASSA offices until the early hours of the morning. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bosman, please take your seat. I see the Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise in terms of Rule 39. It is unbearable and I am finding it very difficult to hear the speaker on the floor, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, prior to that particular order, I also wanted to mention, the running commentary is extremely loud, and it is drowning out the speaker because I was even unable to hear him clearly. Like I have indicated that we have learners that are in the gallery that is going to speak to their parents and their families. Please let us remain – keep the decorum of the House. Hon Bosman, please proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. In the words of a previous elderly member of this House, † “leë blikke maak die meeste geraas.” [“empty vessels make the most noise”.] Hon Deputy Speaker, we must begin by advocating for clearer national norms and standards that leave no ambiguity when it comes to the rights, treatment and well-being of older persons. This is a national competency. We must also push for greater national resourcing so that provinces are empowered to implement these standards effectively. We cannot operate in a context where provinces are expected to do more with less, especially when the vulnerable lives are at stake.

But reform must also innovate. The Western Cape Government has continued to show that it is willing to explore new models of elderly care, models that are community based, integrated in health and social services and designed to reduce social isolation. We envision environments that promote independence and dignity, and not institutionalisation and isolation. We are also in this province working hard to strengthen partnerships with civil societies and NGOs, as well as faith-based organisations, to ensure that local communities also play a vital role in providing care, companionship and accountability.

We want to see a stronger network of support and oversight where communities are empowered to be watchdogs and caretakers, not just bystanders. But for this we need all stakeholders to hold hands. Let me be clear, hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance remains unwavering in

our commitment in protecting vulnerable seniors. We believe that every elderly person has the right to live in a safe, comfortable and cared for environment, and we believe that when these rights are violated, there must be consequences.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA will lead the charge, we will lead with compassion, with innovation and with resolve, but we will also lead with courage, and with the courage to comfort what is broken, and we will fix it, like we have shown. But we all have to do this together, and I really implore those members opposite us to pay attention when we go on these oversight visits, and we hear from our elderly citizens what their needs are, and not to come to Parliament to grandstand for political point-scoring. I thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, let us paint you a picture. You work hard for 50 years, you contribute to this country, raise a family, pay your taxes, and do your part. Retirement comes and like for many South Africans life has not been easy. You cannot afford luxury, but you are looking for peace, safety and dignity, so you search for affordable elderly care. Instead you end up in a homeless shelter, one that highlights its frail care facility. This is not the retirement you dreamed of but it is all you can afford. But that does not mean you signed up for a nightmare.

The truth is that this Province is failing our elderly. It is not developing or even enabled the development of affordable institutional housing for poor seniors. In that gap, under-regulated private shelters have stepped in. Many of these places, like Magda's Safe Haven in Elsies River, which has been reported to the Department of Social Development, are exploiting pensioners. Reports tell of locked doors, banned visitors and squalid conditions. This is more akin to a hellhole and not a haven. Is this how we allow people to live in their final years?

These shelters were never designed for long term stays or frail care, both of which require more staff, especially trained staff and resources. This is not aged care, it is abuse, and while these facilities may be privately run, the Province cannot wash its hands, this Province has a duty of care and that duty does not end where private operations begin. Even private shelters must meet minimum norms and standards, and oversight is not a luxury, it is a moral and legal obligation.

We need urgent reforms, the expansion of affordable housing for the elderly and regulation of all facilities, because how we treat our elders speaks volumes about who we are right now. It is telling a story of abandonment and that must end. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is astonishing, truly astonishing to sit in this House and hear the ANC grandstand on the issue of elder care as though their hands are clean, as though their record reflects compassion, accountability, or even basic competency. Let us be clear, this is not only misleading, it is downright hypocritical.

†Regoor die land in ANC-beheerde provinsies sien ons nie voorbeelde van omgee nie, ons sien voorvalle van ineenstorting en mislukkings. Sorgsentrums wat verwaarloos word. Maatskaplike werkers wat tot buite menslike vermoëns gestrek word, en bejaardes, ons mammas, ons pappas, ons grootouers wat aan armoede, onwaardigheid en dikwels aan mishandeling oorgelaat word.

[All across the country in ANC controlled provinces we do not see examples of caring, we see incidents of collapse and failures. Care centres that are neglected. Social workers stretched beyond human abilities and aged, our mothers, our fathers, our grandparents left to poverty, indignity and often to abuse.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, let us not forget Life Esidimeni. Yes, it involves psychiatric patients, but it exposed a deeper truth, the truth of an ANC Government who does not protect the vulnerable. Patients were dumped at unlicensed NGOs, no proper care, no oversight. 144 ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Sjoe!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members. Hon Kaizer-Philander. Hon members, the heckling is getting to a point where it can interrupt the member. I would want to caution members once again. Let us please respect the decorum of the House. Hon Kaizer-Philander, 4 minutes and 31 seconds.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, let us not forget Life Esidimeni. Yes, it involves psychiatric patients but it exposed a deeper truth, the truth of an ANC Government who does not protect the most vulnerable. Patients were dumped at unlicensed NGOs, no proper care, no oversight, 144 lives lost, and this tragedy still haunts our national conscience.

Hon Deputy Speaker, last year in the ANC-led Limpopo, we again witnessed the same negligence. The Vutlhari Old Age and Disability Care Centre shut down for shocking human rights violations. Residents sleeping on concrete, some elders dying due to malnutrition, and others bathed with pine gel and chemicals. Two people were chained like prisoners in a place meant to provide care. Hon Deputy Speaker, and this begs the question, on what moral ground does the ANC stand?

†Hier in die Wes-Kaap regeer ons anders. Ons maak nie leë beloftes nie. Ons bied waardigheid gewortel in stelsels, oorsig en aksie. [Here in the Western Cape we govern differently. We do not make empty promises. We offer

dignity rooted in systems, oversight and action.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, firstly, proactive governance, our Standing Committee on Social Development engages directly with communities to address issues before they escalate. Collaboration is “key” and the Western Cape Older Persons Alliance is vital in this effort. †Dit is ’n struktuur wat ouer persone verteenwoordig, toesig hou en mishandeling aanmeld, en saam ontwikkel ons ’n handves van waardigheid vir ons ouer mense, ’n verbintenis om te verseker dat bejaardes met respek, beskerming en omgee behandel word deur die Regering, gemeenskappe en diensverskaffers. [It is a structure representing older people, does oversight and reports abuse, and together we develop a charter of dignity for our older people, a commitment to ensure that the aged are treated with respect, protection and caring by the Government, communities and service providers.]

†Hon Deputy Speaker, tweedens, is daar volhoubare belegging. Die Wes-Kaap befonds 160 sorgsentrums vir ouer persone om toegang tot veilige en waardige sorg te verseker. Meer as 230 dienssentrums en klubs voorsien etes, psigososiale ondersteuning en aktiwiteite, en hierdie is plekke van lewe, nie wit olifante nie, [Hon Deputy Speaker, secondly, there is sustainable investment. The Western Cape funds 160 care centres for older people to ensure access to safe and dignified care. More than 230 service centres and clubs provide meals, psycho-social support and activities, and these are places of life, not white elephants,] and as our elderly population grow from 700 000 today, to a projected 1,5 million by 2050, we are stepping up to scale

up. In the 2025/2026 the Western Cape Department of Social Development will increase funding for residential care facilities. Subsidies will rise by up to 13%. Development subsidies for service centres will also go up, because our commitment is not seasonal, it is structural.

Hon Deputy Speaker, thirdly, we enforce compliance, if a facility takes Government money, it meets the standards of the Older Persons Act or it loses that funding, we do not tolerate non-ethical care facilities, because in this Province we govern with responsibility. Hon Deputy Speaker we also act to prevent abuse. Our elder abuse helpline is not a token gesture, it is a valid link. Every call is investigated, every case is escalated, and our elder abuse response teams comprising of social workers, SAPS, medical staff and legal experts do take action. This is not reactionary governance, it is deliberate, coordinated and compassionate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me be clear, where the ANC governs through neglect, we govern through dignity, where the ANC centralised control and suffocate civil society, we build partnerships. Where the ANC makes announcements, we deliver results.

†Hon Deputy Speaker, ons sal nie voorgeslyf word deur 'n party wie se provinsies hulle mees kwesbare burgers versaak nie, en terwyl die ANC verskonings herwin en hergebruik, verseker en herstel ons waardigheid. Terwyl die ANC in 'n ander rigting kyk, vat ons aksie en ons lewer resultate. Terwyl die ANC skuil agter burokrasie, lei ons van voor. *Hon Deputy*

Speaker, die DA-beheerde Wes-Kaapse Regering sal nie om verskoning vra dat ons die merk hoog stel nie.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, we will not be prescribed by a party whose provinces fail their most vulnerable citizens, and while the ANC recover and re-use excuses, we ensure and repair dignity. While the ANC looks in another direction, we take action and we deliver results. While the ANC hides behind bureaucracy, we lead from the front. Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA-led Western Cape Government will not apologize setting the mark high.]

We will keep on raising the bar, and to the ANC, you are welcome to follow, but you will have to run to keep up. You will not even keep up with our dear elders at the Golden Games. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. I recognise the hon Bans. You may proceed, hon Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I came here very prepared with a speech that I think I have spent so many hours in preparing, but after this debate I do not think it is necessary. I think the Premier, with the SOPA, when he opened up he said, “we must listen with compassion”, but after listening to the DA here, I really think it is not falling just on deaf ears, it is falling on “dead” ears. Having an Opposition that is effective, and after you are giving your insights, I would have appreciated, but at a day like this, you still hear the DA, when they respond to our topics that we are giving for debate, they tell you that we

are not in power, but I feel if you were in power you were supposed to know what to do. They must give us this power so we show them what they must be doing, and then, hon Deputy Speaker, you hear again the hon MEC of Health, coming and telling us about statistics on old age homes. As we are speaking now, medication is a problem in old age homes [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bans, are you able to take your seat?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): No, I see them, I am expecting it.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, is the hon Bans prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will put the question to the hon Bans, hon members. Hon Bans, are you willing to take a question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Immediately when I finish my speech, we can spend the whole day, I have a passion for this one.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The answer is no, hon Bosman. Please proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, there are no medications as we speak at these old age homes, and then it gets to be reduced to some statistics. That is a problem, we need to address it. The

Department must be working closely with Social Development to monitor what is happening in these old age homes. At times one is getting worried, even to a preacher that is supposed to be preaching in church. The consciousness is that we are speaking about vulnerable people that cannot be speaking for themselves; we are coming to speak about older citizens that are lying in beds. What is the Gospel saying when a preacher is doing that? We are told about Life Esidimeni here, there are so many Life Esidimeni's here in this province, you are running to the Gauteng to get that right. Murraysburg where I hail from, as we speak now, there are older citizens that are staying in Ashton that is 700 kilometres away from their families, then you come and tell us about Esidimeni. Right here at Kraaifontein, we saw with our own eyes people that are sleeping on beds that are not covered, naked, taken away their human dignity. You are told by this very same person that we have the best Government. You must listen, it is time for you to listen, this is not just anything, we are speaking of lives here. I thought today in my politics I will reduce to humanity and give proposals that are progressive to assist them in governing, but it seems the appetite from them it is totally not there, it is serious arrogance. But on a lighter note, hon Deputy Speaker, let us continue. Today as ANC we rise, not only as politicians. I will try to calm down, hon Deputy Speaker. I will try to calm down. Today we rise not as [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members! Hon members, I have [Interjection.] I ultimately have two choices, I can, every time that the heckling becomes too loud I can stop the speaker and I can wait a few

seconds and we can then proceed, or I can allow for the House to flow, so that we can ultimately all partake and enjoy this particular discussion as we are needing to change lives. I would want to ensure that the speaker has the platform and for no interruptions to occur, and for us to maintain the decorum of the House. We are nearing the end of this particular debate and I trust that members will adhere.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, just for control, even the kids they are sick listening to the DA because they do not take responsibility. Today, hon Deputy Speaker, we rise, not as politicians seeking applause or headlines, but as servants of the people, guided by our conscience and driven by duty. We rise as the voice for those who can no longer speak for themselves, for the forgotten and the vulnerable. We rise on behalf of our elders, the very generation that lay the foundation for our society and who are now suffering in silence across this province.

There is a crisis unfolding in our midst, ~~[Inaudible.]~~ a quiet but by devastating crisis in elder care facilities, where the aged and our mothers and fathers and grandfathers and community stalwarts, are being failed in that show of conscience and shame in our institutions. This is not a political performance, this is a norm reckoning. We are not here to score points, hon Deputy Speaker, we are here to raise the alarm on humanitarian failure of our own making.

Across the Western Cape the state of elder care has deteriorated to a point of collapse. In facilities that are meant to provide refuge, safety and care, we find stories that are unimaginable of neglect and abuse. We have encountered cases where elderly residents are left lying in soiled bedding for hours due to chronic under-staffing. We have heard in some of the cases verified allegations of physical abuse, verbal assaults, and even alleged sexual violence within these facilities. These are not isolated incidents. They are not rare exceptions. They are the daily reality for too many elders in this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, chronically ill patients, including those suffering from diabetes, hypertension and renal failure, are being denied their basic medication for days at a time. Some have been refused lifesaving dialysis simply because the facility could not make the necessary payments. These are not deaths caused by diseases, payments; these are not deaths caused by diseases but deaths caused by bureaucracy. They are death sentences written not in hospital wards but in Government ledger.

Malnutrition is rampant, meals are prepared in kitchens that would not meet the most basic health standards, special diets are ignored, and even for residents with chronic conditions and those struggling with mental health there is little to no support. Elders are left navigating their final years in despair and are unheard and unseen.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these are not perceptions or political distortions, these

are facts grounded in reality, documented activities daily by community leaders and professionals who are on the front lines of this crisis. This week we held engagement with various communities' right through the province with activists fighting for the rights of the elderly persons, as well as the Western Cape Older Persons Care Alliance, and the picture that they painted is deeply distressing. Their accounts confirm what we have seen and heard for months that there is a total collapse of care, driven by chronic underfunding, financial mismanagement, and appalling lack of political will from the DA-led Government.

While elderly residents at facilities like KSE Kraaifontein Tehuis, Mitchells Plain, Murraysburg, are being denied the most basic needs, we are informed that retired matrons are being rehired at salaries nearing R30 000 per month. The vast majority of the Department of Social Development's Budget for elders is being consumed by salaries, while residents are turned away, denied medication and left to deteriorate in their undignified conditions. This is not merely poor governance; it is a fundamental ethical failure. It is a betrayal of the values we claim to uphold.

Hon Deputy Speaker, inspection of these facilities are irregular and when they do occur they are largely symbolic. Violations are addressed with warning letters that carry no weight. The regulatory bodies that should be enforcing the law have either been captured or rendered completely ineffective, then we are told about structures that are outside and we do not take responsibility.

The Older Persons Act which should provide protection and oversight is treated as a recommendation rather than a legal imperative, and the DA-led Provincial Government, through its inaction and indifference has become complicit in these failures, and it was demonstrated once again today. This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. We must act decisively; we must take the recommendations of the Western Cape Older Citizens Persons Care Alliance seriously and begin to implement them immediately.

Firstly, we must increase subsidies for residential care facilities and service centres. There is also a need to introduce targeted subsidies for community home based care. These facilities cannot be functioning if they are starved of resources.

†Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ons moet deurlopende en gestruktureerde betrokkenheid tussen die ouersorg sektor en die Staande Komitee vestig om sodoende gereelde toesig en gedeelde aanspreeklikheid te verseker. Dit kan nie 'n eenmalige interaksie wees nie, dit moet 'n volhoudende vennootskap word.

Derdens moet ons die [Onduidelik - 1:04:57] denke verbreek wat ondepartemente verlam het. Die Departement van Gesondheid, Plaaslike Regering, Infrastruktuur en Vervoer moet by die gesprekke ingetrek word en gesamentlik verantwoordelik gehou word vir oplossings.

Daar is ook praktiese ingrypings wat ons ook onmiddelik kan implementeer. 'n Provinsiale veldtog moet geloods word om bewusmaking en toegang tot die hulp van [Onduidelik.] vir die *grant aid* soos hierdie koalisiefonds in die Alliansie. Die beleidsraamwerk vir die spesiale behoefteswysing moet sonder verdere vertraging in die benadeelde gemeenskappe uitgerol word. Ons moet fasiliteite wat SASSA begunstigde gekommendeer [Onduidelik] aanmoedig en beloon en ons moet die verwysingsgroep vir ouer persone versterk deur [Onduidelik] te verbreek en gereelde streeksvergaderings te hou.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, we must establish continuous and structured involvement between the elder care sector and the Standing Committee to ensure regular oversight and shared accountability. It cannot be a once off interaction, it must become a sustainable partnership.

Thirdly we must break the [Inaudible.] ways of thinking that have paralyzed our departments. The Department of Health, Local Government, Infrastructure and Transport must be included in the discussions and be jointly held accountable for solutions.

There are also practical interventions that we can implement immediately. A provincial campaign must be launched for awareness and access to the aid of [Inaudible.] for the grant aid like this coalition fund in the Alliance. The policy framework for the special needs amendment must without delay be rolled out in the disadvantaged communities. We must encourage and reward facilities accommodating SASSA beneficiaries and we must strengthen the reference group for older people, by breaking [Inaudible.] and conducting

regular regional meetings.]

We agree with Western Cape Older Persons Care with the recommendations that they have said to the Standing Committee. †Ons doen ook 'n beroep vir die vestiging [Tussenwerpsel.] [We also ask for the establishment [Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon member.

†Die HOOFSWEEP VAN DIE OPPOSISIE (ANC): Hon *Deputy* Speaker, as ek my laaste sinnetjie sê wil ek sê dat vandag kom pleit ek vir die eerste maal voor die DA, dit is lewens wat ons hieroor praat, ons kan maar op en af gaan so ver as wat ons wil, maar vir die lewens van die mense, sit jou trots vir een keer in jou sak en doen die regte ding. Dankie *hon Deputy* Speaker.

[The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, when I say my last sentence I want to say that today I come and plead for the first time before the DA, it is lives we are talking about here, we can go up and down as much as we want, but for the lives of the people, for once put your pride in your pocket and do the right thing. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

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

†Die MINISTER VAN SOSIALE ONTWIKKELING: Dankie *hon Deputy*

Speaker. Agb kollegas, u weet dat ek geniet gewoonlik 'n debat, ek geniet die interaksie wat hier in die Huis plaasvind, maar ek moet sê ek is eintlik bitter teleurgesteld in hoe hierdie debat vandag plaasgevind het. Ek het gedog toe ons Dinsdag ons Komiteevergadering gehad het, was daarso oor die partylyne 'n samehorigheid gevind om te sê hierdie is 'n probleem wat ons hande moet vat in die provinsie en saam aanspreek, tussen politieke partye, tussen die Regeringsorganisasies, in die privaatsektor, en wat hier gebeur het dink ek spreek nie tot hierdie Huis nie, en [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon colleagues, you know that I usually enjoy a debate, I enjoy the interaction taking place here in the House, but I must say I am actually bitterly disappointed in how this debate took place today. I thought when we had the Committee meeting on Tuesday, that there was a unity found across the party lines to say this is a problem where we have to take hands in the province and address it together, between political parties, between the Government organizations, in the private sector, and what happened here I think does not speak to this House, and [Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat? I see the Chief Whip. Are you rising on a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I put a question to you, are you willing to take a question?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: No, let me finish and then if there is time I will take, thank you. †So wat nou vandag hier gebeur het, die eerste ding wat ons moet sê, eerstens aan die agb Kamfer, moes ek vroeër gesê het, jammer oor jou grootmaakmoeder wat afgesterf het en dankie dat u hierdie debat na die Huis toe gebring het. Ek wil dankie sê vir die Staande Komitee wat hierdie week vir die Western Cape Older Persons Alliance die platform gegee het om van die *challenges* wat daarso is in die provinsie op die tafel te sit, probleme wat almal van die Parlement ook geopper het, maar hulle het ook gekom met voorstelle, konstruktiewe voorstelle om te verbeter.

Wat ek wel doen, ek staan vandag hierso voor u met 'n diepe *sense* dat hierdie moet aangespreek word, daar moet verbeter word, ons sal deursigtig wees oor die probleme wat die stelsel, wat ons *face*, wat ons trotseer, maar ons moet ook 'n lig skyn op die vordering wat gemaak is. [So what has happened here today, the first thing we have to say, firstly to the hon Kamfer. I should have said earlier, I'm sorry about your foster mother who passed away, and thank you that you have brought this debate to the House. I want to say thank you to the Standing Committee who this week gave the platform to the Western Cape Older Persons Alliance to put some of the challenges in the province on the table, problems that everyone of Parliament also raised, but they also came with proposals, constructive proposals to improve.]

What I'm doing, I'm standing here today before you with a deep sense that this must be addressed, there must be improvement, we will be transparent

about the problems that the system, that we face, that we take on, but we must also shine a light on the progress that has been achieved. This was the first time in eight years that the Department has been able to increase funding to the older person's programmes.

†Daar is verskeie faktore wat gelei het tot die stagnering in die befondsing. Eerste, 'n vermindering, hoe gaan ek dit nou vertaal, [There are various factors that led to the stagnation of the funding. Firstly, a reduction, how am I going to translate it,] a reduced revenue [Inaudible.] monetary policy and higher borrowing costs. There is also inflation, spending pressures, the Covid-19 pandemic, and importantly the impact of the wage negotiations of 2023 that led to unprecedented cuts across Government departments. We also know that as the Western Cape Government, we have been fighting to have our fair share of the National Budget. We have an ever increasing older population, we have the third highest population in this country but we only get the fifth highest share of the budget.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, this is the example what I said at the beginning, there are facts on the table and then we just hear noise from the ANC. Instead of looking at the facts, they are making noise, because as soon as they do not like hearing [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat? [Interjection.] Order members! I see the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise in terms of Rule 39, the noise is really getting very, very loud, and it really interrupts. One cannot hear the hon Minister at all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjection.] Hon members! Are you rising on the same matter? I see the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, there was a point of order and then the person raising the point of order was also personally being insulted. Now I know there are things that the ANC does not want to hear, but still, I think that you should be protecting the speaker and the people raising points of orders. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjection.] Hon members! We are drawing to the end of this particular debate and I will urge members to respect the speaker that is on the floor and not to interrupt. We need to maintain the decorum of the House, so that those that are listening online and those in the gallery are able to listen. Hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. So what we do acknowledge is that there has been a stagnation in the funding, and that is why when I came in as Minister, we started fighting so that we can start turning the tide, and I already acknowledged in the past to the Committee members, thank you for fighting this fight with me, and that is why we could get an increase of R23 million, from R218 million to R241

million. Now if we continue to take hands, we might fight to get more, but look how you are behaving today, and you should be ashamed of yourselves.

We have received positive feedback from facilities that the extra funding will assist them greatly in filling the gaps, and although our Department gives a large chunk of its budget to funding organisations, more so than any other province, this is not enough, and we must take hands together to increase this. That is also why we are going to establish and launch the Cape Care Fund next month, and I expect members from across this House to help get extra funding so that we can look after the most vulnerable in society, of which the elderly is there as well.

We are funding, besides the residential facilities, we are funding 150 community based service centres. We also subsidise three NPOs specifically looking at elder abuse, providing training and information services. This is Age-in-Action, Dementia SA and Ikamva Labantu Charitable Trust, as the hon Christians mentioned, and we are fighting that the budget is increasing, hon Brinkhuis. The problem is you sit with your party leader at a national level and you cannot sort out the SASSA queues. We are trying our best to engage with the SASSA leadership in the Western Cape, but it is not dignified to our old people, to our disabled people, to our mothers that need to get their child support grant, spending hours and hours and hours in a row, because the ANC National Government cannot adequately resource SASSA to look after the vulnerable residents in the province.

All resident facilities for the elderly must adhere to the norms and standards as per the Older Persons Act, whether those are for low income residents, SASSA grant beneficiaries or private institutions. The Beacon Valley Home got their improvement plan that they are busy implementing. September is the deadline that we want to see that that improvement has taken place, and I want to encourage the Committee to go and visit and see that it has improved.

The same way that Vermont has changed it around, and in that sense I do want to give credit to hon Wenger, hon Mbombo and hon Stephens, who all said in different ways that, † “die gemeenskappe moet eienaarskap neem [the communities must take ownership.]” “Ubuntu must be brought back.” That is what happened in Vermont, that place was not run well, and it is surprising that not one of the members here today acknowledged the turnaround, because that is when community members take ownership of the facilities.

The elderly that have spent their lives looking after the children, now those communities must also look after the elderly, and what is fascinating is sometimes when there are fights in these facilities, you have community members that stand up and say, “you know what; I do not care about the constitution of this facility.” We live in a constitutional democracy, those constitutions govern the running of those facility. If you do not like how the facility is being run, mobilise like-minded competent individuals, get involved and turn that facility around, like they did in Vermont.

Hon Herron, you know I like my debates and I thought I must not say this,

but you know what, we have funding problems, but if your party leader did not spend millions and millions upon a washing line we could have spent that on the old age, old people here in the province. So it is easy to throw stones, but you also need to sort out your own House, please. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please speak to the Chair.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I am sorry, hon Chairperson, I like to look a person in the eye but I will speak through you. So as I said, Vermont I visited last year, I visited them last week again, and credit to them, and I also said to the Alliance, the Western Cape Older Persons Alliance, I said, “we maybe need you to take hands with us”, because when there are facilities that struggle to govern, we will continue doing our monitoring, doing our evaluation, as we are required to do and as we do across the province. We have 117 facilities that we fund. There are a handful that do not do what they are supposed to do, but you stand up here and you are disingenuous making it as if all 117 are failing. There are a handful and that handful we must turn around, and that is why I am happy that we take hands and make sure we turn those around.

So the last thing, hon Chair, before my time runs out, hon Bans said we must give them the power. It is not how democracy works. Voters give you the power and they decreased your vote. [Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: What the DA did is they allowed [Inaudible.] nationally.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, Thank you so much. I saw your hand member, with eight seconds remaining; hence I wanted the hon Minister to conclude. Is it a point of order on – I recognise you.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I wanted to thank the hon Minister for answering regarding the Beaconvale Frail Care, but the email on 3 September 2024 that has not been replied to, also included Huis Ravenzicht, it was never replied to. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): So I wanted to know if you would take a question regarding Huis Ravenzicht.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, thank you so much for your input. Hon Marais, I would advise that you utilise the parliamentary mechanisms available to you, like written questions or oral questions, because the debate has concluded. [Interjection.] Hon members, order!

1:18:04

1:18:04

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 197 we will now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Bredell.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Ms B N Stoffel to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(a) What are some of the important tasks that are dealt with at the meetings between him and the senior to top management team and

(b) when did he last hold such meetings in the Department?

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

Hon Deputy Speaker, in my Department I usually meet with the Head of the Department of Local Government and the Head of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on a one-on-one meeting; also with the CEO of CapeNature. I try to do this on a weekly basis, but most of all, mostly two-weekly this will happen, and some of these matters addressed at the meetings held during the last while with the two

departments, we have discussed – on the progress in terms of my Ministerial programmes or priorities of future-proofing this Western Cape province in terms of disaster management and climate change resilience, as well as growing our economy through spatial transformation and the development facilitation.

Hon Chair, furthermore, our five year Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan and budget sessions with the Standing Committee and the Heads of the Departments' performance agreements, we discuss and work through those. The winter readiness programme or plan in terms of disaster management, and work underway in terms of areas at risk, the hotspot areas in terms of flooding must be important. Remember last year we have lost a lot of infrastructure, †en die idee was dat ons hierdie jaar, as ons dieselfde tipe reën kry, nie weer dieselfde infrastruktuur moet beskadig nie, so ons moet 'n program saam met my kollega by Infrastruktuur gehad het, en die munisipaliteite om te kyk hoe kan ons die areas gereed kry sodat dit nie weer oorstroom of breek nie. [And the idea was that this year, if we get the same type of rain, the same infrastructure does not get damaged, so we must have had a programme with my colleague at Infrastructure, and the municipalities to see how we can prepare the areas so that it does not get flooded or broken again.]

Progress in terms of our 15 year Water Resilience Plan, is a crucial plan going forward, a crucial plan of taking municipalities' hands. A very complex plan because it speaks to the maintenance of infrastructure, the backlog in

infrastructure, how to get new resources into the system, etcetera.

Progress in terms of the Western Cape Climate Response Strategy and the Climate Change Act. We all know about climate change, we all know about the importance on how to prepare, how to prepare our communities, how to prepare our Government and our different departments, so that we can future-proof this Province.

Progress in terms of the Growth for Jobs Strategy, including the work on the Western Cape Spatial Development Framework. We all know the only way out of poverty is through jobs, and that is very important work that we on a weekly basis check and monitor. The agenda of the Integrated Energy and Water Council, that is a council that is being chaired by the Premier, and we all sit on it and we give our inputs, because obviously to get the economy to grow and to deal with population growth, we need to see to it that we have got enough resources on energy, as well as water.

The agenda of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change – we are setting that agenda and working through that. The agenda on the Growth for Jobs at the Cabinet Committee level, we see to it that those agendas can speak to the challenges of the day.

The Land Use Planning Act Amendment Bill and submissions to Cabinet – those are things that we have worked through to give our input. The

discussion on the progress in terms of my Ministerial priority of “accountable” local Government delivering services that the residents of the Western Cape deserve, includes a very broad aspect of a dignified life [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ... the kind of services that we need to secure for our people. I will stop there, thank you hon Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Minister. I see the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, with appreciation of the reporting from MEC Bredell about the performance in the Department, but it is with profound disappointment that I once again rise in this House to address a matter that speaks to the moral decay and systematic failure of the DA-led Western Cape Government. The Department of Local Government has been paralysed by the leadership crisis, with no fully constituted senior management meetings, including directors, chief directors, and Head of Department, HOD, held since May 2024. Whilst the HOD, Mr Graham Paulse has convened meetings with a selective few chief directors, the deliberate exclusion of the CFO confirms that this is not the legitimate senior management structure. Why is this happening, hon Deputy Speaker?

The answer lies in a shameful cover-up of a sexual harassment allegation against Mr Paulse dating back to 2013. A Labour Relations investigation was conducted at the time, followed by an independent investigation by Advocate Jennifer Williams, which confirmed the allegation and recommended that the HOD ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you able to take your seat? I see the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, can I kindly ask you to rule. I believe the latter comment made by the member has got nothing to do with the interpellation. Can you please consult the Rules and Hansard accordingly, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, with respect to the hon former Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance. I want to question the relevance of her point of order. This is a political interpellation

and what our Speaker is raising, what member Stoffel is raising is directly linked to the subject matter. She must just listen and give the MEC a chance to respond. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, Rule 44 is a serious Rule in terms of relevance. I have noted it and I will check Hansard, and if need be I will revert back, but what I will do in this regard, I will allow member Stoffel to proceed, but I will once again caution members of Rule 44 in terms of relevance. So, hon member Stoffel, please proceed.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Yet despite this, the MEC has repeatedly refused to intervene, claiming it is not his place. This is not just negligence, it is complicity. The Premier and the MEC have failed in their duty to protect employees and uphold accountability. Their inaction sends a clear message that sexual harassment is tolerated in the Western Cape Government. [Interjection.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Worse still, the HOD's refusal to convene [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel.

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Julle kan my steur, ek gaan aan.

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): You can interrupt me, I'm carrying on.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, can I please ask that you apply your mind to Rule 198, which is very specific on the procedure of interpellation, based on the response received, provided by the Provincial Member of Cabinet; and also (b) hon Deputy Speaker, the interpellant shall respond to the reply. What the member is currently doing has no relevance to what the member of the Provincial Cabinet has relayed to this House, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): [Laughter] Can you read ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members, I would want us to conclude this particular interpellation. I will afford this interpellation to proceed. Are you rising on the same point?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Chair, Chair, Chair, I think the former Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance, now Deputy Chief Whip, is really being frivolous. You have already indicated at the onset that you are going to look into the matter. It is a matter of interpretation; it is clearly a matter of interpretation as to how you link a matter to a response. So allow this to continue and then you can rule after that, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, when I listened to the hon member Stoffel, I do know that she also repeated the same line prior to me ultimately asking her to take her seat. So I have not seen a clear persistence, because it was a repeat before I asked her to take her seat. I will allow this particular interpellation to proceed, but I will once again inform all members of Rule 44 in terms of relevance. So, hon member Stoffel, please proceed.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Leadership demands decisive action, yet the Premier has passed the buck to the Director General, Mr Harry Malila, who himself is implicated in bullying and harassment of the Department CFO. How can Malali ... [Interjection.] [Laughter] Malila, have been asked to investigate when he is part of the problem. He must recuse himself immediately, but the rod runs deeper.

The Advocate Williams' report allegedly contains six additional sexual harassment complaints against the HOD. Why has the report been withheld from the Committee and the public? What is the Premier hiding? The DA-led Government's refusal to release it proves that their priority is protecting perpetrators and not victims. We want this report to the Committee, it must be – you can say what you want MEC Simmers, you are abusing the members of this Parliament and we want this report to the House. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Are you rising on a point of order, hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member has just accused a member of this Cabinet of abuse, is that parliamentary?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): It is.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, I will check Hansard but let me give you an opportunity now. Did you directly accuse a member of abuse?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No, not at all, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I will check Hansard and revert back. The hon members are fully aware that if they make allegations they are able to bring a substantive motion, but I will refer to the Hansard accordingly. But Hon Minister, I see you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: The hon member has just been entirely dishonest with the House and I would kindly ask and I raise a point of order that you consult the Hansard [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He ruled on that!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Unless all of our ears deceive us, the hon member [Inaudible 1:29:46 – Speaking simultaneously]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The Department is falling apart ... [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: The Hansard could resolve this, thank you.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ... abuse, you are not supposed to be listening.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No-no-no.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have already ruled. I have already ruled on this particular matter. I will check the Hansard and revert back in this regard. So we will now proceed, because I have already entertained points of orders in this regards. Hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We respect you, hon Deputy Chief Whip (Speaker), we respect that seat, and indeed when you have made a ruling we respect your rulings. We are just asking you to be consistent and do not allow the members of the DA, which is your party – every time you have done your ruling, they will still stand up and they will still ventilate whatever issue that they want. That is abuse of Rules and abuse of this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order please. I appreciate the comments from member Nkondlo, in that in this particular Chair, in that

members should not prescribe to the Chair. We will, as I have indicated earlier on I will check the Hansard and we will revert back if necessary based on the comments made by member Stoffel. I now recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as expected the question has absolutely nothing to do with meetings, and I do not think it was intended to have anything to do with meetings, it was merely an opportunity to sneak in another question about a disciplinary which we obviously cannot speak about, because we are not privy to the details, but I am sure that the hon Minister will expand on that later.

But seeing as the member has mentioned the issue of ensuring accountability, I think it is important that we point out how far ahead the Western Cape is when it comes to performance management and holding these meetings. So let us contrast for instance the quality of performance management between two of our South African provinces, the Western Cape, governed by the DA, and the Eastern Cape, governed by the ANC.

Now in the Western Cape under the DA, performance management has become a core pillar of governance. The DA-led Government has implemented structured performance assessments, clear accountability frameworks, and service delivery targets that are monitored, not only by officials and members of the House, but also by the public, and this translates into consistent improvements in clean audits, infrastructure delivery and

frontline services, particularly in Health and Education.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Now let us compare that to the Eastern Cape, which is a province rich in potential, but is continuously hampered by poor governance and weak performance management under the ANC. Annual reports from the Eastern Cape consistently highlight missed targets, irregular expenditure, and a lack of consequences for non-performance. Service delivery in critical sectors like Health, Transport and Education has suffered, and in many areas services are completely non-existent, not because of a lack of resources but because a lack of planning, supervision and accountability.

An HON MEMBER: Joh! Yes!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): These are administrative failures, proudly brought to you by an ANC Government that cannot get the basics right. So it is good to hear from the hon Minister Bredell that he is taking part in these important meetings and continuing the trend of the DA Government leading the way. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is a very important question and the question is – because that

is what I thought it is all about, what are some of the important tasks that are dealt with in meetings with the senior management? Because I thought the question will be about – we are in a rainy season, you know, is the disaster management, are they ready with disasters, are municipalities functioning, you know, optimally in these circumstances. But no-one from the Opposition, the ANC, spoke about this question. The ANC Opposition, nobody, they did not.

Hon Minister, this is a very important question and I think you answered correctly, but I want to know when it comes to disasters, when it comes to municipalities and those types of things; are they ready, and that is the question. Not to make a political playing field out of this, we cannot do that. Hon Minister, please answer the question and tell us, is your team ready for the floods that we are going to face, for the overflowing of roads and infrastructure? Please tell us that. Thank you, hon Minister, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members! I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. This case have led to the rotten core of the DA-led Government failure, to act against sexual harassment, bullying and systematic abuse. The detailed complaints and demands submitted to the Premier and the MEC once again by NEHAWU exposed not just negligence but a deliberate cover-up implicating the DG and the HOD, the Premier and the MEC are shielding the perpetrator rather than

protecting the victims. We commend the brave worker unions and whistle-blowers who continue to fight for justice despite relentless institutional resistance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Director General, Mr Harry Malila, is directly implicated in the harassment of the CFO, and in the subsequent cover-up operation, going so far as to order the deactivation of the CFO's email address, yet we [Inaudible 1:36:08] staggering hypocrisy. He now calls for a meeting to address what he deems untenable relationship whilst conveniently excluding other senior management responsible for the dysfunction. Why is the DG permitted to investigate a crisis that he helped create? [Interjection.]

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I wish to refer to Rule 198 again on the procedure when it comes to interpellations. I believe that we are creating a very dangerous precedent where members will table an interpellation to sneak in other business that has got nothing to do with this House, where people's names are being called, hon Deputy Speaker, which cannot be the case. Can you please make a ruling, hon Deputy Speaker? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members, let me say this now, hon members, Rule 44 is very clear in terms of relevance and if that persists, the Chair is able to then call that particular member in order to curb that

particular comments. I would not want us to venture into dangerous territory because I am also aware that members in this House have freedom of speech, but the irrelevance is a matter for interpretation based on the persistence that I am listening to, and I would want to caution members, because I have heard and I have listened to you.

There were four instances already, during the initial one and the second one. Four instances already, during your initial input, hon member Stoffel, and your second. I would want to caution you that in this regard to conduct yourself in terms of the Rules and to stick to the topic. Hon member Stoffel, we are 1 minute and 31 seconds away and I sincerely trust that you will comply in this regard.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, before I start with my time, can you just stop the – I just want to be clarified by yourself; I want to be clarified by yourself. Here the question, if you read the question, “what are some important tasks and performance of the Department”, and I clearly stipulated that there is a certain performance that has not been mentioned. That is [Inaudible 1:38:39 – Speaking simultaneously]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel, the time will start and I will ask you that you then continue with your input in the interpellation. [Interjection.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Can you protect me against MEC Simmers who is

threatening me from the other side.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are protected. All members are protected.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I repeat the question, why is the Premier withholding the Advocate Jennifer Williams' report? This is not just a failure in transparency. It is an outright liar of justice [Inaudible 1:39:13 – Speaking simultaneously]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, are you – hon Stoffel.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair that was unacceptable what just happened. He was, the MEC, the Provincial Minister Simmers was on his phone, bothering no one and was just accused of threatening, being threatening to one of the other members. Can you please make a ruling? That is unacceptable. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon member Nkondlo, please take your seat. Hon members, from seated here I am unable to exactly know what the member felt. I have not seen what the hon Minister Simmers did, and I already stated that members in this House are protected. So members in this House are protected, and I will once again caution members from frivolous points of orders, but also of remarks that can ultimately ensure that this House becomes a House that is ungovernable or that does not follow the Rules.

So hon member Stoffel, even such comments that you have made, I sincerely trust that you will curb such comments, because it could potentially lead to further disruptions within this House, because it is a very serious allegation when we consider the broader gender based violence within our country. There is 1 minute and 22 seconds. Are you rising on the same point of order?

An HON MEMBER: So, was it correct for the hon member Walters to point a finger at a [Inaudible 1:41:01]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please do not rise on frivolous points of orders. All members in this House are protected, hon members have taken an oath of office. Hon member Stoffel, please continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The DA preaches good governance, yet its actions reveal a government steepened in secrecy, abuse and male privilege. We will not rest until justice is served. Hon Deputy Speaker, we demand that the Premier immediately releases the Jennifer Williams report and he must stop shielding sexual harassment harassers. We demand that the MEC suspends the HOD, pending a full independent and transparent investigation. We will not rest until we expose and dismantle this rod. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stoffel, I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I wanted the hon Stoffel to conclude because I did not want to interrupt her, but I would like to ask that you check Hansard and check if member Stoffel is in violation of Rule 62 in terms of reflecting on the integrity of a member of the public, both the HOD of the Department, as well as the Director General of the Western Cape Provincial Government, because she did at several times impugn improper motives on both of those individuals. They unfortunately do not have the same privileges that member Stoffel has to come here and make unwarranted allegations, so I would please ask that the Table Staff assist you in reviewing Hansard and that you make a ruling that member Stoffel should withdraw if she has indeed violated Rule 62, as I suspect she has.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I hereby confirm my previous comments made that I will refer, I confirm my comments that I have made earlier that we will review Hansard and if necessary revert back to the House. I now see the hon Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I want to thank the hon Chairperson, Dave, for your comments, and hon Christians. Yeah, we try our utmost best but there are no guarantees. We have prepared very well for the winter, we have discussed the issues and we tried to clear with our municipalities. We also, there are a lot of other things; I was just busy reading what we are doing. Following the MIG expenditure is also of course very important because of the national pressures on budget. We know we are not going to

spend [Inaudible.] that money, so we cannot lose that, so the MIG is also something that we monitor on a weekly basis. The status of municipalities every week, we get every two weeks a report on the status of municipalities to see where is the week, shortfalls, and how we can support them, etcetera, etcetera.

Hon Chairperson, yeah, I agree with the hon Chief Whip, this has got nothing to do with the hon Stoffel's comment with the interpellation, but this is how it goes. I am not the HR manager; there are grievance procedures that people can follow. I do not sit with staff, I met with my directors on a frequent – this morning I met with three of the directors and deputy directors on specific topics, etcetera, but not on HR matters, I am not the HR specialist. We have done actually exactly what the hon Stoffel has asked for, an independent investigation. The Premier put it in place, and then we deal with the outcome of that. We cannot go and seek another independent at another... till we satisfy the hon Stoffel who only listen to one side of the story.

Hon Chair, but a bigger issue for me personally in this House is how we deal, and how we are going to deal with, going forward, with freedom of speech. That is a privilege. †Ek dink dit is 'n geweldige verantwoordelikheid om die vryheid van spraak reg te hanteer, [I think it is a huge responsibility to handle the freedom of speech correctly,] and to come to this House and misuse freedom of speech to demolish and destroy people's characters, I think it was never meant to be, and I really think that in the Rules Committee we need to have a serious discussion on this, because otherwise we are going to

sit with endless court cases going forward.

So the Premier and myself, we have acted, we have acted concisely, we have acted with an independent report and now we deal with the report, we made the report available to both sides so that they can read the report, and we are busy dealing with this. Unfortunately that is how we will continue working through these kind of things. We are a government that wants to promote good governance, a caring government, but within a justice system. Thank you, hon Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes Interpellation 1. We will proceed to Interpellation 2, and I see the hon Minister Meyer.

2. Mr B N Herron to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

What measures has the Western Cape Government implemented to regulate the working conditions and dignity of seasonal farmworkers, many of whom no longer live on the land?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Dankie, agb Speaker, vir hierdie interpellasie rondom plaaswerkers en seisoenwerkers en behuising in die verband. Agb *House Chair*, landbouwerkers, seisoenswerkers of permanente werkers in diens speel 'n baie belangrike en wel 'n dringende rol in die

gemarginaliseerde groep burgers wat vir 'n baie lang tyd nie voldoende ondersteuning of toegang gehad tot dienste van staatsdepartemente of munisipaliteite nie.

Seisoenale- en permanente landbouwerkers wat op plase woon of nie woon nie, speel ook 'n belangrike beduidende rol in die landbousektor. Alle dienste wat gereadik beskikbaar is vir alle landbouwerkers ongeag die tipe diensooreenkoms of waar hulle bly is ook daarop gemik om die werksomstandighede en waardigheid van die landbouwerkers, seisoenaal of permanent, en of op die plaas of van die plaas af te verbeter. Hierdie dienste sluit in, maar is nie beperk tot die volgende nie.

- 1) Arbeidsregte en verantwoordelikhede sessies word aangebied, dit word ook gefasiliteer met alle landbouwerkers regdeur die provinsie, en hulle neem die vorm aan van opleidingswerkswinkels om landbouwerkers, toesighouers, menslike hulpbronne en werkgewers in die arbeidsomgewing te bemagtig oor hulle pligte en verantwoordelikhede. Ek het ook voorheen in hierdie Huis 'n soortgelyke vraag in daai verband beantwoord.

Ons is ook besig met vennootskappe met bedryfsouditeure wat ook dan moet toesien dat arbeidswetgewing beskerm moet word ook vir agriwerkers, en daarom is dit vir my ook baie belangrik en ek sal later in die opvolg verwys na die rol van SIZA en WIETA in terme van wat is die implemente wat ons gebruik om plaaswerkers te beskerm teen

misbruik in terme van bestaande wetgewing, maar ook bestaande protokolle, want dit is eintlik waarom dit gaan.

- 2) Ons het daarom ook vennootskappe met SIZA en WIETA om te verseker dat die landbouwerkers se menswaardigheid beskerm word. Daar is ook samewerking met die Departement van Indiensneming en Arbeid deur hulle op plaasbesoeke te vergesel, want wanneer daar klagtes is oor misbruik van hulle regte, vergesel met die departement, saam met hierdie onafhanklike ouditeurs om hierdie klagtes te ondersoek, om te kyk na wat daar op die plase aangaan. Daardie kantore het ook hulptoonbanke, en my eie Departement het 'n hulptoonbank, en daardie entiteite verwys ook gereeld klagtes na ons wat ons ook dan ondersoek.

Agb House Chair, daar is ook samewerking met die Departement van Indiensneming en Arbeid deur hulle op plaasbesoeke te vergesel. Daar is ook blitsbesoeke wat daar gedoen word om te monitor, en in terme van die lewensomstandighede om daarop te fokus. *Agb House Chair*, ons ondersoek ook alle navrae en klagtes met seisoenale en permanente werkende landbouwerkers wat ons ontvang, ten einde hulle ook dan te voorsien van die korrekte inligting, of om dit te verwys na die toepaslike departement of diens soos geïdentifiseer. *Agb House Chair*, daar word ook opleiding aangebied vir landbouwerkers en gesondheidsondersteuning ten einde te verseker dat landbouwerkers die nodige noodhulpdienste en basiese gesondheidssorg op plase ook

ontvang.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, for this interpellation are around farmworkers and seasonal workers and housing in this regard. Hon House Chair, agricultural workers, a seasonal workers or permanent workers in service playing a very important and indeed an urgent role in the marginalised group of citizens who for a long time did not have sufficient support or access to services of state departments or municipalities.

Seasonal and permanent agricultural workers living on farms, that or not, also play an important role in the agricultural sector. All services are readily available to all our agriculture workers irrespective that kind of service agreement or where they live are aimed at improving the working conditions and dignity of the agricultural workers, seasonal or permanent, and on the farm or all off the farm. These services include, but are not limited to the following.

1) Labour rights and responsibility sessions are offered, it is also facilitated with all the agricultural workers throughout the province, and it takes the form of training workshops to empower agricultural workers, supervisors, human resources and employers in the labour environment about their duties and responsibilities. I have also previously in this House answered a similar question and in that regard.

We are also busy with partnerships with industrial auditors would then have

to see to it that the labour legislation be protected also for agriworkers, and therefore it is also a very important to me, and later in the follow-up I will refer to the role of SIZA and WIETA in terms of what are the implements that we use to protect farm workers against abuse in terms of the existing legislation, but also existing protocols, because that is what it is actually about.

2) We have therefore also partnerships with SIZA and WIETA to ensure that the agricultural workers' human dignity is protected. There is also cooperation with the Department of Employment and Labour by accompanying them on farm visits, because when there are complaints about abuse of their rights, accompanied by the department, along with these independent auditors, to investigate these complaints, to see what is happening on the farms. Those offices also have help desks, and my own department has a help desk, and those entities also regularly refer complaints to us which we then investigate.

Hon House Chair, there is also cooperation with the Department of Employment and Labour by accompanying them on farm visits. There are also speed visits conducted to monitor, and in terms of the living conditions to focus thereupon. Hon House Chair, we investigate also all enquiries and complaints with seasonal and permanent working agricultural workers that we receive, in order to provide them then of the correct information, or to refer it to the applicable department or service as identified. Hon House Chair, training is also offered to agricultural workers as well as health support in

order to ensure that the agricultural workers receive the necessary first aid services and basic health care and farms.

†The Chairperson takes the Chair. Die Voorsitter neem die stoel.

†Die VOORSITTER: Agb Minister Meyer, u tyd is verstreke, ek gee vir u die geleentheid om u sin af te rond.

[The CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister Meyer, your time is expired, I give you the opportunity to finish your sentence.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Ek is klaar.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I am finished].

†Die VOORSITTER: Baie dankie, agb Minister Meyer. [The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Minister Meyer.] I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Chair. The question was really about regulating the working conditions and dignity of seasonal farm workers who do not live on the land, and not about services and training, but in any event, hon Chairperson, in the soft light of early mornings and evenings in the Boland, tens of thousands of Western Cape farm workers make their way to and from work on the back of large trucks. Whereas in the past many farm workers lived on farms, these days the overwhelming majority live in informal settlements outside rural towns working as seasonal workers.

There are more regulations governing the transportation of pigs than farm workers. Both pigs and farm workers must be conveyed on vehicles with rails of sufficient height to prevent them plummeting from the vehicle. But that is where the similarities end. Pigs must be transported on trucks with a non-slip floor, protected from exhaust fumes and direct sun. Depending on the type of hog there are also strict square meterage regulations to control density.

There are no regulations on density, direct sun, exhaust fumes, or non-slip floors governing the transportation of farm workers on large trucks. Carrying more than five workers on bakkies and small trucks of less than 3 500 kilogrammes is prohibited, though you would not say so judging from the traffic. Every so often one of these trucks crashes and with the anticipated loss of life, injury and human suffering, the Western Cape Government's PR machinery cranks into life.

It is noticeable that for the past several years the MEC for Agriculture's standard response has been to shift responsibility to the National Transport Minister, to whom he has apparently written to request changes to the traffic regulations. But what is the point of having a Provincial MEC for Agriculture who will not exercise any powers to regulate agriculture.

About 18 months ago I heard the MEC on Cape Talk Radio following another fatal truck crash, there were 70 workers on the back of the truck, three died and just about everybody else was injured. The MEC promised to speak to his

colleague, the MEC of Mobility, “to stop every single truck carrying farm workers”, were his words. The MEC also called on members of the public to take photographs of workers on open trucks, as he said, “where you see there is a potential of risk of an accident”, and to send them to him, “so we can immediately act on these matters”, he said. But hon Chairperson, nothing has changed. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Herron. I recognise the hon Masipa. [Interjection.] Order members! You may proceed, hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon House Chair, the working conditions and dignity of seasonal farm workers is important because we rely on farm workers for food security, but allow me to first clarify where responsibility lies. In South Africa the regulations of labour conditions, whether in the agricultural sector or elsewhere is a national competency, it falls squarely within the mandate of the Department of Labour and Employment with various offices across this province.

This Department is tasked with enforcing the basic conditions of the Employment Act, the National Minimum Wage Act, and the Occupational Health and Safety Act. These laws govern the very issues raised in this interpellation, fair pay, safe working environments, and the protection of workers’ dignity.

During the 6th Parliament the EFF called for joint oversight of the living and working conditions in farming communities, however rather than using the findings of that oversight to pursue constructive solutions, Julius Malema and the EFF once again resorted to divisive rhetoric. Last night's proceeding were overshadowed by Malema's familiar provocations, including the inflammatory chant, “kill the boer, kill the farmer.” Malema's actions were an new embarrassment on the global stage undermining the country's credibility, economic prosperity, the prospects and prosperity and safety of our farmers and farm workers. South Africans are becoming increasingly aware of the damage this kind of rhetoric inflicts, especially when it comes to rural safety and investor confidence. Malema and his party do not deserve the support of South African voters.

That said, the Western Cape Government has not stood idle by, through the Department of Agriculture, we have created initiatives like the Rural Safety Desk, the farm worker support programmes, mobile clinics, and farmers have also taken upon themselves to improve the ... [Interjection.] [Inaudible—Speaking simultaneously]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon Masipa, your time is up.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): [Inaudible] in the workplace is of [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): [Inaudible] on the ground must be [Inaudible]
[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the hon Jacobs. Order members! Hon member Jacobs, you may proceed.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you. Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon Chair, the NCC rises today in full support of this extremely serious important question. The agriculture sector in the Western Cape employs about 60 500 seasonal workers during peak season in both grape and fruit farming sectors. These workers are formerly from areas, but due to casualization they need to survive and it forces them to live a life of a migrant nature.

Automation in agriculture has caused job losses at an alarming pace. Labour intensive work is now done by machines using one or two persons to operate. But the question is clear, what is the Department doing to safeguard the work of these workers? The regulation of casual labour is very vague and it does not protect the seasonal workers. How does this Department look after the coloured farm workers that were born on these farms, and today these farm workers are being evicted from the very, very same farms that they grew up on. Hon Speaker, this has now become a daily struggle, bearing in mind the

conditions that the elderly farm workers must live under, it is horrible and it is unacceptable.

Hon MEC, it is time to do proper and non-favouritism inspection, and if you say your Department is already doing this, I must tell you, you are very slow in what you do. Hon Speaker, mostly coloured women who work themselves to death to put food on the table, they are suffering the most because of this. The Department of Agriculture should look at launching a trust or something where farm workers or farmers can contribute to some type of fund, so that the forgotten nation, the seasonal farm workers can be looked after. *Aesa!*

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Jacobs. I recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Chairperson. Hon Chairperson, we look at the seasonal farm workers, but I also believe that farm workers on the farms are also having major, major problems. I just saw in the media the media reports, and I do not know if the hon Minister is aware of it, but I think it was 12 May, in this month, where protesters walked to the Department of Labour, because that is where, they said, that is where they have the problem to enforce labour laws, including a national minimum wage and harsh punishment of non-compliant employers. So they marched because they are unhappy with the conditions they work under.

So I want to know from the hon Minister, the Minister said he works hand in

hand with the Department of Labour, how often are these visits, and when he receives these calls, I know in this House the hon Minister has given his cell phone number, he said, “this is my cell phone number, if you have a complaint, WhatsApp me, I will reply as soon as possible.” So hon Minister, just tell us, how often are these visits to these farms, and secondly [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat, hon Christians. Can I please ask assistance from ICT to mute the members online? Thank you very much. Please proceed, hon Christians. [Interjection.] Order members!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, we know that when it comes to farms and when it comes – the hon Minister always says when he is here, how important it is that our farms function well, how we export and import. I just want to make sure that our farm workers are treated decently and that they have a living wage, because they are the backbone of this economy in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Chair. Hon Chair, if the answer is going to be that this is a national responsibility as hon Masipa suggested, then why on earth did the MEC say, “we will do everything to stop every single truck carrying farm workers’, that is an undertaking that this

Government has made, and this Government has grabbed policing powers without any regard for what is a national competency.

But the MEC did ask the members of the public to send photographs of incidents where farm workers are being transported unsafely on trucks, and I would like the MEC to look at some of these pictures, which we will send to his office today. These are farm workers outside of Robertson, but this happens everywhere in rural areas every season across the Western Cape, every single season. These photographs were taken on the outskirts of Robertson, and they include several overloaded bakkies carrying three or four times the legal number of five, again a common scene on our roads. The people in these photographs require the MEC's protection.

The MEC going on radio to proclaim that this is something we must give top priority to, and then sitting on his hands does not help anyone, and I am reminded by the hon member Nkondlo's comments when the hon Minister presented his budget, that he invited farmers, but not one single farm worker to come and witness his budget, and we are seeing the prioritisation in this province. [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order members!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Perhaps the hon MEC Meyer could have a word with his party's national leader, the hon Minister of Agriculture, because his focus appears to be on supporting farmers and not farm workers. The Western

Cape is rightly proud of the Boland and the product of its labour, and we should be equally ashamed of our labour practises. Would our “bubbles” taste as glorious to visitors if they knew that the people who produced them were treated worse than pigs. Surely with a dose of morality and leadership they taste even better. Thank you, hon Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Herron. We will now conclude the second interpellation, and the final interpellation. Hon Minister Meyer.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Baie dankie agb *House Chair*, ek het so baie respek vir agriwerkers, ek gaan nie op daai vlak van daai debat binne nie. Ek het te veel respek vir agriwerkers. Die Agriwerker van die Jaar het daar bo gesit in hierdie Huis. Ek het die Agriwerker van die Jaar genooi, die enigste provinsie wat ‘n prestige agriwerker-forum het, wat my adviseer vir landbou, [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon House Chair, I have so much respect for agri workers, I’m not going to go into that debate at that level. The Agri Worker of the Year sat up there in this House. I invited the Agri Worker of the Year, the only province that has a prestige agri worker forum, that advises me on agriculture,] no other province has a prestige agri worker forum, only this province, so this is the only province that cares for agri workers. They were there, I sent the agri worker to the Netherlands, to Rotterdam, I sent the agri worker to Germany, to the biggest fruit logistical festival in the world, and so therefore, any allegations that were made here, I have little interest in that.

Where I have an interest is dignified transportation, of not only farm workers, everybody. Some are construction workers, some are working in the factory, and the way they are transported I think is a matter of serious concern for this Government. I personally went on a truck, on a truck, I inspected the truck, I spoke to the driver, I said, “this is unacceptable.” I did it in De Doorns, so I am not sitting here and grandstanding. I am on a truck physically with my boots, and I am on a truck, and at the time the Speaker of this House was the MEC for Mobility, and he joined me on the truck. We do not grandstand, we deliver.

But here is the issue, and then I wrote, I looked at the regulations, I convened a meeting about dignified transportation, and I discovered in the regulation, you believe in the rule of law that power is in the regulation of the national hon Minister, so I wrote, I said, “let us change the regulations”, and then what do you get, dololo.

So I will pursue this matter, I will continue, I gave my number, I gave my number to members in this House, I said, “here is my number, if you get such photos, do not grandstand here in the House, send it to me, send it to the Human Rights Commission. Do not grandstand, send it to me [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Send it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Or even better, if you do not have faith

in me, have faith in the Constitution, send it to the Human Rights Commission. [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order members!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: And so I want to conclude. This is a matter that I will take up seriously in terms of the dignity of agri workers and for those, I think I made a promise, to the hon member here, a practical guide, working together, a quick guide for agri workers, “Labour responsibilities.”

†Dankie, agb Christians wat gevra het hoeveel keer is daar inspeksies? So kwartaalliks is daar inspeksies, en jy is reg, ek het my telefoonnommer gegee, en ek het gesê, “mense, stuur dit vir my, ek het ‘n *desk*, ek sal dit self na die *Human Rights Commission* neem”, maar wat kry ons, “dololo”, en dit beteken dat die lede van die Huis neem nie hulle werk ernstig oop nie. As jy ‘n onreg sien, [Thank you, hon Christians, who asked how many times are there inspections? So quarterly there are inspections, and you are correct, I gave my phone number, and I said, “people, send it to me, I have a desk, I will even take it to the Human Rights Commission myself”, but what do we get, “dololo”, and it means the members of the House don’t take their work seriously. If you see an injustice,] you took an oath in this Province, that you will abide by all the laws, and if you see something that is not legal, you have a moral responsibility to take up the matter, and so because of my respect for agri workers.

Hon member Herron, you know where my office is, we can have a decent conversation and you can help us solve the problem. If you do not commit to that, then I question your motives. So I invite you now to my office, let us have that conversation, then we rise to the level of maturity, political maturity [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister Meyer, can you please conclude.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Nkondlo, I [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, order! Hon Minister, please conclude. Hon Minister, please refer to the Chair. Please conclude.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Chair, through you, I invite the hon member Nkondlo for a cup of Rooibos tea, because yesterday was International Tea Day. [Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Meyer, and that is the end of interpellations. We will now deal [Interjection.] Order members!

We will now deal with questions as printed on the Question Paper. I wish to advise hon members that once the hon Premier or Hon Minister has started to 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 follow-up question. 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 then use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow-up question. I now recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Questions standing over from Thursday, 24 April 2025, as agreed to by the House:

3. Mr N Constable to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

- (a) What measures are in place to assist municipalities that do not have licensed waste facilities?
- (b) What is the time frame for these measures and
- (c) What is the (i) interim solution to assist municipalities and (ii) available budget?

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Baie dankie, agb *Acting* Speaker. Dankie aan die agb Constable vir die vraag. Die (a) gedeelte van die vraag, die afvallisensieprojek het in 2010 tot 2014 plaasgevind waar afvalfasiliteite wat

gelisensieer moes word, binne die Wes-Kaap geïdentifiseer is. Die Departement van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning het die verskillende munisipaliteite proaktief herinner aan die geldigheid en aanvangsdatums van die toepaslike magtigings, maar nie al die munisipaliteite het betyds gereageer nie om hulle magtigings te hernu nie en is dit toe gewysig en is daar 'n verlengde proses vir die geldigheidsdatums gemagtig. Die eienaars van die fasiliteite wat nie meer lisensiehouers is nie moet weer aansoek doen vir nuwe magtigings.

Die (b) gedeelte, dit sal afhang van die munisipaliteite aangesien hulle die aansoeke moet indien. Die NEMA EY regulasies se tydsraamwerk sal van toepassing wees na die aansoeke ontvang is deur die Departement van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning.

Die (c)(i) gedeelte, die Departement van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning het die munisipaliteite herinner aan die vervalstatus van die afvalfasiliteite by verskeie platforms, insluitend 'n afvalbestuurbeampte forum wat ons gestig het om met al die afvalbestuurders in die munisipaliteite gelyktydig te praat, en ook met SALGA, by 'n SALGAA vergadering wat ook ons hand moet vat om te help dat hierdie fasiliteite gelisensieer kom en binne die lisensiëringsvoorwaardes bestuur word. Baie van hierdie afvalfasiliteite is kleiner fasiliteite wat aan die einde van hulle lewensduur gekom het en binnekort gesluit sal moet word. Die Departement van Omgewingsake sal die munisipaliteite herinner aan die afvallisensiëringsstatus en die verantwoordelikheid om wel te voldoen, en

(c)(ii) Geen begroting is beskikbaar nie aangesien die Departement van Omgewingsake nie 'n bedryfbegroting het vir hierdie fasiliteite nie. Dankie.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Acting Speaker. Thank you to the hon Constable for the question. The (a) part of the question, the waste licence project took place in 2010 to 2014 where waste facilities that had to be licensed, were identified within the Western Cape. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning proactively reminded the various municipalities of the validity and dates of commencement of the relevant authorizations, but not all the municipalities reacted timeously to renew their authorizations and it was then amended and an extended process for the validity dates was then authorised. The owners of the facilities who not licence holders anymore must reapply for the new authorizations.

The (b) part, it will depend on the municipalities as they have to submit the applications. The NEMA EY regulations' timeframe will apply after the applications have been received by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

The (c)(i) part, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning reminded the municipalities of the expiry status of the waste facilities on various platforms, including a waste management official forum that we established to talk to all the waste managers in the municipalities at the same time, and also with SALGA, at a SALGA meeting, that also has to take our hand to assist that these facilities can become

licensed and be managed within the licensing conditions. Many of these waste facilities are smaller facilities that have come to the end of their life span and will have to be closed soon. The Department of Environmental Affairs will remind the municipalities of the waste licensing status and the responsibility to adhere, and

(c)(ii) No budget is available as the Department of Environmental Affairs does not have an operational budget for these facilities. Thank you.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. I recognise the hon member who posed the question.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon House Chair. †MEC net 'n opvolg vraag, hoeveel van die ongelisensieerde waste sites het 'n opgedateerde integrated waste management plan, en is dit miskien die oorsaak dat hulle nie lisensies het nie? Dankie. [Just a follow-up question, how many of the unlicensed waste sites have an updated integrated waste management plan, and is it perhaps the reason why they do not have licences? Thank you.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. I recognise the hon member who posed the question.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Chairperson. †*Hon MEC*, net 'n opvolgvraag. Hoeveel van die ongelisensieerde *waste sites* het opgedateerde Integrated Waste Management Plans en is dit miskien die oorsaak dat hulle nie lisensies het nie. Dankie.

[Hon MEC, just a follow-up question. How many of the unlicensed waste sites have updated Integrated Waste Management Plans and is that perhaps the cause that they do not have licenses. Thank you.]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Ek gaan nie 'n getal noem nie. Ek sal vir jou die syfers kry, agb Constable, presies hoeveel.

Maar dit is nie die rede hoekom hulle ongelisensieerd is nie. Die rede is hulle het nie aansoek gedoen nie. Hulle moet hulle aansoeke inkry. Ons sal hulle hand vat en hulle help. Maar die munisipaliteite moet binne die wetgewende raamwerk opereer en dan is die bekommernis wanneer hulle die lisensie het om dan binne daardie voorwaardes ook daar te opereer en dit is gewoonlik die klein munisipaliteite waarmee ons tans sukkel.

Ons is ook besig om eintlik internasionaal te kyk en na ons eie filosofie te kyk, om dood eerlik te wees. Ek het vir die span gesê onthou, ons werk met 'n sisteem waar ons eendelik een afvalstortingsterrein per distrik wou gehad het. Laat ons groot fasiliteite hê waar jy herwinning kan doen wat jy winsgewend dan kan doen want herwinning gaan oor volumes.

Maar, met koalisiepolitiek het ons agterkom dit is nie so eenvoudig nie want jou groter munisipaliteite breek weg en sê hulle doen hulle eie ding, en dan kan die kleineres nie daardie streekstortingsterrein bekostig nie. So, hier kom, hier is 'n debat tans oor die geld. Ook, met die nuwe wetgewing wat die

verpligting het met die oopmaak van 'n sel, dat dit op eerstewêreld se standarde is.

So, ek kan vir jou sê by Karwyderskraal, het 'n sel se oopmaak gekos so R9 miljoen en na die wetgewing gepromulgeer is, was dit R27 miljoen. En daardie geld moet uit die gebruiker kom. Nou, daar is geen ondergrondse bronne wat vernietig kan word nie. Daar is eintlik geen rede vir al hierdie leiers nie. So, ons is ook op 'n nasionale vlak besig om met die nasionale Minister debat te voer omdat ons almal besef dat uiteindelik raak ons munisipaliteite te vuil. Dit is vuil buite en ons moet dit skoon kry, maar die prys gaan ook afhang of ons suksesvol is al dan nie. Dankie, agb Speaker.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I'm not going to mention a number. I will get you to the figures, hon Constable, precisely how many.

But that is not the reason why they are unlicensed. The reason is they have not applied. They must get their applications in. We will take their hands and assist them. But the municipalities must operate within the legal framework and then the concern is when they have the license to operate with those conditions and it is usually the smaller municipalities with which we currently struggle.

We are also busy to actually look internationally and to our own philosophy to be honest. I told the team to remember we are working with a system where we actually wanted one waste site per district. Let us have large

facilities where you can do reclamation that you can then do profitably because reclamation is about volumes.

But with coalition politics we discovered that it is not that simple as your larger municipalities break away and say they do their own thing, and then the smaller ones cannot afford that regional waste site. So, here comes, here is a debate currently about the money. Also, with the new legislation that has the obligation of a cell, that it is at first world standards.

So, I can tell you at Karwyderskraal, opening in a cell cost about R9 million and after the legislation was promulgated, it was R27 million. And that money must come from the consumer. Now, there are no underground sources that can be destroyed. There is actually no reason for all these leaders. So, we are also on a national level busy to have a debate with the national Minister because we all realize that eventually our municipalities are getting to dirty. It is dirty outside and we must get it clean, at that price is also going too depend on whether we are successful or not. Thank you, hon Speaker.]

†Die VOORSITTER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. Is daar enige verdere opvolgvrage? Ek sien geen hande in die Huis nie. O, agb Constable, jy is welkom.

[The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Minister. Are there any further follow-up questions? I see no hands in the house. Oh, hon Constable, you are welcome.]

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): Dankie, agb Voorsitter. Die agb MEC het een van die vrae geantwoord rondom die streeksfasiliteite. Die vraag bly, agb MEC: is dit nie moontlik vir u Departement om te begroot, vir albei munisipaliteite waar dit onmoontlik is om hulle lisensies op datum te kry nie? *Because* lisensies, tussen ek en u weet, is 'n baie ingewikkelde proses wanneer dit kom by wetgewende aspekte. Is dit nie moontlik vir u om te begroot vir sulke munisipaliteite nie? Dankie.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Chairperson. The hon MEC has answered one of the questions around the regional facilities. The question remains hon MEC: is it not possible for your Department for both municipalities where it is impossible to get their licenses up to date? Because licenses, between you and I we know, are a very complicated process when it comes to legislative aspects. Is it not possible for you to budget for such municipalities? Thank you.]

†Die VOORSITTER: Baie dankie. Agb Minister.

[The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Hon Minister.]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: *Thank you.* Agb Voorsitter, dit is die verantwoordelikheid van die munisipaliteit. Ons het nie daardie tipe begrotings nie. In die drukgang waar ons tans is moet ons daardie geld van iewers vat daar, en waar vat ons dit? Van Onderwys, van Gesondheid? Waar vat ons dit? Ons het dit nie. So, ons is die *custodians* van die wet, so ons

dwing die wet af op munisipaliteite, maar ons slaan nie net hard nie. Ons sê vir hulle ons het die kundigheid om julle deur die moeilike proses te help.

So, die ingewikkeldheid van die proses: dus geen verskoning nie. Hulle moet die proses volg, hulle moet die begroting daarstel. Ons sal hulle help met die invul, met die studies, ensovoorts. Ons almal moet saamwerk, anders gaan ons nie ons gebiede skoon kry nie en dit het ook 'n lugbesoedelingsaspek wat dan ook nou kan ontstaan wat problematies raak vir ons areas. So, dit is 'n baie belangrike onderwerp en ons neem dit glad nie ligtelik op nie.

Ons is ook besig nog met my stortingsterrein en die duur en ook om internasionaal te kyk na Waste-to-Energy, aan hoe klein kan ons gaan om dit winsgewend te maak, sodat ons miskien terugkom na en ek weet dat wanneer ons publieke deelname gedoen het gaan ek die hele Huis nodig het want in ons gemeenskap se kop is branding, besoedeling. Maar met nuwe tegnologie moniteer jy dit. Daar is geen besoedeling. Ek dink in Parys doen hulle dit in die middel van die stad. Hulle doen dit baie groot.

So, ons is besig met daardie navorsing om te kyk Waste-to-Energie of ons nie 'n klein eenheid kan kry in 'n munisipaliteit sodat ons die waste daar kan verbrand wat ons nou nie kan verwerk nie. Dankie.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: *Thank you.* Hon Chairperson, it is the responsibility of that municipality. We do not have this type of budgets. In the crush where we currently are we have to get that money from somewhere,

and from where do we take it? From Education, from Health? Where do we take it? We do not have it. So, we are the custodians of the Act, so we force the Act upon municipalities, but we do not only hit hard. We say to them we have the expertise to help you through this difficult process.

So, the complexity of the process: therefore no excuse. They must follow the process, they must establish the budget. We will assist them with filling in, with the studies, et cetera. We must all work together, otherwise we are not going to get our areas clean and it also has an air pollution aspect that can develop that becomes problematic for our areas. So, it is a very important subject and we do not take it lightly.

We are also still busy with my waste site and the duration and also to look internationally to Waste-to-Energy, how small can we go to make it profitable, so that we can perhaps come back and I know that when we have done public participation I am going to need the whole House because in our community's head burning is pollution. But with new technology you monitor it. There is no pollution. I think in Paris and they do it in the middle of the city. They do it very large.

So, we are busy with that research to look at Waste-to-Energy or if we cannot get a small unit in a municipality so that we can burn the waste there that we cannot now process. Thank you.

†Die VOORSITTER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. Daar is nog 'n geleentheid

vir 'n opvolgvraag. Enige verdere opvolgvrae? Geen hande in die Huis. Geen hande aanlyn.

[The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Minister. There is still an opportunity for a follow-up question. Any further follow-up questions? No hands in the House. No hands online.]

Hon members, just to further note that this question and the following question are questions that stood over from Thursday, 24 April 2025 and that was agreed to by the House. Then Question 7. I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

Water security

7. Mr D W Bryant asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(a) What steps has the Department implemented to safeguard water security given the lower-than-average rainfall projections for this winter season and (b) how are municipalities being supported with the implementation of these management strategies during this period?

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: So haastig, né. Dankie, agb Voorsitter [The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: So in a hurry, hey. Thank you, hon

Chairperson] and thank you to the hon members for allowing me to let questions stand over. I really appreciate that. Thank you, hon Chairperson and hon Bryant for the question.

The Department of Local Government is in the process of developing a Water Resilient Strategy for all Western Cape municipalities. The Water Resilient Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to address the regions' water challenges, driven by urbanisation and population growth, economic expansion, climate change and the deteriorating infrastructure. We understand that we are in trouble and that we need to plan very carefully going forward.

It aims to secure sustainable water availability, while enhancing resilience against future uncertainties which include the current lower than average rainfall. The Head of the Department of Local Government has met with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Department of Agriculture, Provincial Treasury, Disaster Management and the City of Cape Town to develop a readiness plan relating to the anticipated below-average rainfall and decreasing dam levels.

The (b) part is: the Department of Local Government has already engaged with local municipalities on the Water Resilient Strategy and started to identify projects to support the local municipalities to address water security. The Department has allocated R40 236 000 over the 2024/2025 Budget and R32 116 000 over the 2025/2026 financial year, to support the Water

Resilience or through the Water Resilience grant to assist municipalities to become water resilient. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. I recognise the hon member that posed the question, hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. Through you to the hon Minister Bredell. We know that the City of Cape Town Metro learnt many lessons during the Day Zero crisis or the drought crisis and many of those lessons have now been translated into best practice not only here, but also overseas. I just want to know from the hon Minister is that being incorporated into these plans going forward and will these plans also be available for use in other parts of the country that are currently struggling severely with less than adequate rainfall patterns. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Bryant. Hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you. Thank you, hon member. Yes. The short answer is yes. We work very closely with overseas. Obviously, the lessons that we have learnt, and it is actually very exciting to see that the whole world is keeping an eye on us. The world still remembers 2017 as if it were yesterday. I mean, I just came from a trip, and they asked us about that, to the extent that they have now invited me, the Federal German Government invited me to participate in a Water Debate. They have got a Water Resilient

Day, and they want us to participate within that so that we can be part of the topic. It is about water and water resilience and then, speaks to food security as well.

So, the whole world is looking at us because they also understand that it is also not only the amount of water that you get into the system and the new water that you need to look for, but also the quality. Keeping the quality of water in our streams, in our rivers, in our oceans to a standard because that will influence the estuaries, the underground water sources, et cetera.

So, there is a lot of interest, and you can even see now that there is a lot of resistance in the UK and those areas. People have started to march against the municipal outflows into the ocean, et cetera. They put a lot of pressure on the system and that is the debate. I want to enter into that space because I really think that we need to start with our municipalities, with ourselves on closed systems to bring back water and use water more than once. Otherwise, we are not going to get ahead of this curve. Thank you, hon Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. Can I please caution the hon members to ensure that you only ask one follow-up question, not two-in-one. But I will leave it up to the hon Minister as to how he will respond, he or she will respond to the question. I now recognise the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you. Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon

Minister, the drought levy. Is it owing to all the municipalities or is it just for the City of Cape Town?

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Jacobs. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I do not know if I understand the question. We do not have a drought levy. We have got the municipal system, and municipalities do different financial structures on your bill. Availability fees for water are something that municipalities have all started to look at: availability fees on electricity, et cetera. The main reason for that was that you sit especially on coastal towns, with a lot of vacant plots. People are in Joburg. Once a year they are here. They come here and they want the service and who must pay through the year? So, to spread the cost there is an availability fee.

Then, when there is a drought, when you look at a drought, there is a step tariff because everybody will tell you, all the intellect will tell you, all the signs will tell you: the quickest way to get a reaction is to have a step tariff. That is the first 5% to 10% that you want to save. Then, you start with your marketing, you start with your behaviour change and all those kinds of things. That is how we will also manage the droughts going forward. Thank you, hon Chair.

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

hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Chair. Hon MEC, your Water Resilience Plan: does it include assisting municipalities in the future with regards to old infrastructure because to become water resilient, we need also to keep that water in the pipes to the house. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Chair. You can see he is an ex-Mayor. I think that it is a very important question, and I mean it as a compliment. I think, hon Chair, the Standing Committee must invite the Department to come and explain the 15-year Water Plan. I am very excited. It is a great plan, but it is a very complex plan. You can just think, hon members, that the hon member asked me now actually for the information behind the scenes.

Yes, we dismantled every single municipality's infrastructure to determine the backlog in infrastructure. We then plotted it for them. If you work on Stellenbosch, we expect a 4% population growth and a 4% economic growth. What water are you going to need if you want to sustain that? Then, we can tell the municipality, and then you connect a budget to that. So, you have got a backlog in infrastructure that you need to address. You need to project the future of your town, and you bring those things together. It is quite an

exciting plan.

They also look at the different water resources within the municipality. So, in the Karoo, obviously we look at underground water, but the current boreholes in the Karoo and when you go into the Karoo for instance, to manage boreholes is a specific science. It is a dew hydrologist because a borehole cannot be plotted, and you expect it is going to go systematically down. It gets to a stage and then it just drops. So, when must you deepen the borehole, how much can you expect from the borehole and then there are certain veins in a certain layer. So, it is no use you just drill. You will get water, but you will take water from three other boreholes.

So therefore, we have done the research that when you go to the Karoo National Park, you will get into the aquafer. Therefore, the debate with National at this stage, they must maybe allow us to drill in the Karoo National Park to provide water security for the Karoo. But we have also cut in the Blossoms Project into the Klein Karoo Water Scheme on that system and onto that system.

If you go closer to the coast, you will look at desalination. Therefore, we also do a lot of research with international people helping us to get desalination people. Now, I must be very careful because I will open up a debate where people will attack me and tell me it is nonsense. But desalination water is expensive water. That is my experience currently. It is energy intensive.

So, if you put up a solar plant to drive the desalination plant, yes, then you deal with the energy aspect, but it is still very expensive based on the figures I have seen. You must also not switch in on and off. You must come with desalination, put it in the system and the price will be just a little bit more, but you share it with everybody. It is part of your whole water network and the whole system.

So, it depends where you are, but that system tells the municipality exactly when and what must come online so that they can get ahead of the curve. Maybe, it will be a good presentation for the Standing Committee, hon Chair. Thank you, hon Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. Any other follow-up question? None in the House, none online. Hon members, we then move along to the next questions which are new questions, and I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

New questions:

Programme 3 and illegal foreign nationals

1. Ms N D Nkondlo to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

- (a) What specific activities are undertaken by his Department, in respect of the mandate of Programme 3: Trade and Sector Development, to confront the evidently illegality of the employment of illegal immigrants in the province, specifically in the construction (exposed by findings from George building collapse), tourism, retail, agriculture and hospitality industries;
- (b) whether his Department has taken up this matter with industry captains and/or industry bodies; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (c) what is the number of lost job opportunities that would have fallen to the citizens of the province?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon House Chair, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to this House and to the hon member for this question that was able to stand over and I want to thank them.

My response is that the mandate of the Department of Employment and Labour in South Africa is to regulate the labour market to ensure that there is sustainable economic development. This is achieved through legislation and regulations, inspections and compliance by the National Department, Human Rights protection, employment services, social and income protection, labour regulations, occupational health and safety, and social dialogue. This is the

responsibility in the law for the Department of Employment and Labour.

Now, turning to my own mandate of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is economic growth, business environment tourism development, innovation and technology, inclusive growth, sustainable development. The mandate and programmes therefore support businesses and industries that require critical skills, as well as red tape issues and with labour matters, which have been the case with many industries such as the building industry which requires the support in terms of the verification of the work permits.

Formal compliance monitoring and enforcement is, however, the responsibility, as I indicated earlier, for the National Department of Labour. With regards to the tourist guide industry, there are strict protocols in place to ensure that foreign nationals, which is the subject of the question, have correct permits in place before they can register as tourist guides. The Department is also in the process of updating its guides, toolkits and other resources concerning legislative requirements applicable to the tourism and hospitality industries. We will be hosting a series of webinars, as well as podcasts this year, to raise awareness of these resources.

Lastly, the Department advocates for responsible tourism practices through initiatives such as the Sustainable Tourism Enterprise Programme, the so-called STEP, amongst others. The programme also emphasises the importance of the adherence to labour legislation and regulations, and about

15 SMMEs have taken part in this industry, up to date.

Well, hon House Chair, where is this relevant. Certain engagement with the relevant industries, because that was a part of the second part of the question: how do you engage with the industry? Relative industry bodies have included topics such as the Tourism and Hospitality Industry. There are industry initiatives in place to raise awareness of the legal frameworks. I think the hon member is aware that in terms of illegal foreign nationals, they are particularly involved in this particular sector of the economy. In February this year, FEDHASA, for example, hosted the breakfast in Cape Town with the Minister of Employment and Labour, where the matter of foreign national employment was discussed.

Hon House Chair, there is currently, because there was a question about the numbers of illegal foreigners on the database; there is currently nationally no official dataset that systematically collects or reports data on job opportunities lost to illegal immigrants. While there are studies on the labour market effects on immigration, no comprehensive or nationally endorsed statistical source exists to quantify the extent to which illegal immigration directly affects employment opportunities for citizens.

This gap largely exists because undocumented workers are often hired through informal and undisclosed arrangements, making accurate reporting very difficult. As a result, creating an official dataset on undocumented labour is not realistically possible. The question also suggests that there is a

displacement of labour by illegal immigrants, however the impact of illegal foreigners on the labour market is complex and multifaceted.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Meyer. I now recognise the hon member that posed the question. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair and thanks to the hon Minister for the response which I think, hon Minister, is a response in telling us about your mandate and the mandate of the National Department. One would like to appreciate and thank you for your assumption that we may not have known. Maybe, thanks for the exercise.

I think, hon Minister, given the focus that this Provincial Government has then told us that Growth for Jobs is an important imperative. It is important for you to appreciate the questions and the issues that we will pick up and bring to yourselves, especially on this front because I think there is evidence of it. Actually, the hon Minister in doing exactly the job you were mentioning, indicates that last year between September and December, you had actually done some raids here. Actually, there were 809, which is the highest here in the Western Cape, including January, doing inspections in Camps Bay in the hospitality industry and in particular in restaurants. There are a number of non-compliances that they have picked up.

Now, why we believe it is important for you as the Minister of Economic

Development to engage with industry about this particular issue like any other, is because of the very intention of ensuring jobs and that the numbers are increased in the Western Cape. Therefore, for me, I would want to understand that at this point, does this particular Department and that is why specifically, one was asking about Programme 3 on Trade and Sector Development, are these particular conversations taking place with the captains of the industry, with the Chamber of Commerce, and what is their response to this particular reality?

Actually, the Minister is in Witzenberg tomorrow, to do similar inspections in the agri-space and the issues that we should not be surprised about as people who are here and who are interested to ensure that these things do not take place. So, I am asking once again, is this part of the work done by Programme 3 on Trade and Sector to look at these things that could actually be bottlenecks in realising the growth on labour and employment opportunities that we require in the province?

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo. Hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon House Chair and thank you to the hon member Nkondlo. The Department is engaging with the sectors through the Business Chambers on these particular matters that she raised and I welcome the visit by the Minister tomorrow to the Witzenberg region. That is now in the

agricultural sector to come back to the same question in terms of the agricultural sector.

We did convene a meeting with the Department of Home Affairs, with the South African Police, with the Department of Employment and Labour about the appointment of illegal foreign nationals in the agricultural sector. We even developed a protocol in this particular regard and that matter is underhand. But you have now referred to the Department of DEDAT, Economic Development and Tourism.

The Department has brought this matter under their attention. We are also meeting later this year, the Cabinet meets Business, and I will certainly raise this particular matter there because this is a matter of great concern. This is not only here. In fact, I have a summary here from your Premier in Gauteng and what he said on exactly this particular point. I documented it and he has exactly like you, a serious concern and in fact, in some places he said that 65% of citizens are undocumented foreign nationals. He said it is unacceptable, and we have to deal with this.

I think the general trend is, and I think our hon colleagues over here have also brought this matter under our attention, the whole issue of the appointment of illegal foreigners. There is no more time to duck and dive on this particular issue. It is now an issue of national agenda and your Premier in Gauteng; I am very glad that he has now admitted to it. In fact, he used the words 'the honeymoon is over'. I am so particularly happy that this

matter is also receiving national attention.

As far as the Western Cape is concerned, we are not going to duck and dive.

This is a matter ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: My apologies, hon Minister Meyer. Can you please take your seat. Is that a point of order, hon member?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon House Chairperson, I think while we also want to welcome hon Meyer back to the House and thank him for the transparency, he should speak through you. I do not know when he refers to 'your Premier'. I thought Premier Lesufi is the Premier for the Gauteng province, not our ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We are residents in the Western Cape. Our Premier is hon Alan Winde ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Duly noted.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thanks for recognising.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I apologise and withdraw that statement.

The CHAIRPERSON: Please, hon Minister. Please speak through the Chair. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Chair. I withdraw and I reconfirm that Alan Winde is the hon Premier on this side of the House and that side of the House, and I thank you for the correction. I am very happy because that must now also translate into the voting behaviour for the hon Premier. So, thank you very much for that.

Also, what I think is important to note here is that the matter that the hon member, on a more serious note, is raising is now a matter of national importance and not in the context of xenophobia, not in the context of protectionism, but in the context of citizens raising this issue and I am particularly happy that you raised this issue. I will engage with the Minister in this particular regard. In fact, she was my previous colleague. The National Minister was the former MEC of Agriculture, and I will certainly engage with her on this matter.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Hon House Chair, through you to the hon Minister. An article recently appeared on *GroundUp* news stating that there is one labour inspector for every 120 000 people in South Africa. Perhaps, if the hon Minister can tell us what the Western Cape Government is doing to fill the gap where the National Department of Labour has failed to have labour inspectors inspecting sites where alleged illegal foreigners are working in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. I will leave it up to ...[Interjections.] Hon members! I will leave it up to the hon Minister whether he would answer the question to that effect or not. I will now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon House Chair, I think I will answer the question, and I think this is a relevant issue because ...[Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): That is a sweetheart question.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: No, hon Lekker. You know it is not a sweetheart question. I think, hon House Chair, this is a matter that has come up about the number of inspectors per 1 000 or 100 000 or 10 000 per population. In fact, in the

annual report, they confirmed that they are under-resourced in this particular matter and if they need any assistance, I am happy to support that particular programme.

For example, in the Department of Agriculture, we accompany the labour inspectors so that they do not have to go backwards and forwards. We are there. We can do the data gathering, we can do the assessment, we can do the verifications, and we can make joint recommendations and joint findings. Not only the findings are important, but what is important is a sort of governance action plan. In other words, once we discover these things what do you do afterwards?

There, we are happy to work with the Department to resolve this matter because I am not interested in just getting information and then the information collects dust. In my Department, there is a different methodology. Once we have collected the information, even research and evaluations, I assess it, I read it and once I am happy with it, I give it to my Department Head, and he develops a management implementation plan based on that particular report. So that we do not have a situation that we collect all this information and then it collects dust and nothing happens.

So, hon Chief Whip, we will work together. We are now in the GNU, cooperative governance in action. The resources are limited and the hon Lekker will appreciate that we work together. She told me that she loves working together to get things better, and I like the way that she approaches

cooperative governance in action.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon House Chair. Through you, hon Chair. Hon Minister, regarding your meeting with the captains of the industry, I know that you planned to meet the Cabinet, meet Business. Is this one of the topics that will be discussed at this meeting? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Mr Masipa, we have not yet finalised the formal agenda. We have only just finalised the date due to the budget that has been postponed. I had to approach both the hon Premier and the Leader of Government Business to ask for an extension for when the Cabinet meets Business. That meeting will now take place around about 1 August. Once we have the next Cabinet meeting, I will liaise with my Cabinet colleagues, but any member there can raise this particular matter with us. The nature, the content, the structure has not finally been decided upon, but I am open for suggestions.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Meyer. Last opportunity on this question, hon member Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Minister and we will be looking forward to the engagements and the responses. Hopefully, we are not going to be asked to get the feedback from a rooibos tea session; that you will come here to Parliament to give us the feedback about these issues.

I just want to also indicate, hon Minister, that I think what one would like to understand is that because jobs are very difficult to get by and indeed, the efforts of the G4J at this point are very important for us to know what exactly is being done so that there are no job losses. What exactly is your Department going to be doing especially in the sector of agriculture where you also operate, to ensure that on the farms, like in the Boland here. I ask because I think the other year, there were attacks between the locals and those they feel are Sotho nationals that are undocumented. These are real cases.

So, how are you in practical terms, engaging with the farmers so that these job opportunities are not lost, especially to those that are low-skilled and because of that, they have got few options, you know, for them to get employment.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Ja. Thank you, hon Nkondlo. I think this is a very important matter. In fact, this was the subject of a discussion that we had with the Department of Labour, the Department of Home Affairs, Agri Western Cape, some of the commodity organisations and the South African Police Services, in terms of how we protect local citizens in terms of the appointment of illegal foreign nationals.

Out of that, the protocol, you asked me what is ...[Audio distorted.] a protocol was developed in terms of the appointment, and I am on record. In fact, also the organisations there are on record that they want no illegal appointment of foreign nationals and that we must have the hardest form of what is the word? Not punishment, but... where are the English people here? Penalty? That is the right word. The harshest form of penalties for those people that break that protocol on the appointments.

Hon Ms Nkondlo, if you are happy, I am happy to share a protocol with you regarding the appointment of people that every farmer has received a notification of: do not appoint illegal foreign nationals or there will be harsh penalties.

But this matter is even deeper because SISSA and VITA, hon member Noko knows about it. If any farmer or producer wants to export their products and they violate the regulations and the protocol, they cannot export. So, you can break the rules, but you will not be able to export. Once you break the rules,

harsh penalties will be on your stuff.

If you are familiar with such cases and sometimes there are. I cannot be here and say those things do not happen; it does happen. It is reported sometimes in the media. Please, assist us that we deal with it because the rule of law requires all of us and citizens and producers and farmers to stick within the rule of law. If there is any deviation from the rule of law, we must intervene. So, thank you for bringing that to the House.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Meyer. That then deals with Question 1 in terms of new questions. We now move over to Question 2 and I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

Foreign nationals, permits and licences

2. Mr D G Jacobs to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

1. How many foreign nationals have trading permits in the province;
2. whether there are plans to prioritise Western Cape citizens in economic development plans; if so, what are the relevant details?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN

TOERISME: Ek soek net die Afrikaanse weergawe. Agb mnr Jacobs, kan ek maar in Afrikaans antwoord? Jy weet dat Afrikaans is 100 jaar oud. Is dit gepas, Voorsitter, deur u?

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I am just looking for the Afrikaans version. Hon Mr Jacobs, may I reply in Afrikaans? You know that Afrikaans is 100 years old. Is that proper, Chair, through you?]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed, hon Minister. Order, hon members.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: *Okay*, agb Jacobs. Hy het gevra rondom buitelandse burgers in die provinsie en handelspermitte, asook die planne vir die ekonomiese ontwikkeling in die verband.

Agb Jacobs, die uitreiking van handelspermitte is onder die bevoegdheid, soos baie van julle weet hy was self 'n burgermeester, daardie bevoegdheid berus by die munisipaliteite en die Departement het bystand verleen met die samevoeging van inligting wat deur munisipaliteite ingedien is. Soos vereis deur die nasionale riglyn vir die verslagdoening oor die gesamentlike aksieplan vanaf 27 Februarie hierdie jaar, 2025, en daar is 448 aansoeke deur buitelandse burgers goedgekeur in 14 munisipaliteite regoor die provinsie. U sal weet dat die nasionale Minister het gevra daar moet 'n opname gedoen word. Ons het deelgeneem aan daardie opname en dit is die getal wat ons gekry het oor 14 munisipaliteite regoor die Wes-Kaap.

Al hierdie programme, agb Jacobs, se projekintervensies prioritiseer eerstens die burgers van die Wes-Kaap. Ons eenheid per ondernemingsontwikkeling het intervensies wat onder andere, ondernemingsontwikkeling en bevordering, besigheidsondersteuning en toegang tot markte regoor die provinsie ingesluit. U is bewus van ons sogenaamde rompslomp-eenheid, Red Tape Reduction Unit in Engels.

Ons ondersteun ook munisipaliteite om intervensies wat verband hou met die regulatoriese hervorming en verbeterings van besigheidsprosesse wat verband hou met regeringsdienste wat op plaaslike owerhede gerig is, soos bouplanne, byvoorbeeld, om plaaslike sakeondernemings vir plaaslike burgers te verbeter. Ons bied ook, die Red Tape Unit bied ook dan 'n platform waar Wes-Kaapse besighede en burgers enige klagtes of navrae wat verband hou met burokratiese knelpunte of rompslomp en ander vertragings wat besigheidsontwikkeling en groei nadelig kan beantwoord.

So, ons is ook, kyk ook na hierdie situasie. Ons is ook nou onlangs, soos u weet, geforseer deur u voorsitter daar in terme van mense wat produkte verkoop het wat reeds verval het. U is bewus wat gebeur het by sekere plekke, selfs skole, van sekere produkte. Hierdie vir my is 'n ernstige situasie. Ek hoor baie keer sê burgemeesters vir my, 'maar hier is onwettige, hierdie mense of onwettige daardie mense.' Dan vra ek amper vir myself, *but who appointed, who gave these people these permits?*

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: Okay, hon Jacobs. He asked around foreign citizens in the province and trade permits, also the plans for the economic development in this regard.

Hon Jacobs, the issue of trade permits is under the auspices, as many of you know he was a Mayor himself, the competency rests with the municipalities and the Department provided aid with collecting information submitted by municipalities. As required by the national prescription for reporting on the joint action plan from 27 February this year, 2025, and there were 448 applications by foreign citizens approved in 14 municipalities across the province. You will know that the national Minister asked that a survey has to be done. We participated in that survey and that is the number that we received on 14 municipalities across the Western Cape.

All these programmes', hon Jacobs, project interventions prioritize firstly the citizens of the Western Cape. Our unit per enterprise development has interventions that amongst others include enterprise development and promotion, business support and access to markets all across the province. You are aware of our so-called *rompslomp-teenheid*, Red Tape Reduction Unit in English.

We also support municipalities to improve interventions with regard to the regulatory reform and improvement of business processes regarding government services aimed it at local authorities, such as building plans, for example, to improve local business enterprises for local citizens. We also

offer, the Red Tape Unit also offers a platform where Western Cape businesses and citizens can answer any complaints or enquiries with regard to bureaucratic issues or red tape and other delays negatively affecting business development and growth.

So, we are also, also look at this situation. We were also recently, as you know, forced by your chairman there in terms of people selling products past sell by date. You are aware of what happened at certain places, even schools, of certain products. This to me a serious situation. I often hear Mayors saying to me 'but here are illegal, these people or those people are illegal.' Then I almost ask myself, but who appointed, who gave these people these permits?]

So, if you complain what in Witzenberg, somebody complained to me, and they said but there is illegal this and illegal that. The first question that I have is they applied for a business licence at the municipality. Where is the due diligence at the municipality? They come to me and complain, but what are their own systems doing in place? But it is not good now for me to point fingers because they are not here.

So, we engage with them and sir, I have now also called for a Municipal Economic and Tourism Summit because we want to engage with municipalities about some of these issues and have thorough discussions about this particular matter because the issue of business licences and permits is a fundamental issue of municipalities and I want to be sure. I do

not want municipalities to just give a person a business permit. I want municipalities to give a permit and have regular site inspections. I do not know about you, hon Mr Jacobs, but I have not seen a Health Inspector in the last 10 years. †Wanneer laas het u n gesondheidsinspekteur gesien? [When did you last see a health inspector?] This is a career. I do not know if anybody has seen a health inspector. They are missing in action.

†En hierdie handelspermitte wat mense kry, veral onwettige mense soms, daar is rotte, daar is gif, daar is nie lekker omstandighede nie. [And these trade permits that people get, especially illegal people at times, there are rats, there is poison, there are unpleasant circumstances.] That is the job of a health inspector. I have not seen a health inspector in the last ten years. I would like to know if there is anybody in this House that has seen a health inspector or even better, has a health inspector's details on their cell phone in their town where they stay. So, when you have a problem, you can phone them. I am on record. I do not have a phone number of one. Do you have a health inspector? I am very happy. You are one out of 42.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Before I ...[Interjections.] Hon member, order. Before I recognise the hon member that posed the question, who is hon Jacobs, can I please ask hon member Ngqentsu: the volume of your ear-set is quite loud. Can you please turn it a bit softer? Thank you very much, hon member. Much appreciated. I recognise the hon member Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon Minister, ja, in Mitchells Plain the health inspectors are ladies. They told me they are scared to go out because there is no protection for them. So, there is one of the answers.

†Maar wat ek wil vra is wat is die aansoeke van die plaaslike inwoners teenoor die buitelandse aansoeke, die buitelanders wat aansoek doen? [But what I want to ask is what are the applications of the local residents as opposed to foreign applications, the foreigners applying?]

†Die VOORSITTER: Baie dankie, agb lid Jacobs. Agb Minister Meyer?

[The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Jacobs. Hon Minister Meyer?]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Agb *House Chair*, ons het nou net die totaal, die ding wat die agb lid vra is die verdeling van dit. Ek kan eerder terugkom na die res. Ek sal nou nie die waarheid vertel as ek nou daardie vraag antwoord nie.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon House Chair, that the hon member is asking is the division of that. I can rather come back to the rest. I will now not speak the truth if I now answer that question.]

†Die VOORSITTER: Baie dankie, agb Meyer. [The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Meyer.] I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon House Chair and thank you, hon Minister. Hon Minister, do you not think in what you are raising which I think is important, you know, for the municipalities when they are handing out permits that they also align to inspection. In the same spirit you were talking about with the Department of Labour.

But do you not think this matter should be elevated between your Department and the Department of the hon MEC next to you because this is a very important matter. I know we are having this discussion about your Red Tape Unit programme, which actually is doing excellent work. But the truth of the matter, as you would say, when it is national that no, this is a national thing. It is not working there, and those trading permits are very important.

So, when are you and Local Government, especially in the interest of the economic growth that we want, ensuring that this discussion is a joint programme so that what you are picking up from the side of Economic Development, gets to be done as you are suggesting, which is correct, through Local Government and ...[Interjection.] Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo. I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon member Nkondlo is right. I think she has asked for a

conversation between myself and the hon Minister of Local Government.

[Interjections.] Come again? [Interjections.] If you provide ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order! Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Please, speak to the Chair, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: If you provide me with that, we can have that. If you want to go that route that is fine, hon member Nkondlo. You determine the agenda; you determine what we drink. It is fine. But I think a conversation is needed. This is why municipalities also have as one of the functions in municipalities, local economic development and part of that work is in that space. Local economic development will also be discussed at my municipal summit, and I have also invited the Department of Local Government. So, we can have that conversation, and I am happy to do that. I value that input.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon House Chair. Through you, hon House Chair. Hon Minister, thank you very much for the initiative of ensuring that you are calling the Municipal Summit. The question really from my side is to really ask about your working relationship with the Local Government, especially when dealing with permits and foreign direct

investments that are coming to the municipalities. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Masipa. Hon Minister Meyer?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: This is a broad question, and it deals with multiple issues. The first issue is later this year, on 5 and 6 November, we are calling an Investment Summit. I have already engaged with municipalities because I do not want them to just come to the summit. They must bring proposals, funding because it is not going to be a talk-shop. We want bankable ready projects at the summit from municipalities. In particular, some of the municipalities are eager. They have already indicated that they want to come to the summit with some concrete proposals. So, that is the first part of the situation.

I think we know that we are in politics and as they say, all politics are local. Therefore, it is important that we take whatever we do here into the local space, and we will invite all the municipalities. But I will not talk down to them, I will engage with them because some of them are doing outstanding work. We will also want to ask them what they are doing to ignite the local economic development because what we now see globally, the centres of economic growth are not the domain of national governments. Globally, the trend is economic development and growth are stimulated at subnational level governments and at local government levels.

For that reason, hon member Nkondlo, I want to hear Mayors and councillors speaking about the economic vision of their towns. Forget about the country and the world and the IMF. That is another discussion, but what is the economic vision of your town, your resources, your people.

For example, I have now indicated to the West Coast that if they have, for example they will have a Moorreesburg, in fact, they call it the Swartland Agricultural Show. *Die Landbou Skou*. I have engagements with the Mayor of that municipality to say bring it to the show. We can give you the economic intelligence on which countries are importing or exporting to your region. We get them there and then we can get those people there from those countries so that we can maximise through economic development.

As the Minister of Agriculture, of Economic Development and Tourism, 60% of my job now is economic diplomacy; engaging with people because we need to stimulate economic growth. So, this is the fundamental job that I now have almost gone through, but I want municipalities to have that equal responsibility to take that into that due political phase.

So, that is the nature of the job. That responsibility is mine and I take it very seriously. If any hon members want to make a joke, it is fine, but the economy is not a joke.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Meyer. I just want

to double-check ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. I just need to double-check with the Table Staff if there is one opportunity left. Thank you very much. Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker of this session. On that, just on the response, I really want to welcome and thank hon Dr Ivan Meyer for his response and for stating that he is actively involved in economic diplomacy. This particular economic diplomacy: I just wanted to get a sense of. How does he situate that economic diplomacy within the context of his recent trip to Taiwan, undermining the One China policy ...[Interjections.] and how does he deal with the fact then that he is persona non grata in China ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...because clearly, thank you very much, undermines ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...economic diplomacy. I see ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...this one is standing up.
He is very uncomfortable.

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He must sit down.

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed! ...[Interjection.] I recognise you
hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Chair. I am just rising on a point of
order in terms of relevance to the question. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Also, hon member Sayed, there
is no relevance to the question. I am going to allow for a last follow-up
opportunity on the question ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Chair, on a point of order.

The CHAIRPERSON: ...on the actual question.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Chair! On a point of order!
[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed, I saw your hand. I will recognise

you. There is no need for you to shout.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Acting Speaker, the follow-up is relevant. Hon Meyer spoke about economic diplomacy. I mean, clearly, this is just stunting debate, and I must say we had our issues earlier on when the hon Deputy Speaker was chairing. Can I please appeal that you follow within the same spirit. The hon Deputy Speaker, notwithstanding the challenges, at least kept the order. This is just absolutely blatant, blatantly undermining transparency. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. You cannot argue with the Chair. A ruling has been made that there is no relevance. [Interjections.] Is that a point of order, hon member?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair and it is unfortunate that I thought a very good discussion ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...has to get to points of order. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: ...your point of order.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon member Bryant was referred to as 'this one'. I do not believe that is parliamentary, hon Chair. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: We will refer to Hansard. Are there any follow-up questions on the question posed?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): There is a follow-up question.

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon House Chair, I would like to ask the hon Minister on economic diplomacy that he has just raised. That in light of the fact that the hon Minister went to Taiwan in his personal capacity and out of the statements he made there, he was declared a person non grata by China which actually would undermine the very economic diplomacy. How does he then respond to that, in light of the very mandate which is very important and which we support that he must do that to ensure that at that level that he was referring to, whether there is economic development at municipalities and it is something that his response is about. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Nkondlo, I will refer you to the very same, exactly as the previous hon member in terms of relevance. [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon Minister, are you going to answer to the question?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: Relevance.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, we then, in the absence of another follow-up question ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Chair!

The CHAIRPERSON: ...to the initial question, we will then move to the next question. ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...[Inaudible.] Hon Chair, I have got my hand up.

The CHAIRPERSON: I will recognise the hon Minister Anton Bredell.

Corruption and undue influences

3. Mr D G Jacobs to ask Dr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

With regard to reports indicating, among others, corruption and undue influences in the Theewaterskloof, Swellendam and Matzikama municipalities:

Whether he and his Department have intervened; if so, (a) when and (b)

what are the interventions?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Acting Chair. ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Are you not seeing my hand? Are you not seeing my hand, hon House Chair or are you choosing not to?

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Is that a point of order, hon member?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon House Chair, are you not seeing my hand or are you refusing to look this side?

The CHAIRPERSON: Is that a point of order, hon member?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): No, it is not! It is not a point of order ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: I believe I have made a ruling in terms of ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...but as a member in the House, I think part of your responsibility is to recognise us when we raise hands.

The CHAIRPERSON: I recognise you, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You did not.

The CHAIRPERSON: I have not seen you, but I do recognise you now.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I wanted to be assisted when to my question it was said 'relevance'. When somebody just says 'relevance', I do not understand so that at least, I have got an understanding why my question was not answered.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. It refers to the Rule, as per the Rules adopted by this House. The relevance to the initial question. Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise you, hon Minister Bredell. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I mean. Okay, let me start again.

The CHAIRPERSON: Please do, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Chair and thank you to the hon Jacobs for the question. Depending on the nature of the allegations,

these are either dealt with by myself, my Department of Local Government, the municipality or are referred to other investigative bodies, the Director of Priority Crime Investigation Unit, the Special Investigation Unit or the SIU or the Public Protector to investigate.

I can confirm that officials from my Department, upon my instruction, have engaged with the SIU for them to investigate certain allegations in the TWK Municipality, as well as the Swellendam Municipality. We will wait the outcome of those investigations.

I have, furthermore, issued a number of investigative reports in terms of Section 106 of the Municipal Systems Act to the Matzikama Municipality. The investigations relate, amongst others, to maladministration or serious malpractices relating to the theft of municipal funds, irregular appointments, the irregular payment made to a former ward councillor and subsequent appointment at the Municipality. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. I recognise the hon member that has posed the question, hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you very much for that, hon Minister. I just wanted to check with you. Is there perhaps a report for us that can outline in terms of what work was done with regards to the investigations?

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Jacobs. Hon

Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Ja. Hon Chair to hon member Jacobs. These things, there will be a report that we or first of all, the report on Matzikama specifically was sent now back to the Municipality with action steps and we are monitoring that. They must follow the action steps. The discipline within the municipal domain starts with the Speaker who is the custodian of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, and they need to follow their process.

If they do not, then obviously at the end, I will need to take it to court if they do not adhere to the process. But we need to manage it because you must always remember, you are working with another government sphere, and we are supposed to support them and to guide them. I do work with the SIU and the walks of all these bodies because normally, when we find or when we get a complaint or a whistleblower comes forward, then they do not only send it to me. They also send it to the President's Hotline and to everybody.

So, we then decide which body will be the most fit to deal with that. The SIU one like where they intervene is when normally, they get their instruction from the President's Office. They will contact our forensic unit to also gather information for them and support them. At the end of the day, I think all of us want to get rid of corruption. We want to deal with the corruption within the municipal space.

What I am worried about, hon member, is within that space and also with coalition politics. We see that councils do switch from power and then, the new government then focuses so much on investigations and what has happened in the past that they do not govern. So, also this week on Monday, I have met with the team in TWK and I said to them listen, I will support you to govern. Let us govern. The SIU is busy with the investigation; the Hawks are busy. Let them deal with the investigation matters and we will deal with the report that they present to Council.

But I think we were unanimous that that is the way going forward because otherwise, with some of your low-capacity municipalities, it is already difficult enough to turn them because they have got limited resources. We have got limited resources. But if they keep on trying to get into the past, they will never govern for the people. So, that was an agreement on Monday, and we will obviously work as close as possible with that Municipality and all these other municipalities.

Also, the Knysna Municipality that you have not mentioned. There are critical water challenges and the problem with that was that we found out after ten days. A community like Rheenendal: for ten days they were without water. We only found out when we visited Rheenendal that there is a march. We said, but it cannot be. Why do you not phone us? On that day, we organised three water trucks. We organised a George big tanker to drive water directly to the reservoir. A big issue. We managed to put in the pumps

and then obviously or not obviously, but then the pumps again just blew up on Sunday.

Now we have got a team working with the Municipality because 45 of their pumps are out of order, seven of their refuse trucks are out of order and if you go back into this and that is why I am mentioning it, it speaks with a lot of investigations and allegations of corruption in the past that we are busy trying to dismantle. These things are very complex to all the hon members in the Parliament because I cannot go to court with speculation. I cannot go to court with what I think. We must go with facts. And it is in determining those facts that is very difficult.

So, we do have a very good team, and these investigations also cost a lot of money. We also work with taxpayers' money, but we need to get to the bottom of any corruption within any municipality. Thank you, hon Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Bredell. We have now come to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

Hon members, as per the order of today's proceedings, we will now continue in terms of Rule 145, Statements by Members. There will now be an opportunity for Members' Statements as per the sequence in the Rules, for two minutes each. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Chairperson, the Western Cape notes the decision to maintain the Western Cape's Provincial Equitable Share allocation at R65,37 billion. In an era of deep fiscal uncertainty, the decision to preserve the PEZ amid concerns that it may decline, provides much needed stability and certainty for the Province. For that, we do acknowledge the work done under Budget 3.0.

However, hon Chairperson, stability cannot become stagnation. The Western Cape continues to experience the highest rate of population growth in the country. Every year, thousands of South Africans choose our province in search of opportunity, dignity and a better life, placing sustained pressure on our public services and infrastructure.

Despite this, the Provincial Equitable Share Allocation over the MTEF does not reflect the shifting population burden, nor to recognise provinces that deliver. It is important to note that approximately 80% of our provincial budget is allocated to social services like Education, Healthcare and Social Development.

These are not luxuries. They are essential services upon which millions depend. We believe that reform must be responsive, and resourcing must be fair. Provinces that are absorbing the consequences of national migration patterns and service delivery failures elsewhere, cannot be left carrying costs

alone. The Western Cape is more than playing its part in a stronger South Africa, but that partnership must be matched by a fair share of the resources. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Johnson. I recognise the African National Congress. Can hon member Sayed please be provided with the podium. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Can hon Sayed please be assisted. You may proceed, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. The African National Congress strongly condemns this DA-led Provincial Government's continued refusal to show solidarity with the people of Palestine. Despite repeated calls from civil society across the Western Cape, the hon Premier has ignored appeals to light up the Western Cape Government building in the colours of the Palestinian flag, as they had done for Ukraine.

The DA's silence in the face of genocide is not neutrality, but complicity. Instead, their national assembly MPs proudly visited Israel and denied that the genocide is taking place. More than 15 000 children have been killed. Entire families have been wiped out. People are dying not just from bombs, but from deliberate starvation and yet, the Democratic Alliance continues to turn a blind eye.

We reaffirm our full support for the case brought by the South African Government to the International Court of Justice, an act of integrity and

global leadership. As more voices across the world demand a ceasefire, justice and the flow of humanitarian aid, South Africa stands proudly on the right side of history. Let us be clear, South Africa will not be bullied, threatened or slandered by any foreign power for defending the rights of the oppressed. We will not be silent while war crimes are committed with impunity. We will not be intimidated into abandoning our principles of justice, dignity and human rights. We honour our own history by standing with those who are still fighting for freedom.

We remind the DA and the Western Cape Government that leadership is about values, standing up for what is right. The people of this province and this country deserve a government that is not afraid to speak the truth, acts with courage ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, please conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and puts humanity before politics. We stand with Palestine, we stand for justice, and we will not ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker and hon members.

The CHAIRPERSON: Turn on your mic, hon member. Thank you.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): The PA rises today to engage constructively on a matter of considerable importance in the House and to the people of the Western Cape. That is the rollout of the new Provincial Roads District model as announced under the leadership of hon Minister Simmers. We acknowledge and welcome initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and service delivery across the province.

However, in the spirit of transparency, accountability and inclusivity, we wish to raise some concerns and seek clarity. It has come to our attention that the West Coast District Municipality is not currently included in this model. This raises questions about the decisions being made and whether municipalities have had an opportunity to engage meaningfully in this process.

In the hon Minister's budget speech, he said the following. That there are two processes. Process 1(a) endorsed municipalities already possessing necessary capacity and readiness to implement the model. Process 1(b) refers to those requiring additional support or developmental assistance before they can be included.

†Agb Speaker, is daar eenvormigheid regoor al die munisipaliteite en die Departement van Infrastruktuur ten opsigte van salarisse en vergoedingspakkette, sal munisipaliteite wat nie deelneem aan die nuwe model benadeel word in terme van salarisse ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Hon Speaker, is their uniformity all over the municipalities and the Department of Infrastructure with regard to salaries and remuneration packages, will municipalities that do not participate in the new model be disadvantaged in terms of salaries ...[Interjection.]]

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon member.

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): ...werkskepping en hulpbronne nie. Is die georganiseerde arbeid en die vakbonde behoorlik gekonsulteer oor die implementering van die model. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): ...job creation and resources. Have the organised labour and the trade unions been properly consulted about the implementation of the model. [Interjection.]]

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

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ek wil net dié op rekord plaas. Ek het 'n skrywe van die vakbond SAMU, een van die grootste vakbonde, gekry. Ek weet nie of ek dit ter tafel kan lê nie ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to place this on record. I received a letter from the trade union SAMU, one of the largest trade unions. I don't know if I can table it ...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Remember, your time has expired, but you are more than welcome to follow the parliamentary mechanisms. Thank you so much. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): I rise to remind this House of the importance of the Africa Day which we will celebrate this Sunday, 25 May. It marks the founding of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963, now the African Union, and serves as a symbol for shared struggles, pride and determination to build a stronger continent.

This year's theme, quote:

“Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations.”

Close quote: calls on all of us to address the deep injustices of slavery, colonialism, apartheid and genocide. Not only through remembrance, but true action that restores dignity and builds equitable systems. South Africa has long played a leadership role on the continent from peacebuilding to advancing Human Rights. Just yesterday, hon Deputy Speaker, on 21 May, our Government led a united delegation to the United States to reaffirm trade

ties and to reject false and harmful narratives about our country. In that moment, a diverse group of leaders, business and political non-partisan and grounded in Ubuntu, reflected the very spirit of African unity that Africa Day calls us to embrace.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the DA in the Western Cape is specifically now on Mobility, this serious theme reflected in our work to deliver in Inkululeko yokuhamba the freedom of movement. Mobility is justice. It connects people to jobs, education and healthcare and in the Western Cape, we are expanding access through better roads, safer transport and the fight for rail devolution because our communities deserve more than talk: they deserve real, reliable sources, I mean, access. Let Africa Day reminds us that Ikamva le Africa. The future of Africa rests on unity, dignity and delivery. In the Western Cape, we are proud to lead by example. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Professor. Hon members, I am triple checking, and I will call on the EFF. I note the NCC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the NCC notes with shock the 49 refugees or shall I say White Afrikaners who left for the USA on 11 May from South Africa. Hon Deputy Speaker, the word ‘refugee’ according to the United Nations means as follows:

“A refugee is a person who is outside their country of origin due to

feared persecution, conflict, generalised violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed the public order, and as a result it requires international protection.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, these individuals are White South Africans who indicated that due to them being White, they are being persecuted in their own country. The same lies these apartheid beneficiaries are spreading, reminds me of the Democratic Alliance continuously bragging about the lowest murder rate in the province. Currently, †verloor ons elke dag tien kinders op die Cape Flats [we lose ten children on the Cape Flats every day.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, when Donald Trump was talking about the genocide in South Africa, I truly thought he was referring to the aboriginal Khoi Brown/Coloured genocide committed by the White South Africans against the very same nation, dying today on the Cape Flats.

However, hon Deputy Speaker, our President’s visit to the White House on 21 May, it took a White billionaire to remind John Steenhuisen that the Cape Flats is a home of death. Hon Deputy Speaker, Coloured children are being killed daily on the Cape Flats and our girls are being raped and killed in the Eastern Cape. Generalised violence in South Africa is a national issue, and it is not a White issue. I think only 2% of crime committed in South African involves White people.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the NCC, we condemn this, and we would like to ask

the court to seriously look at charges of high treason to those individuals selling these lies to obtain refugee status. Now, you shall know the truth and the truth shall blow your mind. Ayesea.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The African National Congress in the Western Cape Legislature welcomes the tabling of the National Budget by the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, on Wednesday, 21 May 2025. The tabling of the budget comes after robust engagements to find a suitable budget for the current financial climate we find ourselves in. Due to slower economic growth, our GDP growth for 2025 is reviewed down to 1,4% due to global trade tensions and internal factors, such as higher borrowing costs.

Initially, Minister Godongwana would have tabled a VAT hike. This hike was reversed, and we must all celebrate the 30 years of democracy of South Africa that reigns through the spirit of involvement of people and their voices in all public affairs. This remains a history milestone in public finance and budget processes as the democratic Parliament of South Africa that actually adopted Money Bills and Related Matters Act 9 of 2009, had given effect to the Section 77(3) of the Constitution of South Africa requiring national legislation to provide a procedure to amend Money Bills before Parliament.

However, the Democratic Alliance saw this as an opportunity of political grandstanding and posturing in this moment of growth and social progress for SA parliamentary democracy, where they called for amendments at national level while suffocating and have delayed and thus, denied justice in this Parliament to amend Money Bills by this House to give effect to the needs of the poor. In this House, the DA enjoys the arrogance of blue numbers and their one proxy, the ACDP, to throttle down their budgets, let alone the blue lies that they speak about of fair share whilst they do not allocate fairly, you know, the budgets to all in the province.

The budget tabled by the Minister allocated R7,5 billion to SARS to improve tax collection and focus on recovering lost revenue from tax evasion and illicit trade. The budget prioritised the poor, the old age will rise to ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, please conclude.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...October and the October 19 Social Relief of Distress Grant is extended to March 2020. We support and we welcome the budget. ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon member Nkondlo. I recognise the DA.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise to highlight the valuable work of the Western Cape Schools Evaluation Authority, otherwise known as the SEA, established through the Western Cape School Education Amendment Act of 2018. The SEA's vision is to strengthen school accountability and drive improvements in teaching, learning and overall learner outcomes.

The SEA conducts rigorous evaluations that focus on five key areas: leadership, governance, safety, teaching and learning, and community involvement. In the 2024/2025 financial year, 107 schools were evaluated. In the current year, this number will increase to 129 schools.

Each evaluation takes one and a half to two days, during which time all teachers are interviewed, lessons are observed, and schools are assessed across 13 standards and 75 performance indicators. Schools receive a rating ranging from outstanding to inadequate with detailed reports presented to the Department, the district and school leadership. These findings inform tailored support plans and are monitored weekly by the hon Minister and Head of Department. This process is benchmarked against international best practice, particularly the Ofsted model using the United Kingdom and demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in a province where accountability and quality

education are top priorities, the SEA plays a critical role in ensuring every school is given the tools and support it needs to succeed. It is a model of proactive governance that reflects the Western Cape Government's commitment to building an education sector that will help each learner to succeed. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van Wyk. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, racial tensions remain the Archilles heel of South Africa. Racial laws such as BEE, BBBEE which together with other laws totalling more than 140 racial laws and utterances by certain political parties, such as the EFF, calling for the killing of Boers and farmers. These comments weaken the nation's ability to create a non-racial and a prosperous South Africa.

These utterances of hate have reached the international community and in particular, the USA, our biggest and largest trading partner. Their interpretation of the meaning of these words that are being sung, have now been subjected to international law standards and have been strongly condemned. The gruesome acts of violence against farmers, their families, the killing on the Cape Flats, are stark reminders of the long way we still have to go in creating a safer, more socially cohesive, and a prosperous South Africa.

The Freedom Front Plus will continue to stand as a front for the rights of cultural groups, cultural minorities, including the Khoi, the San and Griqua minorities. We call on the President to publicly condemn farm murders in South Africa; to take decisive actions in repealing racial laws in South Africa, become a President that is a champion for all South Africans. We need a CODESA, an open dialogue among South African leaders and cultural groups and we need to find a way of becoming a united nation with a shared vision. I thank you.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Al Jama-ah Party is gravely concerned with the increasing attacks on mosques and Muslims in and around the City of Cape Town. If the House can recall that in January 2017, two mosques, one in Simonstown and the other in Kalk Bay, were respectively defiled with a pig's snout and walls were spray-painted with pig's blood. This happened a week after a White resident posted a message on Facebook which called for mosques to be burned down.

Imagine if Muslims made such a call to burn down churches or synagogues. Muslims and justice loving people of all faiths have for many years, been staging protests and demonstrations against the Zionist Israeli entity occupation of Palestine and the genocide of Palestinians but have never threatened or attacked any place of worship.

Recently, the Al Azhar mosque, also known as the Aspeling Street mosque in District Six became another target of bomb threats and threats of violence were made against its worshippers. Following these cowardly threats of violence against a place of worship and its congregation, a Muslim woman was stabbed in Sea Point because of her faith. These cowardly acts by racists and bigots have been heightened by right-winged media outlets, Zionist educational institutions who indoctrinate youth to join the genocidal Israeli Defence Force.

Furthermore, we have members of political parties, including that of the DA, which run this province who support Zionism and apartheid. Supporting the Zionist Israeli entity is a contravention of the wrong statutes. Any support for Israel is support for apartheid and this, a crime against humanity. Those who commit crimes against humanity ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...undermine our Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion. Al Jama-ah demands that the investigation into these attacks be concluded and the coward who stabbed the woman in Sea Point, be punished for his heinous act. Thank you. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Cape Town has a housing backlog of 524 000. According to reports collectively, the Western Cape has a housing waiting list of almost 600 000. Some of these people are on the waiting list for decades, receiving no houses. People have applied when they were in the workforce and now, they are retired, they are on pension and the hope for ever owning a house is in vain. Children that are born in backyard dollas, Wendy houses, suffer the same as their parents. They will be homeless.

According to hon Minister Simmers, it will require in excess of R100 billion to clear this backlog. R100 billion to clear this backlog! As the ACDP, we appeal to the Western Cape Government to look at alternative innovative ways to address this enormous, ever growing housing backlog. Informal dwellings are the breeding grounds for gangster activity. They illicit drug trade and attract our young girls and boys.

Hon Deputy Speaker, something needs to be done because a bomb is about to burst. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I see the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, last night, consultants for the Western Cape Government presented

initial design concepts for the redevelopment of a site that many of us know as the Tafelberg school site in Sea Point, although it is now being quietly renamed 353 On Main. The name change might suggest a wish to move past the conflict and controversy tied to this land, a public site once earmarked for sale to private developers, despite the City's urgent inner-city affordable housing crisis. But let us focus on what matters most.

This presentation marked an attentive, but important moment of hope. The Western Cape Government has now shown a willingness to rethink its approach. All three design concepts presented include social housing and that is progress. Concept 1 included 63 social housing units, 71 affordable housing units and 163 high-end housing units. Concept 2 increases this to 121 social housing units, 131 affordable housing units and 163 high-end housing units. Concept 3, the most ambitious of is 122 social housing units plus 156 affordable housing units and 293 high-end homes. Each concept includes green public spaces and shops along Main Road, six signalling an integrated mixed-use development.

We welcome this change of heart, the commitment to include mixed income housing and public amenities is a step towards a more inclusive city, but there is still a way to go. We urge the Western Cape Government to use this design process to maximise provision of social and affordable housing in line with real growing demand. We also call for a transparent inclusive process with no more U-turns and unnecessary delays.

Let this moment be the start in Cape Town's long overdue journey towards spatial and social justice. Sincerely, we are happy to acknowledge both the substance and the spirit of the Department of Infrastructure's presentation last night. Thank you.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today to welcome the agreement reached to secure the future of the Langeberg and Ashton Fruit Cannery. This is more than just a business transaction, it is an investment in people, in communities and in the economic stability of the Langeberg region. Through this agreement, thousands of permanent and seasonal jobs have been saved, securing the livelihoods and futures of the people and families of the region.

The Langeberg and Ashton Food Cannery is a cornerstone of the local economy sustaining thousands of households. Its survival is a victory of the people of Ashton and the broader region. We are pleased that Tiger Brands, along with a capable and committed consortium of partners, has worked constructively to reach this outcome. We thank all stakeholders involved for putting people first and for aligning with our shared goal of building a Western Cape where economic growth is inclusive, sustainable and focuses on job creation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this development comes at a time when the latest quarterly labour force survey confirms what we know to be true: the Western Cape leads the country in employment. This agreement is a practical example of how that success is achieved by working together to protect and grow jobs.

The Western Cape Government's Growth for Jobs strategy makes our position very clear. We are committed to safeguarding and expanding key sectors like agri-processing and to creating the conditions needed for businesses to thrive. A job is not only a source of income; it provides dignity, it provides purpose and hope. Today, hope has been restored to thousands of workers and their families. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Noko. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give an opportunity to one or more members of the Executive present, an opportunity to respond to member statements for no more than five minutes collectively. I see hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and I just want to respond to the inputs of the hon Petrus, through you. Firstly, just a correction on quoting me on 7 April. He erroneously misquoted me. I did say the following. I said:

“Therefore, our district municipalities will receive letters today giving them one year's notice to prepare for this important shift. Rollouts will

also be done in different processes. The Cape Winelands, Central Karoo and Garden Route district municipalities will form part of Process 1(a), while the Overberg and West Coast district municipalities will form of Process 1(b).”

Then to that, hon Deputy Speaker, indeed, my Department and I have engaged Process 1(a), each district, from 21 April until 23 April. Given that the fundamental basis was are we getting value for money and those identified in the Process 1(a) are not giving value for money. We are winding up and taking back our function. We are cancelling the Roads Agency function for which we are already paying all the staff, buying all the fleet, contributing to all the employee costs. In effect, all these staff are already the staff of my Department.

But we took it a step further. With each of the three district municipalities, before we met with their councils and their top managements, we actually met with the workers and the trade unions. We introduced our team who will be leading the winding up of the agency function. We outlined to all the trade unions that they will be part of a consultation process. It does not fall within the ambit of Local Government. It does not fall within the process of their local labour forum.

I did receive a copy of the letter to which the hon Petrus was referring, and we responded to them, indicating that they must respect our process. It is done in terms of Section 197 of the Labour Relations Act. Within that, it is

clearly defined given that the Roads Agency function was never a direct service delivery function of a district municipality. Hence, we wanted to engage them together with the workers, given that various mixed signals were actually going through to workers even before we started engaging them.

We outlined a clear process. Our teams have already started in each of these districts. Earlier this week, we started Process 1(b), where the difference is that we do get value for money from the West Coast District Municipality. We still need to engage the Overberg District Municipality. And yes, the current Roads Agency function agreement will be nullified and a new agreement with stricter guideline regulations will be entered into.

I think it is important for the hon member, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to understand this has been a nearly ten-year discussion with district municipalities. Clarity was needed and the moment for clarity has been given. It is now that we ask that all role players, internal and external, respect this. That does include the two trade unions, and they will be part of this process. But we are well on track to ensure that when the clock hits 1 April 2026, what I announced this year on 7 April, does become a reality in all its forms. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute and 25 seconds. I see no additional hon members of the Executive. Hon members, that is the end of Members' Statements. We will now proceed in terms of Rule 146, and I will afford hon Minister Simmers an opportunity to make an Executive Statement.

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and indeed, I do address the House in terms of Rule 146 of the Standing Rules of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament which does provide for an hon member of the Provincial Cabinet to request the hon Speaker for approval to make a factual statement to any matter of which the House should be informed. As required, I have made a copy of my statement available prior to today.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Infrastructure recently received an anonymous copy of a document titled '*Partition to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.*' The document purports to having been drawn up by a grouping of Western Cape Government employees, calling themselves the 'Sanddrift Subeconomic Housing Sector Reasons'.

The petition relies on provisions of both the Constitution of South Africa and the Western Cape Constitution, as well as Rule 91(e) of the Standing Rules of the House for addressing it to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I have no information considering the extent of its distribution.

As the petition makes a number of serious allegations relating to aspects of administrative and legal arrangements surrounding the occupation by these officials of rental housing stock under the control of the former Department

of Human Settlements, and now the Human Settlements branch of the Department of Infrastructure, I believe it is my duty to provide the House with certain relevant information.

During the second half of 2024, there were persistent rumours concerning various possible irregularities regarding the occupation of provincial housing stock by provincial employees. These rumours were reinforced by the receipt of an anonymous letter which raised similar concerns to the subject matter of the rumours. As a result, I requested the Department of Infrastructure to conduct a preliminary investigation through the Directorate Financial Governance.

After interacting with the Directorate Land and Asset Management, to obtain a clear understanding of the rental stock and leasing arrangements involved, the Directorate Financial Governance launched the preliminary investigation which I had requested.

This investigation focused on key policies and processes and included the allegations arising from the rumours and the anonymous letter referred to earlier. Extensive documentary evidence was examined, including information from the Deeds Whip and the reports from the National Debtors system. Relevant details of a statistically valid number of provincial officials occupying rental stock belonging to the Province were included in this investigation.

The internal report on this preliminary investigation was delivered in the first week of May to me and included findings serious enough for me to refer the matter to the Provincial Forensic Services on 5 May for further investigation. The Head of Department, the Department of Infrastructure, submitted a similar request to Internal Audit on the same day. While these further investigations are under way, any administrative and financial irregularities identified in the preliminary investigation will be rectified as quickly as possible.

Of particular importance is to determine the status of everyone living there to ensure that nobody benefits from these facilities who do not have a legal right to be there. I will bring this to this House any further substantive developments as and when they become available. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Simmers. I now recognise the ANC. I now recognise the DA.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. The DA welcomes the investigation initiated by the hon Minister and the Department of Infrastructure into the possible irregularities regarding the occupation of provincial housing stock by Government officials. Allegations of corruption and abuse of public resources is extremely serious for the DA. Any allegations of wrongdoing must be treated with urgency, transparency, without fear or favour. We commend the hon Minister and his Department for acting swiftly upon receiving the anonymous petition and escalating the

matter to the Provincial Forensic Services and Internal Audit, following initial findings.

Hon Deputy Speaker, public housing must be allocated fairly and no individual, including public servants, is above the law. It is reassuring to hear that the corrective action is already underway and to address any confirmed irregularities, and that a clear commitment has been made to ensure that only legally entitled occupants remain in these units.

The DA wants to assure the public that this Government does not shy away from accountability. We believe in clean governance and that includes rooting out any instances of fraud, of mismanagement and of unethical behaviour. As these investigations continue, we trust that anyone that is found guilty of any wrongdoing, that they be held fully accountable. There must be consequences because public trust depends on it.

We thank the hon Minister for his leadership and his undertaking to update the House on further development. This is the kind of responsible and transparent governance that the people of the Western Cape expect and deserve. I thank you.

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

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): Agb *Deputy* Speaker, baie dankie vir die

geleentheid. Agb Adjunkspeaker, ons wil baie dankie sê vir die agb *MEC* dat hy dit na die Huis gebring het. En as die Patriotic Alliance, ondersteun ons en vra graag dat enige verslae wat beskikbaar is, dat dit na die Huis toe gebring word. Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Hon Deputy Speaker, we want to thank the hon MEC that he brought it to the House. And as the Patriotic Alliance, we support and ask that any reports that are available, that it be brought to the House. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The EFF is absent. I see the NCC. Any statement from the NCC on the Executive Statement as delivered by the hon Minister? I see the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus welcomes the actions taken by the hon Minister. The anonymous petition still being accepted as a valid petition, must be commended. We also ask that the hon Minister continues to follow-up on any new developments in this regard and reports back to this House. Thank you, hon Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): No statement, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No statement, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): No statement, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes the end of the Executive Statements in terms of Rule 146.

MOTIONS

Hon members, 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 N P MASIPA (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the economic benefits of investing in women's health, with specific reference to the report handed to the Speaker by the Parliamentary Network on Health.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the issue of hung municipalities in the Western Cape and the impact this has had on the delivery of basic services.

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

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the importance of Africa Month in fostering unity, cultural exchange and economic cooperation between South Africa, the Western Cape and the broader African continent, while advancing progressive measures to regularise the status of undocumented migrants, to combat xenophobia and to recognise fully the contributions of African migrants to the social and economic development of the province.

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the urgent need for the Western Cape

Government to implement comprehensive winter readiness plans, including expanded shelter access, disaster relief for informal settlements and measures to protect vulnerable residents from extreme weather conditions.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the persistent economic inequalities in the Western Cape where growth and employment opportunities remain skewed towards White-owned businesses, and the need for targeted interventions to support Black and Coloured entrepreneurs.

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

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

That the House debates the potential repercussions of US foreign policy shifts, including President Trump's executive orders, the current geopolitical tensions on trade, investment and tourism in the Western Cape, and strategies to mitigate any negative effects.

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the challenges of the current public transport system, particularly the minibus taxi industry, rail and bus services and the need for urgent interventions to ensure affordable, reliable and safe commuting options for working-class residents.

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

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

That the House debates the escalating crisis of gender-based violence in the province and the need for increased funding for shelters, legal aid and community-based prevention programmes.

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the slow pace of land redistribution and housing delivery in the Western Cape, which continue to marginalise Black and Coloured communities, and the need for accelerated and equitable urban development policies.

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the persistent failure of the current energy policies to ensure equitable and affordable electricity access for the people of the Western Cape, particularly the most marginalised, including informal settlement dwellers who remain excluded from the grid and rural farmworkers burdened by unaffordable and unreliable power.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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 20 May 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 the Programming Authority met on 20 May 2025. Political parties did submit the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting of the House. I therefore, just for noting and for 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: hon Brinkhuis, hon Walters, hon Walters, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Kaizer-Philander, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Bryant, hon Bryant, hon Masipa, hon Masipa, hon Johnson, hon Masipa, hon Stephens, hon Ngqentsu, hon Ngqentsu, hon Kamfer, hon Windvogel, hon Ngqentsu, hon Windvogel, hon Nkondlo.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): I move without notice:

That the House recognises the great achievements of Ms Gaireyah Fredericks, a local writer from Paarl in the Drakenstein Municipality; further recognises that she is a single mother of four sons who, despite her economic challenges, has struggled to complete her tertiary education and has completed an honours degree in Afrikaans at the University of the Western Cape and a Master's in Art and Creative Writing at Rhodes University; notes she has experienced many challenges to complete and to have her book *Een Voet Innie Kabr* (One foot in the grave) published; further notes that, in commemoration of Women's Day in 2024, Al Jama-ah Western Cape hosted the launch of

the book *Een Voet Innie Kabr* at the Paarl Museum in Paarl; acknowledges that she has recently received an award from the Eugène Marais Literary Prize for prose for her debut work *Een Voet Innie Kabr*; acknowledges that she was awarded first prize by the Diana Ferrus Literacy Prize for Poems for her poem, *Swaa dra*; notes that she has been nominated for the University of Johannesburg literary prize for *Een Voet Innie Kabr*; and congratulates her on her achievements.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sorrow the passing away of Naaïm Davids; notes that his remarkable contributions to the rugby community in both the Boland and the Western Cape have had a significant and lasting impact that will not be forgotten; notes that Naaïm was much more than just a player – he was a true legend in the realm of rugby and a beacon of leadership who inspired countless individuals, both on and off the field; notes his dedicated passion for the sport and his commitment to nurturing talent that made him an invaluable asset to the rugby fraternity; extends our heartfelt condolences to his family during this incredibly challenging time; may his soul rest in peace; and may his loved ones find comfort in the cherished memories they hold dear.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness the untimely passing away of Cornal Hendricks, former Springbok rugby player and community hero; acknowledges that he was more than just an outstanding athlete; notes that he was a symbol of courage, faith and resilience whose journey inspired many beyond the rugby field; further recognises that his life story stands as a testament to perseverance in the face of adversity, and that his contributions extend beyond sport, touching the lives of countless South Africans; remembers him not only as a remarkable player, but also as a leader and proud son of the South African soil who brought pride to his people through his dedication and spirit; extends our heartfelt condolences to his mother Rachel, his family and friends, his teammates and the entire rugby fraternity during this time of immense loss; and celebrates the legacy of Cornal Hendricks and honours his memory by continuing to support and uplift the values he embodied: resilience, hope and unity.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I move without notice:

That the House thanks the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, in partnership with the Witzenberg Municipality and the

Hamlet Sport Forum, for the official opening of a new multi-use sports facility in Prince Alfred Hamlet; acknowledges the importance of this investment in sports infrastructure for smaller towns, where access to quality recreational spaces remains limited; recognises that the facility will create new opportunities for young boys and girls in the community to participate in sport, to develop their talents and to benefit from the social and health advantages associated with structured physical activity; and further thanks all stakeholders involved for their commitment to youth development, community upliftment and equitable access to sports across the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I move without notice:

That the House thanks the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) for its investment in the upgrading of the Witzenville sports field in Tulbagh (Witzenberg Municipality); acknowledges the installation of new floodlights at the facility, which now allow local sports clubs, the youth and community organisations to utilise the field safely during evening hours; expresses appreciation for the continued commitment of the Western Cape Government to expanding access to quality sports infrastructure, particularly in rural areas where such facilities play a vital role in youth development, community upliftment and social cohesion; and further thanks the Witzenberg Municipality for

its role in facilitating the project and in ensuring local residents benefit from well-maintained and accessible recreational spaces.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the church choir of the URC Macassar on the gold medal that they won at the 2025 ATKV Suidoosterfees church choir competition; praises their conductor, Roger Rooi-Horne, for his outstanding leadership; acknowledges the choir's meaningful cultural contribution over the past 43 years; wishes them all the best as they prepare to hopefully participate in the 2026 World Choir Games; and calls on the community to support the choir to help to ensure their continued success.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes the recognition of outstanding healthcare providers at the Vergelegen Mediclinic for receiving the prestigious DAISY awards on International Nurses Day; notes their vital role in patient care and community support; and congratulates this healthcare institution for their excellent service.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Philip Fourie and his dog Duke after being selected to represent South Africa at the 2025 World Agility Championships in Switzerland; notes that, since 2019, the duo has earned 21 trophies and consistently qualified for the world championships; notes that their selection for the 2025 competition highlights their continued excellence; and commends Philip and Duke for their outstanding achievements.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House recognises the Victoria Park Neighbourhood Watch for its commitment to improving community safety, as showcased at the recent awards evening; commends their members' dedication and encourages continued support and partnership to enhance local safety; and continually supports these efforts in the respective communities and constituencies for the invaluable role these members play where they serve, especially in areas where crime remains on the rise.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates CapeNature, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and their partners on the remarkable rediscovery of the Blyde River flat gecko (*Afroedura rondavelica*), unseen for over 30 years and found during a challenging helicopter-assisted expedition in the Blyde River canyon; applauds this achievement as a triumph for conservation science, reaffirming the gecko's survival and confirming its distinct features for the re-evaluation of its conservation status; commends all involved for their dedication to protecting South Africa's unique and threatened species; and reaffirms South Africa's responsibility, as a biodiversity hotspot, to safeguard its natural heritage for future generations.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates CapeNature, the Grootvadersbosch Conservancy, Helihack and all volunteer biologists on the extraordinary rediscovery of the Boosmansbos long-tailed forest shrew, last seen 46 years ago; applauds the dedicated efforts of this passionate team whose innovative use of pitfall traps and logistical coordination in a remote

wilderness area led to the successful sighting of this critically endangered subspecies; recognises the vital role of collaborative biodiversity conservation and the protection of the Boosmansbos wilderness area as a world heritage site; commends Dr Marienne de Villiers and her team for their persistence in uncovering one of the Western Cape's most elusive mammals and contributing valuable data to conservation science; and celebrates this remarkable find as a symbol of hope for ongoing ecological research and the protection of South Africa's natural heritage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) on the successful hosting of its 2025 Easter pilgrimage in Moria; notes that, founded in 1910, the ZCC has grown to become the largest church in Southern Africa, grounded in the values of peace, healing and unity; notes that the church has long been a pillar of social cohesion, by upholding the rule of law and promoting justice, even during the apartheid era; notes that its annual Easter pilgrimage draws millions of congregants from across Southern Africa and the United Kingdom, reconnecting families and strengthening community bonds; notes that the impact of the church is especially evident in rural and township areas, workplaces, Government institutions, businesses and through the

provision of bursaries that uplift communities; and commends Bishop Dr Barnabas Lekganyane and the ZCC leadership for their unwavering commitment to faith, unity and the upliftment of society.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Kaizer Chiefs on their historic 2–1 triumph over Orlando Pirates in the 2025 Nedbank Cup final, held at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban on the weekend of 10 May; notes that this victory marks the club’s 14th Nedbank Cup title, making Kaizer Chiefs the most successful team in the competition’s history; further acknowledges the visionary leadership of Kaizer Motaung who founded the club on 7 January 1970 after playing for Orlando Pirates, and whose foresight transformed the team into a dominant force in African football; recognises the significant economic impact of this high-profile fixture, with the eThekweni Municipality establishing additional fan zones to accommodate overflow crowds; notes that similar opportunities exist for cities such as Cape Town to benefit from the tourism and business stimulation that derbies provide; commends Kaizer Chiefs for maintaining one of the largest and most loyal fan bases on the continent, consistently drawing strong attendance in the premier soccer league – even during seasons without major trophies; and congratulates Kaizer Motaung, the players, the management and the supporters of Kaizer

Chiefs with their 2025 Nedbank Cup victory and their enduring contribution to the growth and success of South African football.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Prince Albert Municipality and a generous private sponsor on the successful completion of the newly paved entrance at the local traffic department; commends this outstanding example of public–private collaboration, which has enhanced both the functionality and appearance of the facility; notes that the construction was carried out by a contractor appointed by the sponsor, with the Municipality ensuring quality control and strict adherence to occupational health and safety standards; and applauds all involved for their commitment to service delivery and community upliftment.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Paarl Boys' High School on their historic 25–10 victory over Grey College, marking only their 10th win and contributing to an unprecedented back-to-back defeat for the

Bloemfontein rugby powerhouse; notes that this milestone reflects the strength of the Paarl Boys' High School's rugby programme and adds a new chapter to one of South Africa's most iconic school sports rivalries; notes that the Paarl Boys' High School (Boishaa) is known for its strong traditions rooted in good conduct, scholarship and sportsmanship; notes that these values are deeply ingrained in the school's culture, shaping its environment and the development of its learners; acknowledges the role of these prestigious schools in producing future Springboks and fostering national rugby excellence; recognises the significant economic and cultural boost such interschool derbies bring to the town of Paarl; and commends the Paarl Boys' High School for using sport and education to shape young South Africans into responsible and capable citizens.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with great sadness the multiple tragic motor vehicle crashes that have occurred in Cape Town and on the West Coast over the past few days; notes that, among these incidents was a particularly devastating crash in which a Golden Arrow bus driver tragically lost his life while in service to the public; extends our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of all those who have lost loved ones in these tragic events; notes that our

thoughts and prayers are with them during this time of mourning and loss; may the souls of the departed rest in peace; and may their families find strength and comfort in the days ahead.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Kaizer Chiefs Football Club on their victory over Orlando Pirates FC in the Nedbank Cup final; notes that Kaizer Chiefs is one of the biggest football clubs in the continent that has seen a 10-year trophy drought; and hopes that this great victory marks a significant return to winning big silverware.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Provincial Operational Command Centre on uncovering South African and foreign currency to the value of R1 million, along with bank cards and cell phones; and commends the work done by our service men.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House sends condolences after the death of Cornal Hendricks; notes that the 37-year-old Hendricks passed away due to a heart attack on Wednesday evening; and notes that, apart from playing in 12 tests for the Springboks in 2014 and 2015, he also represented the Blitzboks between 2011 and 2014, with whom he won a Commonwealth Games gold medal in Glasgow in 2014.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the national relay team with their showing in the World Relays Championships in China where they won gold and bronze; and expresses pride in our athletes who have raised our national flag with pride.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with pride and warmly congratulates the South African under 20 men's national team, Amajita, on their historic qualification for the 2025 U20 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) final;

notes that their hard-fought 1–0 victory over Nigeria, secured by a brilliant goal from Tylon Smith and an assist from Neo Rapoo, showcased the team’s determination, discipline and growing maturity throughout the tournament; notes that special recognition is given to standout players, such as Siviwe Nkwali from Khayelitsha in the Western Cape, whose exceptional performances – including multiple Man of the Match awards – have been instrumental to the team’s success; commends coach Raymond Mdaka and his technical team for their leadership in guiding Amajita to their first final in 28 years, a remarkable achievement that has reignited pride in South African football; notes the team’s resilience, after an early setback against Egypt, demonstrates their character and unity; acknowledges the South African Football Association (SAFA) and its president, Dr Danny Jordaan, for their commitment to developing young talent; and, as the nation rallies behind Amajita, wishes them strength and victory in the final in the confidence that they will continue to make South Africa proud.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with pride and heartily congratulates Mr Thela, the talented Cape Town-based DJ and artist, with his remarkable achievement in winning the Best Gqom-Kwaito Award at the 2025 Metro

FM Music Awards for his hit song ‘*Ekhaya*’; notes that this prestigious accolade, presented on 3 May 2025 at the Mbombela Stadium, is a testament to his exceptional skill, dedication and contribution to the Gqom–Kwaito genre; notes that Mr Thela’s victory not only celebrates his individual artistry but also elevates the genre, reinforcing its cultural impact and growing influence in South Africa’s music scene; commends the Metro FM Music Awards for recognising and honouring outstanding local talent; applauds Mr Thela’s well-deserved triumph as his success serves as an inspiration to aspiring musicians and is a reminder of the vibrant creativity in our nation; and wishes him continued growth, innovation and many more milestones in his flourishing career.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

This House notes with deep sadness the brutal and untimely passing away of Mr Lucas ‘Rasta’ Mbele, a visionary entrepreneur, dedicated philanthropist and beloved community leader whose life was tragically cut short by senseless violence; notes that Rasta was an astute businessman whose sharp acumen and unwavering determination not only built successful enterprises but also uplifted countless lives in Khayelitsha and beyond, leaving an indelible mark through his generosity and commitment to empowerment; notes that, while the circumstances of his murder remain under investigation, welcomes the

swift arrest of suspects – trigger-happy criminals who plague our society with their reign of terror; calls for justice to be served without compromise; extends heartfelt condolences to his grieving family, friends and community; honours his legacy of resilience, compassion and transformative leadership; further condemns the scourge of extortion and violent crime that continues to threaten our entrepreneurs; calls for strengthened efforts to protect those who drive our economy and uplift our people; and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

[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? There are no objections. It is agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the Proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual hon member's name as if the hon member had read them out aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity for hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that a 30 minute Standing Rule will apply commencing now. I see the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, ayesa. I move without notice:

That the House and the NCC congratulates the Sevens Springbok team who won the World Championship Rugby. This team showed grit and tenacity and was made up of mostly Coloured players, and that the world could see Coloureds showing their skills. Across the Western Cape, there are many Blitzbokke and other national sport stars walking the streets and not knowing where their next meal will come from. Their opportunities denied because they are Coloured. We therefore salute these young ones who have risen above their situation and have shown the world proudly Coloured supremacy. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, the motion is substantive ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Al Jama-ah, I move without notice:

That the House recognises the great achievements of Ms Gaireyah Fredericks, a local writer from Paarl in the Drakenstein Municipality; further recognises that she is a single mother of four sons who, despite her economic challenges, ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon House Chairperson?

The CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat, hon member Brinkhuis. The hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon House Chairperson, we have just dealt with that motion in the previous order.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Oh, apologies, hon Deputy Speaker. I have got the wrong motion.

The CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed with the correct motion, hon member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Acting Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the disturbing increase in ongoing gang violence on the Cape Flats; further notes that people gunned down are innocent victims of the ongoing drug and turf war amongst gangs; I further move, and acknowledges that gangsters' 'free reign of terror' is a result of lack

of police visibility in high profile areas such as Delft, Khayelitsha, Bonteheuwel, Manenberg, Lotus River, Gugulethu, Lavendar Hill, Mitchells Plain, and so on; further acknowledges that current interventions are failing to bring about safety and security for the people in this province; further notes that the implementation of the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) is not making any progress to eradicate gang violence and drug dealings; further notes that the DA-run province prioritises to monitor peaceful pro-Palestine protests, using much needed resources required to deal with gangsters and drug pedlars on the Cape Flats and surrounding townships. I call on the House to prioritise the safety and security of all residents and more so, those living on the Cape Flats. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

[The House Chairperson takes the Chair.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Object!

The CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu. Order, hon members.

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

That the House congratulates the ANC's Parliamentary Constituency Office for convening a highly successful community dialogue with over 100 Neighbourhood Watches from Wallacedene, Scottsville, Scottsdene, and Bloekombos. The dialogue was held under the theme 'From Fear to Freedom: Together, Let us Reclaim Kraaifontein's Streets from Criminals'. This served as a critical platform for selfless and hardworking Neighbourhood Watch members to share their lived experiences and propose responses to the challenges they face; further, they then enabled SAPS and other relevant stakeholders to provide initial feedback and engage directly with community safety concerns; SAPS acknowledges that several key issues were raised during the dialogue, including the urgent need for operating office spaces, warm regalia and protective gear, stipends (given the high levels of poverty and unemployment), and essential tools of trade to enable their volunteer work effectively. We call on the Western Cape Provincial Government to allocate greater resources and institutional support to Neighbourhood Watches in Kraaifontein and similar high-risk communities across the province. We believe that this initiative highlights the important role of community-based safety structures and underlines the need for Government to make volunteerism fashionable and sustainable through adequate support; and a special thanks to comrade Mirriam Modiba, a volunteer of the ANC PCO, for her

dedication and hard work in putting together such a successful programme. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Object to this. It is a statement.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

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

That the House congratulates the SATAWU and other trade unions existing in the sector for successfully concluding an above-inflation wage agreement of 17,5% with the State-owned Enterprise Transnet; notes the agreement includes social benefits such as an increased pension fund contribution, an improved housing allowance and access to affordable medical aid. We would like to acknowledge this as a significant milestone in advancing the rights and welfare of workers within the logistics sector. We call on Parliament to support ongoing negotiations that aim to ensure non-retrenchment and protect workers from any negative consequences of restructuring at Transnet; affirms

that structural reforms must not undermine the hard-won rights of workers or dilute the central role of the State in the governance and control of SOEs. We caution that should any reforms adopt neoliberal features that prioritise profit over people, weaken public control, or marginalise labour, organised labour will be well within its rights to consider industrial action, including strike action, in defence of workers' rights and public ownership. We reiterate the importance of a just transition and transformation agenda that is pro worker-centred, people-driven, and in alignment with the values of social and economic justice. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection!

The CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. I think we need Uncle Rupert on speed dial on this one. I move without notice:

That the House notes with appreciation the successful working visit of the South African delegation, led by President Ramaphosa, to the United States, where they engaged with President Donald Trump and his administration to strengthen trade relations and counter harmful misinformation, including baseless claims of White genocide in South Africa; further notes and welcomes that the delegation demonstrated a united and strategic approach, safeguarding critical agreements and negotiations such as the AGOA, which sustains thousands of jobs and bolsters economic ties between the two nations; acknowledges the vital contributions of key delegation members, including COSATU President Zingiswa Losi, who powerfully advocated for workers' rights and addressed systemic challenges such as crime, gender-based violence, and economic transformation; notes the business leaders like Johann Rupert also played a crucial role in dispelling political distortions, particularly by highlighting the Western Cape's severe gang violence which he compared to armed insurgencies like the M23 rebels, which starkly exposed the DA's governance failures; condemns the DA's disappointing conduct during these engagements, where its leader, John 'Matric' Steenhuisen, prioritised petty party politics over national unity, only to be publicly rebuked for ignoring the Western Cape's rampant crime crisis. This behaviour revealed the DA's detachment from South Africa's real challenges and its alignment with foreign agendas; and commends the South African delegation for their diplomatic skill in navigating a complex and often adversarial US administration, defending the nation's sovereignty, and advancing its economic and social interests

with resilience and strategic foresight. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Yes! Objection!

The CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! No need for further debate. There is an objection, and it is registered. Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Lekker. Order, hon members. Hon Lekker.

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

Luphume nodlolwazana uqhankqalazo lwabahlali eCovid eKhayelitsha, inkokheli zilwa zodwa Yimizi eqikelelwa pha ku 7 ethe yatshiswa logama eminye ithe yachithwa, ngethuba abahlali base COVID-19 eKhayelitsha bexabana bodwa, ngendlela emayithathwe ukubheka phambili, ukuzama ukuqinisa uqhankqalazo olusele luneentsuku luqalile. Kusukela kwiveki ephelileyo, abahlali balendawo bavale uhola wendlela uN2, ngase Mnew way ngelithi bafuna inkonzo. Oluqhankqalazo lukhokhele ekubethweni kwemoto zabantu logama ezininzi imoto ziye zanyanzeleka ukuba zisebenzise ndlela zimbi. Esikuvileyo kukuba izolo abahlali bebenentlanganiso nalapho inkokheli ethile ithe yaxelela

abahlali ukuba makutshiswe imoto zika rhulumente ukuze izikhalo zabo ziviwe. Kuyabonakala ke ukuba ezinye inkokheli ziye zangaphesheya ke kulombono ngelithi imoto zikarhulumente ziqhutywa ngabantu abanokuthi bonzakale, kwaye kungabanjwa abantu kanti zona injongo kukufumana inkonzo hayi ukubambisa abantu. Unobalisa qhubeke ngelithi intlanganiso iye yahlukana bubini, kwakho iqela elithi makuqhutyekwe labe elinye lisithi kwanele makuyekwe ngoku xa kuzohlaselwa imoto zika rhulumente ngoba uninzi luqhutywa ngabantu abazamela amakhaya abo. Ithe yakuchitheka intlanganiso ze aba bebethi makutshiswe imoto zika rhulumente bathatha isigqibo sokuba makutshiswe izindlu zezinkokheli ziphambili ekuyekiseni uqhankqalazo. Nazo ke kuyabonakala ukuba ziye zaphendula ngowazo umlilo zatshisa imoto yenye yenkokheli nekuthiwa ibiphambili ngethuba kutshiswa izindlu zokuqala, ze kwachithwa nendlu yayo. Ibali liyaqhubeka.

[The protest of the people residing at Covid Khayelitsha has resulted into violence, the leaders are fighting against each other, it is seven houses that were estimated to be burnt down while others were being demolished when the people residing at Covid Khayelitsha were fighting against each other regarding what should be done going forward relating to the protest that has been going on for few days now. Since a week before the people residing in this area has closed off the N2 route by Mnew way saying they are demanding to be attended to. This protest resulted to people's cars being smashed meanwhile other cars were forced to use different routes. What we have heard is that yesterday the people of that area held a meeting where one of the leaders had told the

residents to burn cars that belonged to the government so that their demands would be met. It is noted that other leaders were against this version saying that the cars belonging to the government are cars that are also driven by people who might get hurt. And that could also result in people being arrested and that is not the point, the point of for people's demands to be met accordingly. The informer continued by telling us that the people attending the meeting were now in two separated groups, the other group was condoning this act of burning of cars and the other group saying it was enough now especially if it was involving the burning of cars belonging to government because most people who are driving those cars are people that are trying to put bread on their tables. After the meeting was adjourned, the group that was demanding for the cars belonging to the government to be burnt had come to a decision to burn down the houses of the leaders that were against the protesting. It is reported that they also responded with violence by burning down one of the cars belonging to one of the leaders who seemed to be forward by the time the first houses were burnt down and they also demolished their houses.] I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

Hon MEMBERS: Object!

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? ...[Interjection.]

Order, hon members. Hon members!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Are you objecting isi-Xhosa or are you objecting the content?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Ngqentsu and hon member Lekker! [Interjections.] There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, this concludes Motions without Notice. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration and finalisation of Western Cape Public Library Services Bill [B 1–2025].

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon Chairperson, I am introducing the Western Cape Public Library Services Bill. The Bill is urgently required for the purposes of regulating the provision of public library services in the Western Cape and assigning the function of libraries to municipalities in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. As there is no list of speakers, I will afford parties an opportunity to speak for a maximum of three minutes each. I recognise the ANC.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, today I rise to address this House following the unanimous adoption of the Western Cape Public Library Services Bill by the Standing Committee. While the Bill is largely administrative and seeks to provide a comprehensive framework for the regulation and provision of public library services in our province, I must repeat the concerns I raised regarding Clause 8: closure of public libraries.

When raising this concern, I pointed out the absence of a statutory requirement to notify the public directly when a library faces permanent closure. The current clause emphasises internal communication between administrators and the hon Provincial MEC but omits explicit notification to the very communities and users who are most affected by such closures. Although the legal team has assured us that the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act and its regulation for a fair administrative procedure already mandates public notification participation in a decision that adversely affects rights.

We must remain vigilant. The lived reality for many communities that legal obligations do not always translate into meaningful engagement or transparency on the ground. Libraries are not mere buildings. They are essential hubs of knowledge, social cohesion and opportunity. The closure of

a library without adequate public notice and participation risks undermining the trust and wellbeing of our communities.

Further, I must note with concern the ongoing trend of devolving. The powers of the hon MEC for Cultural Affairs to municipalities, as reflected in this Bill, the assignment of critical functions to municipalities cancelled while administrative justified raises questions about the consistence and quality of library services across the province. There is a real risk that library services are being devolved via the backdoor, potentially leading to fragmentation and even resource allocation and diminished provincial oversight. We must guard against any erosion of the strategic role that the Provincial Government plays in ensuring equitable access to library services for all residents.

Despite these concerns, I have acknowledged that the Committee adopted the Bill and is reporting unanimously, recognising the necessity of updating and clarifying the legislative framework for public library services. It is now incumbent upon us as representatives and custodians of public interest, to ensure that the implementation of this Bill is guided by the principles of transparency, fairness and community participation. We must closely monitor the impact of these legislative changes and remain responsive to the voices of our constituencies, especially when it comes to the closure or transformation of vital public services. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the Patriotic

Alliance.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon House Chair. The Western Cape Public Library Service Bill [B 1–2025] has been rightfully approved and accepted, following an extensive and successful public participation process. The Patriotic Alliance fully supports this Bill, not as a matter of political alignment, but because it addresses a critical need that has been ignored for far too long.

Let us be frank, this legislation is long overdue. The previous law dated back to 1981 and has failed to keep pace with the realities faced by our communities today. For over four decades, public library services operated under a framework that no longer served an interest of our people. This delay in reform has cost our communities dearly in terms of educational support, access to information, and social upliftment.

The updated Bill not only modernised the legislative framework, brings order, structure and accountability. It provides clarity on the duties of the hon Minister, which is essential for transparency and effective leadership in this sector. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): It also strengthens the cooperation between provincial and local authorities, ensuring that library services are not left to falter due

to bureaucratic disconnects. Most importantly, it tackles the persistent funding gap head on. For years, local libraries have operated under financial strain, often compromising the quality of services they could offer. This Bill creates a more sustainable model that recognises the vital role libraries play in building informed, empowered and connected communities.

This is not just a policy matter. It is a social imperative. The time for neglect is over. With this Legislation, we finally take a meaningful step towards delivering dignified, equitable and effective public library services to every corner of the Western Cape. I thank you. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the EFF. I recognise the NCC. None. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, there is no objection. Libraries are important and it is a concurrent function, and I believe that if there is going to be more efficient use of the facilities and it is going to benefit the communities, then it must be supported. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I live in a town called Strand, and currently, we have a situation here with our library in the Rusthof area, that has burned down. I have mentioned previously in this House, you know, the need for various, especially when it comes to my area, the building of a library. So, I welcome this from the hon Minister Mackenzie, and I wish him all the best with this initiative. Yes, this is very much welcomed to the Western Cape province and its citizens. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No declaration.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Chairperson, no declaration, but we support the Bill. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Acting Speaker. I rise in proud support on behalf of the DA of the Western Cape Public Library Services Bill. It is a critical step towards strengthening public libraries and

affirming our commitment to equitable access to knowledge for all. This Bill establishes a unified and sustainable framework for delivering quality library services across the province.

It will standardise and regulate services, define roles from provincial to municipal level, enable official registration of libraries and allocation of responsibilities. It will empower library administrators, and it will ensure increasingly inclusive access, especially for persons with disabilities and historically disadvantaged communities. It also confirms the hon Provincial Minister's role in establishing and managing libraries with a focus on equitable access across urban and rural areas.

Hon Acting Speaker, public libraries are not just about books. It is about creating vibrant community hubs through strong partnerships to create a learning culture. And as one of our hon Ministers said: readers are leaders. There are 376 service points, 337 mini-libraries for the visually impaired. We have a provincial collection of over 6 million items worth R477 million that is available as a base to create this culture. Of internet access, there are 229 rural and 104 metro libraries, and there is support for nearly 900 municipal library staff. This is more than statistics. It represents a process towards transforming lives, empowering communities and importantly, this Bill was built on consultation. There was engagement with municipalities, SALGA and the public.

But I would like to pause here, hon Acting Speaker. We had a bit of

acrimony during the course of the day, but I want to express my deep, deep, deep appreciation for the nonpartisan manner in which the members of the Committee approached this, made contributions. I would like to say it was not just contributions because we are political parties. There is a genuine love for people, a genuine love for reading and I am going to respond to some of the declarations that have been made.

I think there was a very good input, and I take what hon member Ngqentsu said here to heart. I really believe it is not just enough to have a framework in place. It is where we take it. I think your comments that you made here will be taken on board. We share your concerns; we share your passion. I have observed the hon member reading on a bus once and he is a reader. I appreciate that.

Earlier, when there was reference made to hon member Mackenzie, we thought it was Minister Ngqentsu and we were all, 'no, no, no.' But no, we deeply appreciate your inputs ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): And also, remember ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: You may conclude. You can conclude, hon member.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): So, the members that contributed: thank you,

very, very much. I think it is truly something we can all share as a success in this Committee. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the hon Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon members, just an interesting fact. It was Lord Charles Somerset that used tax on wine to fund the first library in the Western Cape. A bit of trivial pursuit information.

Hon members, there is one thing that unites every hon member of this House, regardless of party or position, is that we all share our love for reading. How do I know that? Because we read our speeches, we read our manifestos, we read our party policy positions, we read. Reading is what shapes our thoughts, sharpens our debate and ultimately, brought us to this very place, servicing as elected representatives of our Western Cape Parliament, regardless of which party you serve.

Reading is what opened doors for us, and it is our responsibility to ensure that the same doors remain open for generations to come after us. That is why this Library Bill was so important. Our role as Legislature is to make laws that uplift and empower the people of this province. This Bill does exactly that. It projects one of the most powerful tools for development and empowerment we have: access to reading, learning and opportunities through

libraries.

We are united in our beliefs that libraries must stay open, that books must remain accessible, that no child's potential should be limited by their postal code or the level of their income. Let me be clear. Taxing reading is taxing the future, and this is the price we simply cannot allow not to be paid for young people. A community that values reading is a community that will succeed. It is a community that produces informed citizens, critical thinkers, job creators and change makers. That is why we urge every hon member of this House to vote in support of this Bill and to encourage other provinces to do the same.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the public who participated in the hearings and to those who made submissions. We heard you and we acted. I also wish to thank the incredible team of my Department, the lead member, Cecilia Sani, Chief Director Dr Carol van Wyk and every staff member who travelled the province, who facilitated the public hearings and who showed unwavering commitment to this course.

To the Standing Committee and to all hon members of this Legislature, thank you for your maturity, your leadership and your deep understanding of what this Bill means to everyone that reads. By passing this Bill today, we are choosing life. We are choosing hope, and we are choosing the future.

To our municipal partners who are not yet fully onboard, we call on you to

join us urgently so we can finalise the regulations and take this important step together because reading saves lives, reading creates jobs, reading builds the economy and reading reduces crime.

Let it be said that 100 years from now that the reason the Western Cape became the best-read province is because this Parliament on this day with all hon members of this House, voted for this. So, in this House, we voted to not to tax knowledge, we voted not to tax opportunities, we voted not to tax the future, we voted for libraries, we voted for the children, and we voted for progress. Thank you, hon members of this House. ...[Applause.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes on the debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill. I have to announce that there are currently 35 hon members and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. Are there any objections to the approval of the Principle and the Finalisation of the Bill?

Hon MEMBERS: No! No! No!

The CHAIRPERSON: No objections, agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Public Library Services Bill.

The CHAIRPERSON: The Bill will be sent to the hon Premier for assent.

Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited from this Sitting. The House is now adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:34.