
THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Order hon members! Before we proceed I would like to remind the hon members about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been our practise to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House; both from here and the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff, and by Microsoft Teams; and our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings.

Hon members who are experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting, I request that you contact the WCPP ICT colleagues who will assist and resolve the connectivity challenges.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules, and unless there is an indication of an anonymous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020. Members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law.

Hon members, the Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance, and hon members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order. Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings and to this end I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, the media has also been granted access to the MS Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP. However, I wish to remind the members of the press that they may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

Hon members, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members, please allow me an opportunity to welcome the guests in the gallery. Welcome to the WCPP.

I wish to remind the members in the gallery, or guests in the gallery that you may not participate in the proceedings of the House, but you are more than welcome today and I hope you enjoy your visit to the WCPP.

I now recognise the hon Chief Whip.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

(Motion.)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I give notice and move that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 21, that precedence be given to the subject for discussion for today. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion? No objections? Agreed to.

Hon members, we will now deal with the subject for discussion in the name of the hon N P Masipa as printed on the Order Paper and I recognise the hon Masipa.

The impact of VAT increases on provincial expenditure and the cost of living.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a hard won victory. A victory for the unemployed, the women-led households, for struggling families in Khayelitsha, Joe Slovo and Nyanga, Langa, Mitchells Plain, Beaufort West and beyond. [Applause] [Interjection.]

The ANC's plan to increase VAT was more than ill-considered. It was an act of economic cruelty, it was a policy born out of desperation by a Government that has run out of ideas and more tragically out of empathy. Minister Godongwana yesterday in Court insisted on pushing through this by then stating, and I quote:

“I have never suggested that I could revoke the announcement, nor will I have misled the public. From the outset of my announcement I have consistently and publicly stated that the VAT rate will increase to 15,5% on 1 May. That remains my position.”

Well, not anymore, not under our watch, because the pressure from the Democratic Alliance did work. [Applause] We stood firm, we fought, not for headlines but on principle and we won. There will be no VAT increase on 1 May. This is the people's victory and the DA's determination in action. To the residents of Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Nyanga, Philippi, Mitchells Plain, Heideveld, Athlone, know this, the Democratic Alliance is on your side and we will do everything in our power to protect you from the economic

injustice and misgovernance of the ANC. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Unlike others we will not ululate in Parliament for voting the raise in VAT. Let me be clear, the Patriotic Alliance, ActionSA, ANC, IFP, Al Jama-ah, RISE Mzansi, BOSA, UDM, PAC, they all voted in favour of VAT increase. You do not get to celebrate that VAT defeat today. You were on the wrong side of history.

Hon Speaker, VAT is not a once off charge like a sales tax, it is applied at every stage of the production and sales process, from the farmer harvesting raw sugar, to the manufacturer producing a sweet, to the shopkeeper selling it at a local spaza, VAT is collected and remitted at every point. Raising VAT is not simply a tax increase; it is a direct blow to the poor. It impacts those who are already shouldering the heaviest burdens, especially black women and single mothers heading households, and we are not talking about luxury goods, we are talking about essentials, food, toiletries, electricity and school supplies. This was not a tax increase; it was a direct assault on the poor. The DA stood between the poor and the State's hunger for more tax and we won.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Globally VAT is recognised as a regressive tax. Closer to home in 2018, Mr Zane Dangor, the DG of DIRCO, sounded the

alarm, he warned that the VAT increase from 14% to 15% will harm working class South Africans, most particularly black women and single mothers. He criticised the then finance Minister Malusi Gigaba for using what he called blunt instruments to plug a R50,8 billion revenue shortfall. Dangor highlighted how most zero-rated food items lack nutritional value and warns that a VAT hike will push poor families towards even cheaper, less healthy alternatives, undermining our public health goals of reducing obesity, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases linked to nutrition, and even though supposedly zero-rated VAT goods still require electricity and water to prepare, both of which are subject to VAT. So in practice even the basics cost more.

This was not governance; it was economic negligence from the ANC. It was betrayal disguised as fiscal policy. The ANC tried to fix its Budget failures by taxing those with no buffer, no credit cards and no savings and no voice. It is disgraceful, hon House Chairperson. Raising VAT was a lazy answer from a tired Government, the easy route of taxing the poor instead of confronting “your own policy failures”, and let me end with this, you cannot tax your way out of incompetence. You cannot govern by force of habit. You cannot lead by default. The DA stood tall, we stopped VAT, we protected the vulnerable in Khayelitsha, in Gugulethu, in Nyanga, we showed what principled opposition looks like, and come 2026, more South Africans will remember who truly will not forget ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, please take your seat.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ... not just with [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, please take your seat. Hon Petrus, is that a point of order? [Interjection.]

Mr B PETRUS (PA): [Inaudible]

An HON MEMBER: He says he does not want to listen to you...

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] pro-poor party.

The SPEAKER: I will address that when the hon member comes back. Hon Leader of the Official Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon Masipa, with great respect [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please tell me is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon Masipa is

misleading the House. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He does!

An HON MEMBER: Uh-uh!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The DA is not part of the Opposition; they are in the governing GNU at the moment. They [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed that is not a point of order. Hon Masipa, you have got a couple of seconds remaining, please conclude.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you House-Speaker. The DA stood tall, we stopped VAT, we protected the vulnerable in Khayelitsha and Gugulethu. [Interjection.] We showed what principled opposition look like and come 2026 more South Africans will remember who ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, please conclude.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ... for their dignity, not just with words, but with action. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Masipa.

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, before I recognise the hon Stoffel, can I just get an indication if you need the podium?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Yes.

The SPEAKER: Alright, we will give them an opportunity for the podium. Hon members, I just want to alert you, order members! I just want to alert you that we are having some technical glitches with the clock, Minister Londt, so we are doing it manually in the interest of time in continuing the session, so if you do not see the clock on the screen, we are dealing with that at the moment.

Hon Stoffel, please take your seat. Hon members, I just want to address hon Petrus and all hon members, when you exit the Chamber, if you could please do so on your side of where you are seated and not in the middle of the floor. I do not want you to be accused by your colleagues on the floor that you are crossing the floor. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: But he has crossed it so many times. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, I am on the floor. So, hon members, that is just parliamentary practice, if you could please just adhere to that. Alright, hon Stoffel if you are ready, then I recognise you.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you Speaker. I am ready. What a day!
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: What a day.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, members of the people of the Western Cape. I rise today to contribute to the critical debate on the impact of VAT increase on the provincial expenditure and the cost of living. We are confronting a crisis, the relentless rise in the cost of living and the crushing burden that it imposes on the poor. But today we must also address an act of political deception. Let us be clear that the VAT increase this [Inaudible.] certainly harms the working class and the poor. VAT is regressive
[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Listen! Listen! Listen! [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): VAT is a regressive tax that falls hardest on those already struggling under economic deprivation and hardship. Listen carefully! For household living on the pittance afforded by the low wages or social grants, every VAT increase strip away what little buying powers they possess. Essential goods such as food, electricity and transport, already consume most of their income, further... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No, we give you the history of the damage of VAT, that increasing VAT would worsen the cost of living crisis, plunging more families into poverty, meanwhile the wealthy, who is the DA ...
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ouch!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ..., have been repeatedly [Inaudible] remains shielded from the economic violence, profiting at the expense of workers and the poor. We recognise its reality, which is why the ANC Government refrained from raising the VAT for 28 years. [Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): From 1994 to 2018, the 1% VAT increase in 2018 was necessary to fund critical initiatives including the free higher education. When a 2% VAT hike was recently proposed, the ANC was the first to reject it. [Interjection.]

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I would like to know whether the member wants to take a question?

An HON MEMBER: No, sit down, sit down.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Must I sit down, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Okay, I will answer to you, not the anti-poor party.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Walters. Hon Stoffel, are you prepared to take a question?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Walters, I am working here, allow me to do so. [Applause] When a 2% ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, in the interest of process, are you prepared to take a question, yes or no?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The hon Stoffel is not prepared to take a question, you may continue.

An HON MEMBER: Continue with ...[Inaudible.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The ANC was the first party to reject it, instructing Treasury to reconsider. It is the ANC, alongside other parties...
[Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.] [Applause]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Listen carefully DA! Listen carefully DA!
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Stoffel, if I need to protect you, you need to speak to me and not to the colleagues across the floor. So please speak to me then I am able to protect you.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I like this topic, hon Speaker, thank you very much. The ANC along the other parties, including those outside the Government of National Unity, that engage intensively, deliberations, ultimately leading Treasury to scrap the planned increase. The victory was not the doing of those who sought to hold the country hostage by demanding the repeal of the Expropriation of Act, NHI and the Bela Act, as conditions for passing the Budget. As we debate this issue we must expose the blunt hypocrisy of the Democratic Alliance ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ... a party rooted in new liberal policies that favour the elite, now pretending to stand with the poor [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, my apologies, hon Stoffel, please take your seat. Hon Masipa, is that a point of order?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, yes, it is a point of order. I think the hon member is misleading the House. She is talking about expropriation of the Act, we do not know what Act is that?

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa that is not a point of order. Hon Stoffel, you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you hon Speaker. You are not going to stop me! As we debate this issue we must expose the blunt hypocrisy of the Democratic Alliance, a party rooted in all liberal policies that favour [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, please take your seat.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ... now pretending [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, please take your seat. Can the Table Staff please just manage the time? I must see that the clock has been put back. So members just for your noting. Hon Walters, is that a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Yes hon Chair, the member is indeed misleading the House. We are not trying to stop her; we want her to keep talking with this comedy show. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon members... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible] this kindergarden.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, that is not a point of order, hon Walters. Hon members, I must also caution you for frivolous points of orders. [Interjection.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Yes.

The SPEAKER: It is my responsibility to ensure that the decorum of the House is maintained, but also so that the person on the floor is protected to give his or her input. So I want to caution all members on frivolous points of orders which I am not going to entertain. Hon Nkondlo, is that a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): [Inaudible]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Stoffel, you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. They come here pretending to care but we know the truth. Their sudden worry for poor families is hard to believe, it is fake and dishonest. The DA's anger about the VAT increase is not because they care about the poor; it is just acting, a rich party pretending to help. Where were they when the DA Government in the Western Cape, especially in the City of Cape Town, raised electricity prices by 17% in one year? Where were they when the poor people had to pay more for basic services and poor taxes? [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey! Yes!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The people know the truth. The truth is that the Western Cape is the most expensive province for the poor, not by accident, but by the DA's design. Hon Speaker, let us speak plainly and make it clear that a cleaner in Khayelitsha spends nearly half of her income just to travel to work. [Interjection.] A pensioner in Mitchells Plain is charged hundreds in electricity levies before they even switch on the lights. A young couple in Gugulethu cannot afford rent in their own city, whilst the DA sells public land to private developers. This is not caring governance, this is systematic exclusion.

Hon Speaker, the DA now opposes the very Budget and VAT hikes that their own Deputy Minister helped create, just to score political points while pretending to care for the poor. No, you do not care for the poor. Now the DA must prove that its words are meaning something. For months they came to fight the poor, so let them cut the high prices for the City of Cape Town [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, your time has expired, please just conclude.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Fix unfair property taxes that hurt the poor, upgrade townships instead of neglecting them; make transport cheaper and [Inaudible] for workers. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Stoffel.

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I just get an indication Minister, do you need the podium? Alright, in that case I recognise the hon Minister Wenger.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. This year's Budget cycle has been one for the books, stops and starts, confusion, and quite frankly a lot of chaos. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: The worst part of it.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: At the heart of it a VAT hike that would come at the expense of every South African. The additional 1% staggered over two years would have seen almost every Goods and Service become more expensive and tipping more families into poverty. As a party the DA has stood firm against a VAT increase, and in finding ways of governing that does not raise the cost of living for our poorest residents. This is a victory for all South Africans. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear! [Applause]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: It is clear that the ANC was unprepared to make the hard choices until they were forced into a corner by the DA which took them to Court. [Interjection.]

It is no coincidence that this VAT U-turn comes directly after a disastrous day in Court. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: For weeks the ANC doubled down on the VAT increase [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: What about [Inaudible]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Just a few days ago the Finance Minister [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, it is a political debate, so I am not going to try and stifle your right to heckle across the floor, but please do not drown out the speaker on the floor. The minute a speaker must start shouting over the microphone it becomes a problem. So like when you are on the floor I will protect you, I will do the same for the hon Minister on the floor now. Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: It is no coincidence that the VAT U-turn comes directly after a disastrous day in Court. We know that for weeks the ANC doubled down on the VAT increase. Just a few days ago the national Finance Minister said, “if there was another option I would have taken it”, and again in his answering affidavit on Tuesday he said, “the decision to introduce the VAT rate increase has been made. My decision to introduce the change cannot be interdicted at this stage.” [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Joh!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: He said in papers that a VAT hike reversal would immediately force Government to cut expenditure. I do not know about you, Mr Speaker, but I think that cutting spending seems like a good idea. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Joh! Yeah.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: The National Government should conduct a spending review, reign in runaway spending, establish responsible fiscal discipline and cut down on the billions lost every year to waste, mismanagement and corruption. As we all know from our own lives, we need to look at the money we have and spend it where it matters most. The people of South Africa do this every day and it is high time we had a Government that was willing to do this as well. We could start by cutting the fees of the Board of the National Housing Finance Corporation that earn R23 000 per board member per meeting. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Joh!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Or the numerous splurges on non-essential spending items that plague the front pages of our newspapers every day. Hon Speaker, South Africa urgently needs economic reforms that will ignite growth and combat poverty. No more quick cash-

grabs, no more taxing people who are already stretched to their limits. We know that to lift millions of people out of poverty we have to grow the pie, not just carve it up differently. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: And yet, hon Speaker, in their statements this morning and again in this House, the ANC has the gall to attempt a rewrite of history, but South Africans know the truth and so do we. It seems that the ANC is not willing to cut the fat, but is willing to cut the truth. It was the DA that took a firm stand, because we believe that the Constitution matters, that fiscal discipline matters and that the well-being of South Africans matter before any desperate attempt to plug a budget hole with a regressive tax.

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Speaker, the DA fought this in Parliament, in public and in the Courts, because that is what it means to put the interests of South Africans first. The Western Cape Government has been clear on what our Apex Priority is, to help businesses grow and create jobs, and to equip our residents to get those jobs. We live out this vision through our transversal Growth for Jobs strategy which aims to drive, break out economic growth job creation and a resilient and thriving economy. We have set ourselves an ambitious target to build a trillion rand

jobs-rich inclusive and sustainable economy, growing at 4 – 6% annually in the Western Cape by 2035. This has the potential to create 600 000 jobs.

[Interjection.]

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, I just want to check if the hon Minister is prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the hon Minister. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: I have got quite a lot to get through.

The SPEAKER: No, the hon Minister is not prepared to take your question. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. This Growth for Jobs strategy has the potential to create over 600 000 jobs. Hon Speaker, in the last two financial years the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness has walked a tightrope. We have made the tough decision, freezing the filling of posts and meticulously managing our Goods and Services budget, as the Province's largest procurer we buy everything from medicines

to medical equipment to linen and cleaning products, and we do so with care, because we know that every cent counts.

But let us bring this even closer to home, hon Mr Speaker, let us talk about what this VAT increase would have meant for the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, a frontline service. Had the VAT increase been implemented it would have meant that come next Friday we would be paying an extra R50 million, not on medication, not on beds, not on nurses, but just on the VAT. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Can I just ask that the Table Staff manage the time. Hon Stoffel, is that a point of order?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, through you, can I offer the hon Minister water?

An HON MEMBER: [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon members, order! Hon members, I have made a comment earlier on frivolous point of orders. I am cautioning members now again, this is the last caution, you are absolutely in your right to use the Parliamentary Privileges and Rules at your disposal; but frivolous points of orders is in my domain, and that is to assist myself as the Presiding Officer with ensuring that the decorum of the House is maintained. Hon members, for the last time, frivolous points of orders will not be

entertained. Hon Minister, my apologies, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: That is money that would have left the frontline, hon Mr Speaker, but in the Western Cape we continue to do what we have always done, protect services, support the most vulnerable and spend responsibly. But let us be honest, we cannot tax our way out of poor governance or stagnation, and we cannot build a healthier South Africa by making life harder for the very people we are meant to serve.
[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: We need a Government, a National Government that puts people first. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible] Tell ? something (repeated)

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I see that the hon Petrus has got the podium. Hon Petrus, I recognise you.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker and colleagues, I greet all the people of the Western Cape, and I am speaking on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance. Finally the VAT increase has been cancelled and scrapped.
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Our President Mr Gayton McKenzie said today the following, I quote:

“The winner here is the voter and not political parties. We created the confusion and the stress.”

This is indeed a remarkable victory for the unemployed and the working class. Our mothers have some relief. The shops can keep prices stable. Thank you to all parties that never run away from the negotiating table, never stop representing our people. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey, hey!

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): DA, waar staan julle op die oomblik? [Lag.] [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): DA, where do you stand at the moment?] [Laughs.] [Interjection.]

† ‘n AGB LID: Agter die deur. [Lag.]

[An HON MEMBER: Behind the door. [Laughs.]]

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Julle staan met julle een voet binne die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid, en met julle ander voet buite die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid. Watter deurmekaarspul en verwarring kan dit nie wees vir julle Ministers en vir julle openbare verteenwoordigers nie. [Tussenwerpsel.] Ons

wil die volgende herhaal, enige plan van afskeiding, om die Wes-Kaap verder te isoleer van die res van Suid Afrika, sal nie geduld word. Dankie.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): You stand with one foot in the Government of National Unity, and with your other foot outside the Government of National Unity. What chaos and confusion it must not be for your Ministers and for your public representatives. [Interjection.] we want to repeat the following, any plan of secession to further isolate the Western Cape from the rest of South Africa will not be tolerated. Thank you.]

† ‘n AGB LID: *Yes!* Dankie!

[An HON MEMBER: Yes! Thank you!]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Petrus. Can I just get an indication, hon Cassiem, do you need the podium? In that case I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the EFF notes the withdrawal of the VAT increase, or rather the reversal of the VAT increase, hon Speaker, and we would like to point out that from the outset the EFF has condemned and rejected the prolonged VAT increase of 0,5%, which was originally planned, hon Speaker, to be implemented over a period of two years.

Hon Speaker, if proceeded with the brunt of these increases would have had a further negative and detrimental impact on the lives of the poor and middle

class, who are already battling with the effects of a non-growing economy, unemployment and inflation. This would have been nothing but a malicious taxation of the poor, which in turn would have shielded and protected the predominantly white monopoly corporate sector, which often gets away with undermining the South African economy through illicit financial flows and tax invasion.

Hon Speaker, we share the sentiments which holds that VAT increases will not automatically lead to any growth or increases in revenue, since there is a lot of things done wrong by this Government, both nationally and provincially, but will instead reap apart the poor and subject them to more hardship. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey!

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, there is absolutely no need to have burdened the poor rather, hon Speaker, by increasing VAT, but what is required is for this National Government to capacitate the South African Revenue Services in order to decisively deal with illicit financial flows and go hard against those who evade tax in order to have more revenue which can be used by the State for services.

But hon Speaker, as the DA celebrates and claims victory on the reversal of the tax, the DA is also not innocent in all of this, hon Speaker, as the majority of our DA-led municipalities, as well as in the Western Cape,

constantly continue to increase rates annually against the poor, even in the clearest of cases where it is evident that our people cannot keep and afford [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, as of 1 July 2025 municipalities in the Western Cape ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Cassiem, please take your seat. Hon members, there is a member on the floor, the interjections are actually not aimed at the member, but it is a conversation that is happening across the floor between my left and my right side, so hon Cassiem, my apologies. Hon members, please afford the member an opportunity. Hon Cassiem, you may continue.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, so as of 1 July 2025, municipalities in the Western Cape under the DA leadership are proposing to increase municipal rates at an average of 8% tariff increase, whilst the City of Cape Town, also DA, is leading the way with an average of 18,17%, with an additional proposed tariff for city wide cleaning, our cleaning tariff, which is also to be added, hon Speaker. In areas such as the Southern Suburbs, these increases will vary between 30 to 40%, with pensioners raising concerns that this will have a negative; or rather a further

negative impact on them since their pension income is not increasing at that rate.

This means that for the poor, hon Speaker, and the unemployed, the situation will be even more dire. But, hon Speaker, in conclusion, like I said, as the DA celebrates and claims the victory of the tax increase withdrawal by National Treasury, they should start, and they should also not forget to ask their DA municipalities, hon Speaker, to withdraw these proposed tariff increases to make life a bit easier for our people, especially in areas like Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, among others. Thank you, hon Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. Hon Johnson, do you need the podium? In that case I recognised the hon Johnson.

An HON MEMBER: The young lion.

An HON MEMBER: The young lion.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, let me begin by welcoming the decision to scrap the proposed VAT increase. This is a victory for the people of South Africa. But let us not forget why we fought so hard against it. VAT is a

regressive tax. It takes the same from the wealthiest South Africans as it does from the poorest, but the impact is far from equal. It punishes the poor and working class most. Families who spend almost everything they earn on essentials like food, transport, rent, school supplies and medicine.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): This is not about tightening belts, it is about choosing which necessity to go without; a choice between needs, not a choice of wants. Hon Speaker, imagine a grandmother in the Central Karoo, her pension already stretches thin. A VAT increase might only mean R12 or R20 more on her monthly groceries, but that can mean the difference between bread or her medication. That does not sound like much in this Chamber, but outside 7 Wale Street, for my constituents in the Central Karoo and the constituents of all other members in this House, this is the lived experience of a possible VAT hike. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): This is not theory, food prices in rural areas are already high due to transport and logistics. VAT affects not just items but the entire supply chain, petrol, rent and distribution. Even a 0,5% increase would quietly push vulnerable South Africans deeper into poverty, and while VAT is a national tax, its consequences land on provinces, less disposable income means more strain on public health, education, transport and social

development. The Western Cape already stretches every rand, especially in rural areas. This increase would have shifted national failure onto households, and then onto provincial governments.

Hon Speaker, this entire VAT saga, from the proposal to the reversal has shown us one thing, that the ANC Government is rudderless. Policy instability, lack of consultation and public outcry have all harmed market confidence. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes! You see!

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Investors do not respond well to this kind of chaos. It also undermines our provincial mission of equity; take the Central Karoo where our per capita spending is 34% above the provincial average. We do this to close the urban rural gap, but VAT eats into every cent of that spending, diminishing the impact of every rand that we have allocated. Hon Speaker, the ANC had choices, they could have cut waste. Why spend hundreds of millions on VIP protection, why lose billions to corruption and mismanagement, why spend billions on ghost employees, raising more and more taxes from the poor? This is not just inappropriate, it is like a vampire state sucking money from the most vulnerable.

†Agbare Speaker, en dan is daar die Patriotic Alliance, 'n party [Tussenwerpsel.] [Hon Speaker, and then there is the Patriotic Alliance, a party ...[Interjection.]]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Johnson, kan jy asseblief jou sitplek inneem. [The SPEAKER: Hon Johnson, can you please take your seat?] Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is the hon Johnson willing to take a question?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the hon Johnson. Hon Johnson, are you prepared to take a question?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): No, I am not, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The hon Johnson is not prepared to take a question. Hon Johnson, you may continue.

†Mnr P JOHNSON (DA): En dan is daar die Patriotic Alliance, agb Speaker, 'n party wat voorgee om vir die landelike gemeenskappe en armes te praat, maar wie se dade hulle verrai. Hierdie selfde party wat hardop 'n 2% verhoging verwerp het, maar toe vir 'n 0.5%-verhoging gesteun het. 'n Draaipunt wat die waarheid ontbloom [Tussenwerpsel.] Die PA gee nie regtig om vir die werkersklas nie. Hul belofte van 'n Dubai in die Karoo is nog steeds net 'n illusie. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr P JOHNSON (DA): And then there is the Patriotic Alliance, hon Speaker, a party pretending to care for the rural communities and poor but whose deeds betray them. This same party that loudly rejected a 2% increase, but then supported a 0.5% increase. A turning point exposing the truth [Interjection.] The PA does not really care for the working class. Their promise of a Dubai in the Karoo is still just an illusion. [Interjection.]]

The DA took legal action not only because the tax or it was a bad policy decision, but because it was steamrolled without any consultation. Yesterday's outcome proves that principled opposition works, public pressure matters, and the Court matters. Democracy works when leaders listen. Hon Speaker, we govern in this province, we are entrusted with public money and we listen.

From Murraysburg to Uniondale, Napier to Touws River, Ceres to Mitchells Plain, Darling to Wupperthal, and Lutzville to Kliprand, our people told us “life is getting harder.” We heard them and we acted. This tax would have hurt everyone but especially the poor. It would have raised the cost of living, deepened inequality and offered no long term solution. Because we stood firm, that burden has now been lifted.

†Agb Speaker, kiesers regoor hierdie provinsie weet dat daar 'n hele paar van hierdie lede is in hierdie Huis wat van landelike gebiede af kom. Vir ons gemeenskappe moet ons as ‘n baken van hoop gesien word, en ons kom uit landelike gemeenskappe en vandag is ons leiers van hierdie provinsie. Dit

beteken dat ons beter as enigiemand anders die uitdagings wat ons gemeenskappe in die gesig staar, moet verstaan.

Maar agb Speaker, vandag wil ek graag deur u, die lede van die ANC, Patriotic Alliance, Al Jama-ah en Good vra of hierdie BTW-verhoging wat hulle ondersteun het tot voordeel of nadeel van die kiesers sal wees in hierdie provinsie wat vir hulle gestem het, want ons almal in hierdie Huis was toevertrou met 'n stem om die beste belange van almal te verteenwoordig. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Hon Speaker, voters all over this province know that there are quite a few members in this House who come from rural areas. To our communities we must be seen as a beacon of hope and we come from rural communities and today we are leaders of this province. That means that we should understand the challenges facing our communities better than anyone else.]

But hon Speaker, today I want to, through you, ask the members of the ANC, Patriotic Alliance, Al Jama-ah and Goowill if this VAT increase will be to the advantage or disadvantage of the voters in this province who had voted for them, because all of us in this House were entrusted with a vote to represent the best interests of all. [Interjection.]]

† 'n AGB LID: [Onduidelik] Afrikaans is.

[An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible ...Afrikaans is.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, as Minister Baartman said in her

Budget speech, that the Western Cape will never stop working for the people of this province. We will fight for every citizen in every town across the Western Cape. Hon Speaker, the DA cares about the dignity of every South African. We will continue to fight for a government that balances its books, not on the back of the poor, but through real leadership, fiscal discipline and pro-growth reforms. Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Johnson. Die volgende lid is agb Jacobs.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Johnson. The next member is hon Jacobs.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Greetings to all, I greet you all in the name of the Most High. †Agb Speaker, ek is so gelukkig vandag, as my ore nie hier was nie dan lag ek seker my kop af, [Hon Speaker, I'm so happy today, if my ears had not been here I would have laughed my head off, and here is why, [Laughs.] ek *connect* met die *universe*. I connect with the universe.]

† 'n AGB LID: Ek sien jou.

[An HON MEMBER: I see you.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker, as I stand here today, the VAT

increase of 0,5% has just been cancelled and it will stay at 15%. Now hon Speaker, if the mainstream media is to believe that we must thank the DA for this, then we have a problem with the media. [Interjection.] If we go back in history, it was fighting for freedom, including media freedom. Today we see how the media is compromised by promoting the DA's propaganda. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah, exactly, yes!

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker, this is grandstanding in the highest form, but the multi-party discussions such as the ANC and the NCC and other political parties must be applauded for this. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Applause]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): As a matter of fact, looking at the proposed budget of the City of Cape Town, increased cost for services and rates should have the DA hang their heads in shame. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hypocrites, yeah.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): The rich will not feel this, but the poor will suffer. This is travesty of justice to the poor and the unemployed people of the City of Cape Town, and although the VAT has no increase, the increase in services and rates, not only in the City of Cape Town, but across the DA-run

Western Cape will damage the already suffering people of this province. As the NCC we are proud to say that we were part of the VAT discussion [Interjection.] and as for the DA who was prepared to agree for the 2% VAT increase if the ANC stood down the land issue, we simply say, “down with the DA.” I thank you. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Sjoe, sjoe!

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

† ‘n AGB LID: Skaam jou, sies.

[An HON MEMBER: Shame on you, siss.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Jacobs. Can I just get an indication, hon Marais; are you on the online platform?

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Yes I am, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, just give me one second, we are just sorting out the digital clock. There we go. I recognise you, hon Marais, you may continue.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the recent announcement that VAT will not increase by 0,5% on 1 May 2025 is indeed a victory for all South Africans, and especially, hon Speaker, the

parties such as the Freedom Front Plus, who did not support the increase in terms of the fiscal framework. Hon Speaker, those political parties who voted in favour of the increase deserve an opportunity to explain themselves to their voters and apologise for their mistakes.

For the past thirty years South Africans had one political party at the helm of National Government decisions. Policies were implemented that failed to address the causes of poverty and a declining economy. BEE is one of the major causes of our failing economy and the failures of State-owned Enterprises. It is time that we as South Africans look inwardly, as is what is happening in the USA, they are starting to look inwardly to resolve the economic crisis and their financial challenges.

We cannot continue to burden hard working citizens with VAT increases, it is unjust and unfair. The Government of National Unity must set a new agenda for a financial and economic recovery and press the reset button on expenditure. Hon Speaker, future decisions must be taken by the Government of National Unity to expand our progress, and the multi-party Government of National Unity must be the decision-making body and not those outside the GNU. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus will continue to play its role in the hard work of rebuilding a better future for all our citizens. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Hon Minister, before I recognise you, hon Minister Baartman, do you need the podium? In that case I recognise the hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government welcomes the scrapping of the VAT increase hike. It is not a neutral policy, it is regressive, it is anti-poor, and it would have been a direct assault on the hard-working people of South Africa. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Speaker, to put the impact of VAT on the Western Cape Government into context, procurement sits at the heart of service delivery. Once you take Compensation of Employees, which is accounted for, which is 55% of our Budget, you take that out, the next largest portion goes to Goods and Services, amounting to R19,074 billion, or 21,7% of our total 2025 Budget. A 0,5% VAT increase, not accounting for zero-rated, exempt goods, or VAT exempt suppliers, would have forced us to find an estimated additional R95,37 million for medical supplies and equipment, educational materials, computers and building maintenance and construction. These are not luxuries, but necessities of a functioning service delivery-obsessed government.

Preliminary data on our top ten suppliers in our Province showed an almost R9,9 billion in expenditure for only eleven months ending in March 2025. A 0,5% VAT increase on this amount would have equalled a R46 million hike. We could have seen potential increases of more than R8,8 million for building and contractor costs, R3,18 million for laboratory services, and

R4,22 million for medicine, medical supplies and equipment; and this, hon Speaker, is just an analysis of our top ten suppliers. These figures are therefore conservative as they also do not include the impact VAT would have had on our transfers to entities and municipalities.

Hon Speaker, I just need to quickly do some recycling here, because apparently South Africa does not have a national budget. [Interjection.] This is the Appropriation Bill nationally and Division of Revenue. This side of the House ... [Interjection.] ... does not have a budget, so we need to recycle. Hon Speaker, given the impact of the announcement of the withdrawal of the National Appropriations Bill and the Division of Revenue Bill of 2025, there has also been concern about how this might impact the Provincial Western Cape Budget. The start of the financial year was 1 April 2025, today is the 24th, therefore according to Section 29 of the Public Finance Management Act, our national and provincial governments will spend in terms of the 2024 National and Provincial Budgets, for the first four months of the new 2025 financial year we are allowed to spend up to 45% of our total amount appropriated in the previous annual Budget, and for each of the following months we are allowed to spend up to 10% of our total amount appropriated. However in total you cannot exceed the full 100% of the total amount of your previous Budget.

So hon Speaker, just for those listening in, asking many questions about what happens to the Budget in the Province, so if you had a total Budget hypothetically of a R100 in 2024, including your adjusted amounts, you may

not spend more than R45 in your first four months, and every month thereafter not more than R10. But however, you will notice that this will add up to R125 which is a concern, because you are only allowed to spend 100%, or that hypothetical R100 you had previously. So that additional R25 could amount to unauthorised expenditure. Therefore every province and the National Government must manage our cash flow in such a manner to make sure we never exceed 100%.

As a province we wish to assure the people of the Western Cape that we will work with care to ensure that we do not exceed the legal limits. In fact, if we use our previous financial year as a road map we will remain well within our spending limits, and this is responsibility. In the meantime we will spend against our Provincial Revenue Fund. I would like to remind the House that the Western Cape Government took a prudent approach with its own Provincial Budget previously in March, and we did not table any new or additional money that was announced, attached to the VAT hike announcement, therefore the Provincial Budget of the Western Cape which we tabled, was in line with the previous national fiscal framework as if no VAT hike existed.

The Western Cape Government has always remained clear; we have significant budget pressures, especially in Health, Education and Social Services. But funding should come from fast tracking economic growth reforms cutting wasteful expenditure and reprioritising spending not increasing VAT. If through implementing these proposals, additional funding

flows to the provinces, we will then bring in an adjusted budget to pass such funding along. We however call upon the Minister of Finance to ensure that he does not cut the pre-VAT provincial fiscal framework, as the impact of this would have a devastating impact on service delivery in provinces. Such a decision would be illogical and fiscally irresponsible.

But, hon Speaker today is a victory for the hard-working people of South Africa and of the Western Cape. It is a day we will always remember, a day where we can hold up our Constitution and remind the National Government it is not your money, it is the people's money and we, the people of South Africa, say no to VAT increases. I thank you.

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister Baartman. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Baartman.] I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is not for the DA to claim moral victory over the reversal of the proposed VAT increase. They were prepared to accept the VAT increase if the Bela Bill was scrapped and if they could carry on with the kind of ruling to keep our people oppressed. Al Jama-ah and the ANC and other parties were genuinely concerned about the proposed VAT increase, thus Al Jama-ah has played a decisive role in the political life of South Africa and has successfully played a fundamental role to turn the tide on the proposed

VAT increase. As a party committed to justice in equity, Al Jama-ah has consistently opposed oppressive taxation, including VAT which disproportionately impacts the poor and working class people. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] the Bela Bill.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Through extensive negotiations and unwavering advocacy, our leader made it clear to our Government of National Unity that a VAT increase is not only unjust, but also counter to the spirit of building a people-centred economy. We remind the House of the Leader of the ANC, Chief Albert Luthuli's famous words, and I quote:

“Let my people go...”

It is a clear message to free South Africans from the chains of excessive taxation.

The victory on the reversal on VAT increases is not just a party triumph, but a victory for every South African household. Delaying the passing of the fiscal framework would have caused anxiety amongst the food security of 45% of South Africans. Passing it was the right step to do and for thirty days to use parliamentary processes, going to the Court, undermine the people's Parliament, and the DA has showed that it committed contempt for parliamentary processes ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Mr Brinkhuis, your time has expired, please conclude.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ... by choosing to run to the Court and of its members ran to the Zionist Israeli apartheid entity. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Die SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. Hon Christians, do you need the podium? Hon Christians, I recognise you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am totally confused, because all political parties now voted against the VAT increase, even the ANC.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.] [Applause]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We were definitely one of the political parties that opposed the VAT increase and to think the ANC was looking at the 2% VAT increase. Hon Speaker, the people has got long memories and I believe, the ACDP believes that the ANC and all those who voted in favour of the VAT increase will see that they will be buried; buried at the 2026 Local Government Elections, because people, if you hit their pocket, they are going to hit you at the polling booth, and that is how the people show their anger. But, hon Speaker, let me further say, the Budget must be pro-growth [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You see!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We must create jobs, but hon Speaker, we will do so well, the National Government will do so well if they just only look at the tax gap. The tax gap I am talking about is between what is owed to SARS and what they collect. It is estimated that there is R800 billion that is not collected, and if they just do their work and give SARS the necessary power in revenue sources, we believe we can bridge this gap.

But hon Speaker, let me say in closing, and it is so important to say this, this is a victory for the people, and we cannot take it away, we must say the DA took them to the Court and we must say thank you to the DA for taking the ANC to the Court. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Joh! Haibo!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We must do that, give credit where credit is due. If it was any other political party I would have given credit. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey!

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): But this was turned around because of the

Court, and not of the ANC, it is because the DA took them to Court. I thank you.

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

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Hon Nkondlo [Interjection.] Order members! Order! Hon Nkondlo, before I recognise you, do you need the podium? Hon Nkondlo does not need the podium, so I recognise you, hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Good afternoon and thank you, hon Speaker. Today indeed is one of those interesting days when you sit in a parliament of a province led by the Democratic Alliance. I must say I am reminded of what Amílcar Cabral spoke about then and it is so true today that you must “tell no lies and claim no easy victories.”

An HON MEMBER: [Laughter.] Uh-huh.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): The topic of discussion is an interesting one given the recent developments about the position of the Finance Minister to withdraw, to proceed with the implementation of the 0,5% increase of VAT from 1 May 2025, a move to be welcomed by all, given the low economic growth under which South Africa's economy still suffers from. But also we

must clap hands to the revelation of a DA crossing the floor, to now a newfound class consciousness, as self-declared champions of the poor.
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Uh-huh. Yes!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Indeed we live in interesting political times where the political landscape is shifting in the country and maybe we must celebrate the GNU effects, if they can even enable the DA to remember the working class and the poor. It is interesting to think about this, because one of the things we ask the DA here in this particular province - where was this pro-poor when you allowed your City of Cape Town to drag naked Bulelani Qolani here in Khayelitsha, hon Masipa, from his shack, until the Court had to tell you that it was unlawful to do so.

An HON MEMBER: Hey! Yeah!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Where has this trick of being pro-poor been when you continued to evict homeless people in the streets here in this town?
[Interjection.] We are interested to understand this trick of the DA of being pro-poor [Interjection.] and MEC of Health, when you tell us about you being pro-poor, where is Tandi? [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Speaker?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You were standing here one time talking about how you will be improving conditions, even creating a character “Tandi” from the townships. Where is Tandi today? There are many things that you have said and you have spoken here talking, this pro-poor language, but when we look for evidence of this pro-poor from yourself, we rarely find it. It is in this province here that yourselves as the DA, you watched with the then MEC Maynier, giving your former DA MP, who became a CEO of one of the entities an almost 80% increase of salary, Tim Harris in Wesgro.

So do not come and play here theatrics to us. It is important that we talk about the poor because their issues are genuine, and it is just out of order that they become a political game amongst yourselves. The ANC remains committed to the plight of the poor as evidenced by its choice of progressive tax system, to address economic equity through our National Budget. This has been chosen to redistribute wealth and reduce income inequality, thus the arguments remain valid in a country with high levels of wealth inequality; that perhaps – isn't it proper to introduce wealth tax in the basket of alternative revenue sources for the country?

As the Parliamentary Budget Office analysis suggests that a 0,5% to 1% net wealth tax would have raised R38,4 billion in 2023. On another study by Chatterjee (et al) it suggests that under conservative assumptions, a wealth tax could raise between 70 and 160 billion when taxed at a level of 1,5% to 3,5%. Will the DA join this call on behalf of the poor? The Constitution of the RSA is a winner in this move, as for the first time our democracy has

shown resilience and putting brakes against a Treasury-led Budget where indeed theirs is to save cents and over time have plunged the country in unsustainable austerity with minimal revenue raising, especially in a staggering economy.

Actually we must remind this particular House, and I thought the MEC of Finance will be one of the people to speak about it, anyway, she left the job unfinished here, that the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act 9 of 2009, had actually assisted this country wherein the voice of Parliament as the Legislature was able to be given voice, so that today we were able to even have a public and robust public participation on the Budget, something that we do not even see you doing here in this very province where you claim the poor. We have not seen you going out and getting the poor to fill this particular Chamber to raise their own voices about the Budget.

The fiscal gap is still with us, hon Speaker, and so we must be alive to this reality and leave the Blue Train to its theatrics, whilst we work together with all parties of progress to find solutions for the stability of our country and its future. Whilst the DA is busy celebrating false victories it has not answers [Inaudible] the demand shock.

Today we are sitting with the reality that agro-processing is the largest employer in manufacturing in the country. We are worried about the tariffs' impact on key exporters in this space - citrus, table grapes, and so on. We are

in engagement with many in the agri-industry in Casidra the other day with other members, and they were recalling about the effects of this in their own potential growth.

The national security tariffs which will affect the auto component sector which is served by many steel and engineering firms in the Western Cape, whose value chain now faces a 25% tariff. We have also seen a massive spike in uncertainty leading to a rise in the ten year bond yields of 11% which will make the borrowing requirements much more costly for Government and other borrowers across the economy, and yet the DA does not speak about the impact of this.

To this projected growth that you are speaking about of a trillion jobs, a trillion rand economy, which is false, because if you count, calculate in the reality of what AGOA in the next five months is going to be doing, the impact on the citrus industry, wherein you are actually projecting jobs. The reality is that those jobs may not be there, so what are you talking about? You are misleading the public. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes! Yeah!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We must start doing our job also as parliamentary committees, and ensure prudent oversight working with Auditor-General SCOPA and SCOA and all other fiscal oversight machinery at our disposal. We must go back on the fiscal leaks in our economy and the

service proposal to be assisted with capacity to collect almost R800 billion against those who evade tax, who use creative accounting to falsify tax returns and consider strict monitoring of the tax incentive, especially as the Parliamentary Budget Office Reports, that on aggregate actual employment tax incentives, credit refunds were R7,2 billion in 2020 to 2021, and was R6,6 billion in 2021 to 2022. This must be reviewed against their efficacy, as job numbers in the economy rather than ending being a slush fund for consultants and ineffective employment programs.

The increased spending on infrastructure must yield the tax benefits desired, including the social economic policy goals such as jobs, skills, including tangible empowerment benefits for poor communities. National Treasury must work with DPME to monitor the investment of the State, so we can optimally derive the benefit. He still remains the Arbiter, and indeed we shall be here to the DA to remind them of this dance of being pro-poor, and actually we shall be bringing cases of the pro-poor for you to resolve now that you have found the new love of actually “weaponizing” the issues of the poor. Thank you, hon Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Yeah! Yes!

Hon MEMBERS: [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Chairperson. I am just going to take my time, and hon members, let me start by quoting the hon Nkondlo, by her quote that she used by Amílcar Cabral.

“Tell no lies, claim no easy victories.”

It is a powerful call to integrity, honesty, humility in leadership and activism. The quote was used to remind his fellow freedom fighters that real change requires truth, hard work and accountability, not propaganda, and not shortcuts. It was the ANC Minister that introduced the 2% budget hike. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Can you imagine who is he talking about?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: It was the ANC Minister that introduced the 2% in February. It was the DA that objected to the 2%. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey, no,

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: It was the ANC Minister that then came back with a 0,5%, additional 0,5%. It was the DA that took the matter to Court. So the propaganda, the shortcuts that are now being spread by the ANC, the PA, the ActionSA, Al Jama-ah, RISE Mzansi, BOSASA, UDM, and the PAC, that had the audacity to call a press conference this morning to spread lies. It was them that tried to negotiate a way out of

the matter they voted for in Parliament. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: They had the gall to think you can sit at a press conference this morning [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Ngqentsu, is that a point of order? [Interjection.] Order member, there is a member on the floor. Is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Given the misrepresentation and distortion, is the MEC prepared to take a question?

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, thank you. Let me finish my speech, we will talk during lunch time.

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: The Minister is not ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It is.

The SPEAKER: Order members! The Minister is not prepared to take a question, hon member. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you Hon Speaker, the unmitigated gall to call a press conference to explain your way at a matter that you voted for in Parliament. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Petrus, is that a point of order?

Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Ja.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Kan ek 'n vraag stel aan die agb Minister asseblief?

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): May I put a question to the hon Minister please?]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, thank you, hon member, no to any further questions until I have completed my speech, thank you. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Hon members! Hon Petrus, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question from you. Hon Minister, you may continue.

[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. It was last night that a Federal Chairperson of the DA received a call from the lawyers, on behalf of the lawyers, on behalf of the Minister. It was in true ANC style, in true ANC-style close to midnight. That is how they destroyed this country. Close to midnight they called and say, “hey, we want to reach a deal.” [Interjection.] It was the ANC lawyers that reached out to us close to midnight, typical ANC-style.

But hon Benson, as we approach this Workers Day, seeing that the hon Benson wanted me to address him, he is standing up so he is asking for my input. Hon Benson, your workers on 1 May, seeing that you are the leader of the Workers Party, would have stood up on 1 May [Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I will recognise you now, hon member, I recognise the Leader of the Official Opposition. Is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, the hon Mackenzie is directly addressing the hon Benson, and there is no Workers Party that hon Benson represents. It is a South African Communist Party. [Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Order, hon members. There was a point of order. That is a valid of point of order. Hon Minister, can I remind you that you need to speak to me and not directly to a member? [Interjections.]

Hon Ngqentsu, do you have a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, I am covered.

The SPEAKER: Okay, thank you very much. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, Hon Speaker, via you. It was the hon member, via you, who is an elected leader of a party that represents workers. On 1 May those workers would have paid more for lunch, for sports equipment, because of a decision [Interjections.] that they took to vote for the increase in VAT. [Interjections.] That is the truth and nothing but the truth.

If the DA, the party that we represent, has not taken this matter to court, that workers on 1 May would have paid more for every single thing in this country, and that is the truth and nothing but the truth.

Hon member Stoffel, via you, hon Speaker – or perhaps let met start with hon

member Nkondlo because she was the last one, via you.

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

MR D G JACOBS (NCC): I just wanted to know is the hon Minister – will he take a question? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon – order, hon members, order! [Interjections.] Hon members, there was a point of order. The hon Minister indicated previously that he is not prepared to take any further questions, but because you rose on a point of order and I allowed that, I am going to continue with the parliamentary process. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Jacobs, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, Hon Speaker. I am going to repeat the point.

The point is if the DA did not take this matter to court these hon members and the parties that they represent would not have capitulated the 360 degree turn at midnight last night, [Interjections.] but hon member Nkondlo has

talked about low economic growth. Why do we have low economic growth?

One word: ANC. The reason we have low economic growth is because of the ANC. [Interjections.] In 2017/2018 we had low economic growth and what was the ANC's answer? [Interjections.] VAT increase from 14% to 15% to plug a R50 billion hole caused by who? The ANC. Our singular problem in this country, the ANC. [Interjections.]

So we again, hon members, have saved the country of all the problems caused by the ANC. [Interjections.]

The hon member again talks about the poor. [Interjections.] Why did we suddenly not care about the poor? It was us who care about the poor. [Interjections.] It was us who raised the issue of PRASA was going to fail. The ANC has allowed PRASA to fail over the last 10 years. [Interjections.] The ANC that gave us Jacob Zuma. [Interjections.] The ANC has allowed Transnet from the best performing port in the country in the world, top 10, to now number 325 of 326. [Interjections.] The ANC.

So the reason we are in this mess is because of the ANC and we are the ones digging our way out of the hole that they created.

So the poor should thank us for stopping this gravy train which the ANC wanted us to go further down the drain. [Interjections.]

She talks about redistributing wealth. Taxing the poor is not redistributing wealth. Additional 0,5% on services for the poor is not redistributing wealth, it is killing the poor by the ANC.

Hon members, it is us in the Western Cape that spend 80% of our budget on the poor. [Interjections.] R215 billion of our R280 billion is spent on the poor by this DA-led Government. [Interjections.]

She talks about tariff imports and the effects of AGOA, where she was going to before she ended her speech, but what was the cause of that? The ANC. [Interjections.] Solely because of the ANC that we are in this mess.

So, yes, we have been fighting for the poor for the last 30 years and continue to fight for the poor.

Hon member Stoffel, the crisis, via you, hon Speaker, caused by the ANC. The VAT increase, hon member Stoffel, via you, hon Speaker, was going to harm the working class and the DA saved the working class again, because of the ANC.

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

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

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): My point of order is the hon Minister must not personalise it to me. He must address my speech through my party, which means he must use ANC and not Beauty. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, can you protect me?

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order! There is a point of order.

Hon member Stoffel, the hon Minister, and I listened carefully, addressed through me to hon member Stoffel because you made the input, and the hon Minister is responding to inputs made. So that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you very much, and can I remind this House? [Interjections.] It is this City of Cape Town that currently provides the most free basic services in South Africa.

An HON MEMBER: What?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Yesterday was World Book Day and I would encourage hon members to go and read.

- The highest free water output in this country, City of Cape Town.
- The highest lifeline electricity, City of Cape Town. [Interjections.]
- Most pensioner benefits, City of Cape Town.
- 100% rates rebate, City of Cape Town.
- Infrastructure budget, the most spend of infrastructure budget in South Africa, City of Cape Town. [Interjections.]
- Clean audit, City of Cape Town.
- 750 kilowatts electricity, City of Cape Town. [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Let me end off. [Interjections.] The most – the reason we are – hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...as I [Interjections.] conclude ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...the only city working for the people in this country is the DA-led City of Cape Town. [Interjections.] Thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon members, interjections are allowed, but like you cannot be shouting and trying to shut down free speech in this very august House that we are elected to protect. This is ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Blue lies.

The HON SPEAKER: Order! This is the very space for different views and opinions.

That is the beast of Parliament ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I love it.

The SPEAKER: ...but the way that you – this is not a school playground. [Interjections.] You cannot shut down each other by trying to shout over I mean it is unacceptable. [Interjections.]

I have always said and from the beginning said that I will protect your right for free speech. I will protect your right to have an opportunity in terms of the Parliamentary Rules and Standing Rules and procedures, but I am not going to stand for you affecting the decorum of the House.

With that being said, hon members, that concludes the debate on this topic.

We now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Order Paper or the Question Paper in terms of Rule 197, and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Wenger.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Ms R Windvogel to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness

(a) What is the current prevalence of teenage pregnancies in the province, particularly in disadvantaged communities, and (b) what concrete measures is her Department implementing to prevent teenage pregnancies?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Teenage pregnancy remains a significant public health and social concern globally with far-reaching consequences for young mothers, their families and communities.

Adolescent mothers often face challenges such as interrupted education, limited economic opportunities and increased health risks for both themselves and their children, including an increased risk of maternal mortality, premature birth, low birthweight babies and neonatal mortality.

In South Africa teenage pregnancy is significantly higher than the global average and continues to impact adolescent health and development, despite ongoing efforts to improve contraceptive access and reproductive health education.

Data within the Western Cape indicates an overall increase in deliveries among young and teenage women across most districts from the 2022/23 to the 24/25 financial years, with the total number of adolescent deliveries rising from approximately 10 488 in 2022 to 12 750 in 2024. When broken down by age, deliveries among 10 to 14 year olds have remained relatively stable at approximately 360 deliveries per year, whereas deliveries among 15 to 19 year olds have consistently risen.

Some districts, especially in urban areas, have experienced increases over 10% between 2022 and the 2024 financial years, indicating that a significant proportion of teenage pregnancies occur in older adolescents, reinforcing the need for targeted interventions.

For women aged 15 to 19, several districts have recorded notable increases in deliveries, particularly in the Tygerberg and Mitchells Plain sub-districts in the City of Cape Town, while the West Coast district has shown slight declines.

The overall trend suggests a rise in teenage pregnancies, particularly in the City of Cape Town, Cape Winelands district and Garden Route district.

[Interjections.]

Addressing the prevalence of teen pregnancies is not solely a health issue, it is a shared responsibility between parents, communities and Government. It remains a complex issue with several factors contributing to the increasing adolescent pregnancy rates. Limited contraceptive uptake and accessibility remain significant challenges, as many young people face barriers such as stigma and misinformation from their communities and families, while clinic accessibility has also been raised as an area of concern.

Additionally gaps in comprehensive reproductive education may contribute to the rise as some adolescents lack accurate knowledge about contraception and reproductive health. At the same time teenagers who do not have supportive parents or caregivers, may be more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour.

Economic and social factors, including poverty, a lack of opportunities and peer influences may also play a role in driving up teenage pregnancy rates, particularly in urban areas. Sexual and gender-based violence, which place teenage girls at a higher risk of unintended pregnancies, are also a contributing factor.

While there are efforts across the entire Western Cape Government to prevent teen pregnancies and to support young mothers, the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness is addressing this through strengthening

existing interventions and implementing new strategies to curb teenage pregnancies.

A key initiative is the establishment of youth zones at healthcare facilities, thoughtfully designed and staff are trained to offer compassionate, non-judgemental and confidential support and medical services specifically tailored to adolescents.

Furthermore community involvement, including peer-led initiatives, parental engagement and collaboration with schools are essential in fostering long-term behavioural change and awareness.

In conclusion, the data underscores the growing challenge of teenage pregnancies with an overall rise in deliveries among young women between 2022 and 2024 years. While some districts have seen reductions others continue to report increasing numbers ...[Inaudible, Speaker interjects.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: [Inaudible]

The SPEAKER: You will get another opportunity.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Emphasising the need for sustained and enhanced interventions. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise the hon member Windvogel. Hon member Windvogel. Hon member Windvogel, do you need the podium?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Please, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Can we get the podium, please? Hon Windvogel, you may continue.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Agb Speaker en [Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker and] hon members and the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Minister of Health, my question remains, where is Thandi? I think Thandi is still where she was in the informal settlement with two kids at the moment.

I rise today as a representative of the African National Congress, but more importantly as a parent and a concerned member of society. What we are witnessing across the Western Cape is not just troubling it is a crisis and we cannot afford to stay silent.

In 2023 a total of 9 885 babies were born to girls between the age of 10 and 19 in our province. Of these 281 were children aged 10 to 14. These are not statistics, these are children, young girls who should be in school, playing

with other children and dreaming about their future. Instead they are being forced into motherhood.

In our country a 10 year old cannot legally consent to sex. These are not cases of young love, these are acts of statutory rape and they must be treated as such. From where I stand there are 281 possible rapists walking freely among us, while the girls they abuse are left with the physical and emotional burden of raising children.

Hon Speaker, teenage pregnancy is not just a health issue, it is a safety, education and justice issue. It reflects the deep failures in our social systems. Poverty, poor access to clinics, limited sex education and the absence of coordinated government actions.

In the Cape Winelands adolescent pregnancies have increased by 26% over the past three years. Many of these girls come from farming towns where poverty, overcrowded homes, boredom and poor access to healthcare created a perfect storm for exploitation, and yet, where is the urgent response from this Government? Where is the coordinated plan to protect our girls? Where is the outrage? Why is the hon Premier, who is always throwing a billion rand to solve Western Cape problems, silent on this matter? This silence clearly shows the DA is not concerned, nor does it care and this is because it is the children of the poor, the children of the domestic and farm workers that are affected by this.

Hon MEC, I ask you what are the real numbers, especially in the poor rural communities? What is your Department and Provincial Government doing to prevent this tragedy from continuing? This is not just a health issue, this is a human rights crisis. It demands urgency, political will and interdepartmental response. We must act now before we fail even more children. I thank you.

[Applause.]

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

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

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, as policy makers there are issues which we should not and never politicise. This matter is one of those matters that we should not politicise, the prevalence of teenage pregnancies.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Instead, hon Deputy Speaker, we should use the information provided by hon Minister Wenger so that we can advocate for meaningful reforms that would deal with the scourge of teenage pregnancies.

[Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC have demonstrated a lack of seriousness regarding socio-economic challenges facing our communities. [Interjections.]

These teenage pregnancies, this is the root that drives teenagers to this. There have been questions about the Thandi matter. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me tell you there are Thandis out there because of the R350 grants that entice the unemployed youth to go and make money on matters which are not what they have planned for, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

So, hon Deputy Speaker [Interjections.] – hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, [Interjections.] if we grow this economy, if we create jobs for the teenagers, they would be busy building their future instead of looking and be enticed with grants, because the grants are based on how many children that they are mothering. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Booysen. I recognise the hon member Jacobs. [Interjections.]

Hon members, I would not want to start naming members. Let us... [Incomplete.]

An HON MEMBER: I am so disappointed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the floor, hon member Jacobs.
[Interjections.]

MR D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while we notice the [Interjections.] – †ai, man [oh, man.] Guys ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon member Jacobs, you may proceed.

MR D G JACOBS (NCC): [Inaudible.] must bring it back. Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed ...[Interjections.]

MR D G JACOBS (NCC): You must protect me, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon member Jacobs.

MR D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay, here we go. Hon Deputy Speaker, while we notice the ongoing efforts, teenage pregnancies in the Western Cape remain a challenge.

Now we can report that teenage pregnancies have risen from 26,66% over the past three financial years, with 10 277 young women giving birth in 2024, including one case of an 11 year old mother.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, the City of Cape Town has recorded the highest number of teenage pregnancies followed by Cape Winelands, but my question is always why would the DA drop the ball when it comes to teenage pregnancies? Is it maybe the reason why they continuously [Inaudible.] to protect these sex predators?

Hon Deputy Speaker, the importance of comprehensive and sex education, community involvement and addressing socio-economic factors that contribute to teenage pregnancies are of utmost importance, but cancelling 2 400 teachers' posts for 2025 will definitely worsen the situation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, teenage pregnancies do not happen in isolation. There are multiple factors that contribute to high teenage pregnancies. We are all aware teenagers do not receive proper sex education at schools or at home and misinformation about contraception leads to unprotected sex.

In some cases many schools do not teach students about reproductive health and family planning. Poorer communities have higher rates of teenage pregnancies and girls often engage in transactional relationships like sugar daddies, you know, for financial support.

Limited resources and job opportunities result in early motherhood as an unintended consequence, for example, when a young Coloured woman or Coloured girls in Mitchells Plain do not get placement in high schools, they end up selling their bodies to foreign nationals in town centres or prostituting around the Promenade. This results in teenage pregnancies delivering HIV-positive babies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, teenage mothers often experience stress, anxiety and depression, and they may face stigma and discrimination from family and society. †Nou wat het die DA aangevang [Tussenwerpsels.] met al die *teenage pregnancy programmes* wat ons gehad het voor hulle die *province* oorgevat het? [Now what has the DA done [Interjections.] with all the teenage pregnancy programmes we had before they took over the province?]

Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

MR D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay. It is fine, I am done.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Only the ANC was able to [Inaudible]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this teenage pregnancy is a whole-of-society approach. Although statistics are shocking, as the ACDP we want to say a couple of things.

It is all about values and values provide a framework when you make decisions. The ACDP calls on bringing back religious instruction to schools, bring back our Bible to the school. The Bible is clear when it says in Proverbs 22 verse 6:

“Train up a child in a way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, there is another quotation in the Bible that I want to give this afternoon and it says a lot. Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says:

“Do you not know that your bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, who you have received from God. You are not your own, you were bought with a price.”

There is value in teaching children the Bible and the Word of God. There is value because it is not about government or sections of government or society. We must come together and say how can we help? Because it is a societal problem. It is not a government problem, we cannot blame the DA

here and say it is your problem. They have got a role to play, but every mother, every neighbour has a role to play because this is a serious problem, and the Word of God is very clear to say train up your child in the way he should go and he will not depart from it. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians.
[Interjections.] I recognise the hon member Windvogel. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek is so teleurgesteld in die agb lid Booysen, [Hon Deputy Speaker, I'm so disappointed in the hon member Booysen] and I realise that is exactly what the DA thinks about our Coloured and Black girls and our poor people. It is sexist and his statement is disrespectful when it comes to this issue.

†Ons het die reaksie van die lid van die Uitvoerende Komitee aangehoor, die MEC, maar ek moet dit duidelik stel. Hierdie provinsie het nie 'n data-probleem nie, dit het 'n leierskapkrisis. Dit is nie genoeg om statistieke aan te haal terwyl kinders in stilte ly nie. Wat ons in die gesig staar is nie 'n gesondheidskrisis nie, dit is 'n sosiale toestand, en die DA-regering se versuim om met die dringendheid, samewerking en empatie op te tree, sê vir ons een ding: die lewens van arm meisiekinders in plattelandse- en werkersklas gemeenskappe tel eenvoudig nie vir hulle nie.

Die Departement van Onderwys wil hê ons moet glo dat tienerswangerskap aan die afneem is, maar daardie prentjie is onvolledig. Dit wys net die meisies wat in die onderwysstelsel is, dit sluit nie diegene in wat uitval nie, wat nooit hoërskool toe gaan nie, of wat agter toe deure weggesteek word uit skaamte of vrees nie.

Maatskaplike werkers in gebiede soos die *Cape Winelands* sê vir ons iets heel anders. Hulle sê tot 60% van hierdie swangerskappe in sekere streke is as gevolg van seksuele misbruik, dit is deur ouer mans. Gesinne trek klagtes dikwels terug omdat hulle finansieel afhanklik is van die oortreder. Dit is nie net tragies nie, dit is 'n verdoemende aanklag teen 'n samelewing en 'n regering wat sy mees kwesbares gefaal het.

Wat ons nou nodig het is 'n interdepartementele oorlogskamer oor swangerskappe, tienerswangerskappe, gelei vanaf die hoogste vlak van Provinsiale Regering. Ons het 'n gekoördineerde reaksie nodig [Tussenwerpsels.] wat gesondheid, onderwys, maatskaplike ontwikkeling, SAPD en gemeenskapsveiligheid moet saambring, nie net in die vergaderings nie, maar in daadwerklike aksie.

- Elke swangerskap onder die ouderdom van 16 moet onmiddellik tot 'n kriminele ondersoek lei.
- Ons het gesondheidsklinieke by skole nodig wat vertroulik reproduktiewe sorg, berading en voorbehoeding bied, veral in plattelandse dorpe en informele nedersettings.

- Mobiele klinieke moet plase en agtergeblewe gebiede bereik.
- Opgeleide maatskaplike konsultante moet in elke distrik wees, met veilige ruimtes in elke skool.

As hierdie krisis in welgestelde voorstede soos Constantia of Stellenbosch plaasgevind het, sou hierdie Regering vinnig en met alles tot hulle beskikking opgetree het, maar omdat dit die armes en die Swartes ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[We have heard the reaction of the member of the Executive Committee, the MEC, but I must state it clearly. This province does not have a data problem, it has a leadership crisis. It is not enough to quote statistics while children are suffering in silence. What is facing us is not a health crisis, it is a social condition, and the DA Government's neglect to act with urgency, cooperation and empathy says to us one thing: the lives of the poor girls in rural and working class communities simply do not matter to them.

The Department of Education wants us to believe that teenage pregnancies are on the decline, but that picture is incomplete. It only shows us the girls who are in the education system, en do not include those who fall out, who never go to high school, or are hidden behind closed doors out of shame or fear.

Social workers in areas such as the Cape Winelands tell us something totally different. They say up to 60% of these pregnancies in certain regions is as a result of sexual abuse, it is through older men. Families withdraw charges often because they are financially dependent on the offender. It is not only

tragic, but a damning accusation against a society and a government that have failed its most vulnerable.

What we now need is an interdepartmental war room on pregnancies, teenage pregnancies, led from the highest level of Provincial Government. We need a coordinated reaction [Interjections.] that brings together health, education, social development, SAPS and community safety not only in meetings, but in real action.

- Every pregnancy under the age of 16 must immediately lead to a criminal investigation.
- We need health clinics at schools that offer confidential reproductive care, counselling especially in rural towns and informal settlements.
- Mobile clinics must reach farms and disadvantaged areas.
- Trained social consultants must be in every district with safe spaces in every school.

If this crisis had happened in affluent suburbs like Constantia or Stellenbosch, this Government would have acted quickly and with everything to their disposal, but because it is the poor and Blacks ...[Interjections.]

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

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...en die stemloses raak ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...and concerns the voiceless

...[Interjections.]]

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

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...bly hulle stil. Ons moet ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Ms R WINDOGEL (ANC): ...they keep quiet. We must ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...your time has expired.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Ons moet optree. Die lewens van ons kinders hang daarvan af. Dankie.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): We must act. The lives of our children depend on it. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Windvogel, thank you so much. [Interjections.] I note the hon Minister.

†n AGB LID: Ons het die antwoorde.

[An HON MEMBER: We have the answers.]

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

The Department of Health and Wellness is somewhat of a mirror to society. Teenage pregnancies are a serious concern that each of us can play a role in

tackling, as some of the hon members have said or argued in the House.

The causes of this are multifaceted and complex, but that does not mean that we cannot work together to solve the problem. For our part we are doing what we can to provide reproductive health services and we are collaborating across Government and society.

This year Dr Masudah Paleker, a public health medicine specialist in the Klipfontein and Mitchells Plain sub-district, received the Innovation Convention Award for leading a multi-sectoral initiative to reduce adolescent pregnancies. This project brings reproductive health services directly to young people, building their resilience and helping to prevent unintended pregnancies.

Another way we are tackling teenage pregnancies is through deliberate programmes on substance abuse. Teenagers who abuse drugs or alcohol may be more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour and have unintended pregnancies, amongst other serious social ills.

In this new financial year we are significantly scaling up interventions to tackle substance abuse amongst teens, which we believe will have a positive impact on violence and trauma, and similarly on teenage pregnancies that are related to substance abuse. Importantly we are not doing this work alone. Departments like Education and Social Development are key partners.

The Life Orientation Curriculum, for example, empowers learners to make responsible decisions about their reproductive health. At the same time the Department of Social Development and its NPO partners are providing young and first-time mothers with counselling, psychosocial support and links to additional services, helping young mothers not just to survive, but to succeed.

In South Africa the age of consent related to sexual acts is 16. Our staff are obligated to report to the South African Police Service any person younger than 16 presenting at one of the Western Cape's public facilities as a matter for investigation into statutory rape. It is then up to the police services and the National Prosecuting Authority to take the case forward and why a multi-disciplinary approach is needed and a whole-of-society approach.

The Western Cape Government remains committed to addressing the issue of teenage pregnancy through youth-friendly healthcare services, improved contraceptive accessibility, parental engagement and expanded educational programmes.

At the same time we as a nation need to take urgent steps to stop sexual and gender-based violence against women and in particular young and teenage women. Strengthening these initiatives will be critical in reducing teenage pregnancies and ensuring better health outcomes for adolescents in our province.

The prevention of teenage pregnancies and support for young mothers is a shared responsibility because when we work together across Government with families, communities and civil society, we not only respond to the challenges that we face, but build a healthier and more resilient society for all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

That is the end of Interpellations. Hon members, in terms of Rule 202 we will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper.

I wish to remind hon members once again that once the 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 and indicate that they want to ask a follow-up question.

There are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who posed the initial question will have a first opportunity for a follow-up. Thereafter other members are able to indicate. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Simmers is online.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. Mr D G Jacobs to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure

What is his Department's plan to build affordable housing in the current financial year?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Is it in order if I keep my camera off to ensure sufficient bandwidth to engage the hon member on the question? Before I ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All in order, hon Minister.

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

In terms of Infrastructure, of which Human Settlements or housing is a component thereof, in the context of the hon member's question I will respond to what is implementation, what is in different components of planning within this year, given that infrastructure itself has various aspects before we hit the ground running to actually ensure that we do lay the first brick in our projects.

So there are three social housing projects currently under construction which will deliver a total of 1 803 units in various phases over the next two financial years, being 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.

These projects are:

- The Conradie Park Phase 2 projects, which will deliver 659 units.
- The Regent Villas Extension 2 project, which is in Mitchells Plain. It is 110 units.
- The Somerset West project, which will deliver 1 034 affordable housing or social housing units.

The planned completion of a total of 855 units falls within the 2025/2026 financial year.

Other social housing projects are in various stages of planning and packaging, with the completion being dependent on conditional grant funding availability from the Social Housing Regulatory Authority, or SHRA as we commonly call it.

Currently in the planning and approval phase, because funding goes to this as well in the current financial year, there are the following projects, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon member:

- Amandel Place, which is a housing development in Belhar. It will yield 326 housing opportunities.
- There is the Oude Molen Precinct, which is a mixed-use development, which does include social housing, but will also have retail and office space, will yield 1 364 residential opportunities. 54% of these opportunities will be affordable housing, which does include social housing.

- In terms of the Stikland mixed housing development, it will yield 6 963 opportunities, of which a quarter, or 25%, is allocated for social housing.
- The hon Premier and I also recently announced the Leeuloop project in the inner City, which is one of three projects which is out to market. The other two are set to go to market in this financial year, and those three will yield a further 3 500 affordable housing opportunities, which do include social housing. Leeuloop where we see that just under 50% of the total living capacity of that inner City site will be social housing.
- Then there is the development in Grassy Park which will yield 319 housing units.
- Then there is the Tafelberg Development keypoint which we plan to present to the interested and affected parties in May, which also has a fair component of social housing linked to the project site.

Together, hon Deputy Speaker and hon members of the House, these Human Settlements projects will bring private sector investment to the Western Cape at just over R1 billion, which I have just highlighted to the hon House.

Another set of properties, which again falls within this financial year, which are at initial stages of enablement, we are busy de-risking the sites and we are doing an analysis of best use and delivery mechanisms, which does and will include aspects of social housing, are:

- Plantation Road
- De Novo
- The Government Garage Precinct
- Mandarin Court
- Hout Bay

And from Langebaan to Knysna we also have 23 high-valued sites again which are going to be announced within the course of this year and going to market, which is why I am announcing it as part of this answer. They are currently high-value properties in value of excess of R340 million, and they will include a spectrum of social services, which does include social housing as well. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Jacobs who posed the question. Do you have a follow-up question?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Minister, thank you for that answer, much appreciated. What I want to ask is with regards to social housing and affordable housing, we know that Communicare always gets a piece of the budget when it comes to that. Will the hon Minister investigate what Communicare is doing with all that money? Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and I thank the hon member for the question.

Again, hon member, SHRA, which is the Social Housing Regulatory Authority, does the accreditation of institutions such as Communicare, SOHCO and other social housing institutes across the country, which does mean that the exercise of oversight in terms of allocation and expenditure of the grant funding, which does come through SHRA, is actually administered by the SHRA.

As a province we have a very limited role in this regard. We concur with the expansion or announcement of projects in terms of social housing, which means we do have to concur. We need to confirm it falls within the provincial housing development area in the City of Cape Town, it is a very good example, but where we have seen instances where there are questions pertaining to actions by Communicare and so forth, we do encourage such tenants which feel affected, to approach a free service, which is the Rental Housing Tribunal, where such matters are escalated in terms of possible allegations of abuse or misuse of the grant funding which the SHI receives from SHRA.

We then address that at a MinMEC level, but we have a very limited role as a province because the national entity, which is SHRA, which is [Inaudible] of the National Department of Human Settlements, they ultimately need to

ensure the effective use of the funding and it remains within the perimeters which all provincial MECs agree to in terms of the perimeters of expenditure, so to ensure that there is an adequate balance of probabilities across all nine provinces in terms of the provision of social housing, which is a rental option. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Minister through you. Hon Minister, are you able to perhaps outline for the House what some of the stumbling blocks are when it comes to attempting to build more social housing? The hon Minister can perhaps just elaborate on those stumbling blocks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we need to understand that the Western Cape is a province which, in terms of its social housing pipeline, can yield close to 10 000 if there was sufficient funding.

So the first stumbling block in itself is sufficient funding through SHRA,

which at the moment there are projections of actually the budget declining year-on-year in terms of social housing, which is why, as a Provincial Department ...[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...we are looking at alternative partnerships to ultimately ensure that we can unlock a fair portion of our ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...[Inaudible.] Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are able to take your seat. I see the hon member Stoffel.

†Me B N STOFFEL: Agb Adjunkspeaker, volgens my is dit 'n nuwe vraag wat die *Chief Whip* nou vra.

[Ms B N STOFFEL: Hon Deputy Speaker, as far as I'm concerned it is a new question the Chief Whip is asking now.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Stoffel, I have listened attentively. In my – †in my opsomming, [in my summary,] if I request a question with

regards to planning, the stumbling blocks and any activities that was asked actually is tied to that one. So I will allow the question at this particular time.

Do you have a follow-up after the Chief Whip? Hon Minister, I recognise you, you may proceed. [Interjections.]

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

Indeed so, that is the biggest stumbling block, adequate funding through SHRA, which ultimately provides the funding for social housing.

The second problem is where sites are earmarked for social housing, the possible cost of the provision of bulk infrastructure. Hence the Western Cape Provincial Department of Infrastructure successfully lobbied in the previous term for an increase in the geotechnical funding, which was way too low, which caused a stumbling block in terms of our ability to further accelerate landing bankable projects for implementation.

The third objective is of course we need to be aware that the social housing sector globally is going through a very difficult period, given that they are heavily dependent on subsidised approaches, where there is a component of open market and a component of State-assisted subsidisation.

The fourth obstacle, which we saw in Retreat with the SOHCO project in

terms of Steen Villa, is where tenants – because, remember, social housing is a rental option, hon Deputy Speaker, where prior to the 2019 Elections the tenants who are actually renting it from the SHI, were encouraged actually not to pay the monthly rental.

That caused almost the implosion of one of the best functioning SHIs in the country, because the average cost or monthly cost for them to carry those who were not paying were close to R10 million per month. So we nearly saw the implosion of that specific SHI.

The fifth one of course, hon Deputy Speaker, is when SHI seeks to approach the High Court for eviction orders once they have exhausted the legal processes. Again during those periods those tenants tend to stay in those units, or once they move out they tend to damage those units.

So there is a variable mixture of funding issues, sufficient budget or budget allocation by SHRA, but also the tenants or the end-users or the recipients of the Social Housing Grant, which actually ensures that they get rental at close to less than 50% of the market-related rental in certain areas.

So this places a massive strain on the viability and feasibility into the future of social housing. Hence when organisations who claim to be acting on behalf of those who need social housing, they actually pay. They then on the [Inaudible] encourage the invasion of sites earmarked for social housing, which causes further delays in the implementation stages of such a project,

which in its nature then creates secondary expenses, which we see in terms of security, which does add a further burden to our ability, together with the SHI and SHRA, to effectively ensure that pipelines are unlocked, because that is unforeseen expenses in terms of the overall social housing sector. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I hope I am audible.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, and thank you to the hon Minister.

Hon Minister Simmers, you referred to De Novo as also a site that has been identified for housing development. I wanted to know in terms of your plan with De Novo, does it also include the handing over of title deeds of the residents that are currently living on the De Novo site in the way going forward in terms of your planning for social housing and making sure that our people are having access to adequate housing? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy

Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, indeed you need to understand there is the historical component of De Novo given its long history. [Inaudible] the property that does belong to the predecessor Department of the Department of Infrastructure.

The process of township establishment has been ongoing for a number of years, which will enable the subdivision of erven to ensure that the process of title deed ownership does then become feasible in the very near future.

The other side of De Novo is where there is clearly usable land for social housing which in itself is rental options. Again the provision of bulk infrastructure is then linked to that, but it forms part of the broader precinct development in terms of township establishment to ensure that we deal with the historic components, because many of those families have been living there for multiple decades, so they can receive ownership from the Provincial Government, but on the other side also setting up the social housing component, which we seek to develop there in the very near future.

So the two go hand-in-hand, so I do welcome the question of the hon member. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups in terms of question 1. I now recognise hon Minister Mackenzie. [Interjections.]

2. Mr D G JACOBS to ask Mr R D Mackenzie, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport

Whether his Department has plans to repair the sports fields in Beaufort West and Scottsdene; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity to respond to the question from the hon member Jacobs, thank you for the question.

The responsibility for maintaining and restoring local sports facilities resides with municipalities, as outlined in Schedule 5B of the Constitution. Accordingly the City of Cape Town and Beaufort West Municipality bear the primary obligation for the upkeep and upgrade of their respective facilities.

However, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport maintains the implementation protocol agreement with the City of Cape Town to address matters of mutual interest, including sporting infrastructure in which matters as this are discussed. This matter will be raised at the City of Cape Town's next meeting.

No dedicated funds were appropriated for the maintenance of the sports fields in Beaufort or Scottsdene. However, the Department transferred R1,1 million

for sport infrastructure to the Beaufort West Municipality in March 2025, this is a few weeks ago.

While DCAS is not mandated for the direct maintenance of sports facilities, the Department remains committed to collaborating with municipalities to ensure these facilities contribute effectively to ensure community development, social cohesion and crime prevention initiatives.

In conclusion, the Department, as a stakeholder in ensuring sport as a whole is promoted in the province, will continue to engage municipalities to support their efforts in this regard.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise hon member Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you for that answer, hon Minister. A very good answer.

I just wanted to know is that still going to happen in this term or the next one?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: We will make sure it happens in this term, hon member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups. I see the hon member Bans.

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

Hon Deputy Speaker, I take note of the response from the hon MEC. However one would just want to understand that we know that the function of taking care of sports facilities is within Local Government, but as status quo is currently right now the majority of the stadiums are dilapidated.

What is the role that the hon MEC and the Department are going to take? Or is it just going to be, no, it is within the Local Government? You are giving funding, one point something million, for kids to be participating in your MOD Centres or whatsoever sports, but where are they going to exercise that with that money? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you very much. That is such an important question, hon member.

One of the first things I did, and I can provide hon members with copies, it is public information, is I have written to the National Minister last year in October or July on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, because I share your concerns around it. It was discussed at the last MinMEC meeting and I am willing to share the minutes of that meeting as well so the hon member can see I share, take this responsibility very seriously, and I have also written

[Inaudible] to be honest I have probably written to him four, five times. I am willing to share those letters with you, to address this matters, because Municipal Infrastructure Grant, if one were to go back 2011/2012, the National Sports and Recreation Plan, the former, former, former Minister, which is now the Secretary General of a party, took that matter actually very seriously, and that is part of 26 November I was there. 25 November 2011, I was part of the National Sports and Recreation Plan, that facilities is the core foundation of dealing with sport in the country.

Sadly many over, post-decessors, if I can call it that, have never, as a National Government have never fully understood the way that hon members understood it now, that that function must be addressed where it belongs in sport, and I know my predecessors certainly take up this matter.

We have now got an open door from the National Minister of Sport to address this matter. It was on the agenda on a MinMEC that was held a few weeks ago. It will be discussed again on the 5th and 6th. He finally opened the door, because that function, the core responsibility, must be with the people that understand sport and it is this department that understands sport.

We know there is also a new Minister of Local Government, who also seems to have an open door on this matter, because if us, as the sporting fraternity, can finally deal with the budget, because the budget now sits at Local Government, it should sit with Sport so that Sports can work with municipality on the matter, and that we will finally deal with this matter in

this country.

The intention was there. That Minister that was there in 2011 had a great intention, you know who it is. He is now the Secretary General of that party. He had it, but that money unfortunately was ring-fenced. That Minister of Local Government did not want to give the money to Sport for whatever reason. That money is now sitting there, Local Government ring-fenced, but it must come to us as sports people.

So that door has now both been opened and we just need to fine-tune it so we can finally address the lack of maintenance, all the infrastructure challenges, that you fully understand what happens at local municipalities. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups. I now see the Chief Whip in reference to Question 3 and 4.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, yes, Question 3, 4 and 7, the request is that those questions please stand over to the next Sitting, and then also please take cognisance of the fact that Question 12 has been withdrawn.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Duly noted. I see Hon Minister Londt.

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

In relation to the Social Work Integrated Management System application (SWIMS app):

(a) What does his Department's roll-out strategy to the NGO sector in the province entails, (b) what (i) resource and (ii) budget is in place to roll out the app successfully in this financial year and (c)(i) how will this app roll-out to the NGO sector link to his departmental objective and (ii) what impact will it have on the daily lives of the residents in the province?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon member Kaizer-Philander, thank you for the question and for continuously shining a spotlight on this. The SWIMS app and SWIMS will first be rolled out to the designated child protection organisations, NGOs that are designated to perform child protection services.

The roll-out plan will include the following:

- Training on the use of the system, including on-site testing, linkage and development of workspaces for each NGO to ensure they can meet the system requirements.
- Change management sessions with the organisations that are involved.
- Provisioning of funding for smartphones based on budget availability.

Then (b), the Department of Social Development is supported by the Department of the Premier's Centre for e-Innovation with the rollout of the SWIMS app.

The Department of Social Development received R4 million for the rollout for the 2025/2026 financial year, of which R2 million will be allocated for system development and training and R2 million for smartphones.

Information captured on SWIMS will be utilised to report on social welfare services rendered by social workers which are linked to the departmental objectives. This will strengthen monitoring and evaluation for improved service quality and improved geographic targeting of resources to meet the demand for services.

Under (c), cases will be recorded immediately from clients first reporting to the Department to ensure continuity of case files. Information on previous interventions rendered by social service professionals will be available thereafter to help determine further interventions and services required by clients, improving the quality of social services rendered to the clients. This is the ultimate goal.

A single database for clients reduces the duplication of forms and therefore reduces waiting times for clients and reducing the amount of time spent by social workers on administration. This will free up more time for social

workers to focus on psychosocial support for clients.

The system ensures that legal frameworks and norms and standards are adhered to in all cases opened, which will further improve the thoroughness of these services.

The system provides for client matters to be tracked, which will ensure improved turnaround times for the finalisation of cases and improve quality control for the clients.

As of 23 April 2025, so this was drawn yesterday, 1 067 social work professionals have been trained and are using SWIMS. 200 915 forms have been captured and 62 071 cases have been logged on the system. 1 924 cases have been closed while 76 671 clients have been captured onto the system.

Now you might ask why cases that have been logged are less than clients that have been captured on the system. Quite often you open a case and there is a mother and two or three minors, and then you will have more clients that are captured on the system under a single case. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much, hon Minister Londt, for your extensive response.

I also welcome your confirmation of the Premier's Department of e-Innovation's continuous support and interventions accordingly.

Hon Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon Minister. Given the digital divide in some communities, hon Minister, what measures are in place to ensure that NGOs with limited digital infrastructure or capacity are not left behind in the implementation of the SWIMS app? Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon member Kaizer-Philander.

So when you have a one-on-one session with the individual you need to be quite careful what you convey out of that meeting, but the Premier does have one-on-one sessions tracking our performance, and in our session that we had he also continued or gave his continued commitment to supporting us in the roll-out of the SWIMS.

So that is why we also want to thank him for that and we will make sure that we, at all platforms, show how successful the app is so that the hon Minister sitting next to me, if there is a few free rands, then we can advocate for that. That is why the more people we can get on the system the more we can show

the value of the system and that speaks to the second part of your question.

It is true that we first need to get our own house in order, make sure that all the DSD social workers or social work professionals are on the system. We then start rolling it out to the NGOs. We cannot just have a shotgun approach.

We started with one in Stellenbosch, Stellcare, and it looks like it is really going well. Then it will be a staggered approach. At the end of the day we want to make sure that all designated child protection organisations are on the system, because that will just make sure that not a single person that is in the Western Cape, irrespective of where they live, in the most affluent or in the poorest areas, they are not left behind, because if you move between areas, as many of our people do, then you can immediately pick up that case by transferring it by the click of a button. So that is the hope.

The big, big, big challenge is the capacity to further develop that and for that, to the hon Minister of Finance and the hon Premier and all the colleagues that supported the R2 million for the development of the programme, but we do need more.

So that can take us to a certain point and then also there is R2 million extra for the roll-out, but if you work out we fund about a 1 100 social work professionals in the NGO space, if you multiply that by R6 000 you will see that we need significantly more than the R2 million, almost just over three

times the current budget.

So we are trying to find alternative sources of income, we are engaging donors. Some NGOs are doing a great job trying to source funding themselves and then we will also make sure that we come to the table when the opportunity presents, that we will put our case on the table why those few extra cents must be channelled towards DSD. Thank you.

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and once again, hon Minister, thank you very much for the extensive response to the question.

Perhaps just, hon Minister, if you can also inform the House, how will the Department monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the app in improving service delivery and case management within the NGO sector?

I think you have made mention of how it is done in terms of social workers using the app currently, and will these findings – I know through our parliamentary processes obviously in terms of oversight, the Committee will have the opportunity to ask those relevant questions and actually go and see how it works practically within the sector, but will there be a mechanism within the Department where members of the public will also perhaps have not insight, but will be able to monitor how successful this app is utilised

within the NGO sector? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. So currently, if we talk now on average, the caseload is approximately 110 per social work professional. I mean it gives and take a bit, but to start off we must acknowledge that social workers are, really they are amazing individuals, human beings, that really keep society together at the seams.

So the hope is that through using this app, digitising the system, you will free up time to do more interventions, preventative services, with the existing clients. However, it will also free up time so that you can actually maybe take on one or two extra cases, but that is not really the idea. We need to try and make sure that we present quality services.

There are, however, individuals that might also be reporting cases, but not actively working on those cases and through digitising this system you will be able to see what progress there are on the different cases.

Now that is not something we just communicate to the public, that is something we will gladly come and report to the Committee about. We will report on the overall statistics and you are welcome to ask those questions. You are welcome to ask what is the impact or the caseload in a certain region and how many extra cases have been taken on or what is the turnaround time.

Those are questions that we also ask because we need to be able that the system adds value, because I am excited to seeing the roll-out of SWIMS across the province, because then I want to see how our partners in the NGO space capture the records. What is the progress in doing the interventions? How many cases can we close? How many families can we reunite again? So all of this gives us the power then to see what type of interventions need to be done in what areas.

Over the December period, and I am happy, you can make a note, Chairperson, to maybe at the next Committee meeting ask that, but off the top of my head I know that in the West Coast there was a certain problem – not problem, or a type of case that was logged onto the system. In the Winelands there was a different type of case logged onto the system. In Metro North there was a different type of case.

So then you suddenly see whether it is young children abusing alcohol or whether it is elderly or whatever the case is, you do that preventative work before you get that peak periods, and that is what the system hopes to do. If you have data, you have information to make the decisions to do more interventions proactively. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further questions. I again see the hon Minister.

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

Development

(a) What progress has been made with the classification of social workers as essential service workers, (b) what efforts are being made by the Western Cape Government in support of this classification and (c) what subsequent impact will this have on the profession?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I do assume we are now on Question 6, hon Deputy Speaker? Thank you.

So the question is asking what progress has been made with the classification of social workers as essential service workers. The issue has been raised on various platforms by myself and the Standing Committee on Social Development has written to the National Government in this regard, and to this I want to thank the Committee and the Committee members. To date feedback is yet to be received from the National Government on this.

However, I also raised this in the National Council of Provinces and with the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development in the National Assembly. We have also raised this during the last MinMEC meeting in which other MECs and our national counterparts agreed that it is a matter that should be raised with the necessary national officials. We will follow up on the progress of this request at the next MinMEC. Other Western Cape MECs have also shown their support for this call and we want to thank those colleagues.

If social workers are recognised as essential services, the Western Cape Department of Social Development could receive additional dedicated financial support from the National Treasury in the same way as education and healthcare professionals recently received to mitigate the impact of the Budget cuts, and to that extent I want to thank the Western Cape Government, because even though it is not classified as essential services at a national level, this Province sees social workers as essential and the money flows accordingly.

It would enable the Department to have more funding for other necessary social services like the various DSD programmes and funding for NGOs and NPOs to strengthen their work.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it looks like that is the end. Thank you.

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Minister, thank you very much for the response.

You have already covered me in terms of the various platforms that you have been advocating for this matter to come to conclusion or to come to decision.

I am just very interested to know, hon Minister, in terms of you having

mentioned that there were from other provinces support as well for the classification accordingly. So is there an indication of a timeline? What is the urgency on national level to actually expedite and conclude on this matter? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Chairperson and hon Deputy Speaker.

So I do think our national colleagues might be preoccupied with the drafting of a new Budget, but it is something that we will continuously push and make sure that it stays on the agenda.

Credit to the colleagues from the other provinces. They immediately agreed that this is something that is worthwhile. Minister Tolashe was also there. She also agreed with it and said she will take it up.

So I will make sure that we continuously raise that at any platform we have got, but I also do a call on colleagues from across the House, because this is – you get a lot of departments that say, “We look after the entire province,” but this is one of those departments that I think where we can take hands across the board and say let us fight for this.

So when colleagues have members of their own party who serve in the GNU,

who serve in the Opposition, you can also ask colleagues that serve on these platforms to please raise this issue, because if everybody pushes for it we will get that change done.

So it is not just a voice from the Western Cape, it affects every single one of our social workers in the Western Cape, but also the rest of the country. Thank you.

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you so much for the response, hon Minister Londt, and I think when I look at hon member Kamfer, I am sure he will on the WhatsApp group send a message to the national counterparts to expedite the matter.

Hon Minister, thank you. You have made mention in your response also in terms of – my question was going to be in terms of the classification. What difference will there be in the working conditions for social workers in terms of their remuneration, as well as what will the impact be on the retention of social workers?

You have made mention of the additional financial support. You have also made mention of additional programmes that would be able to be funded. Are there any other positive developments within the Department should that classification happen? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. This is a blessing sitting next to the Minister of Finance, who will quickly – it is like call a friend. Those of you that followed that game show.

So they have already put together a technical paper and a working group to work on what is the budgetary implications for this. As you well know there is massive pressure on our social work professionals and if we do get that extra funding then we can just spread the load a bit better, and I did promise during the debate when hon member Kamfer was so passionately down the wrong road in his speech, I promised him a book and I did give that book to him.

I did, however, change the book. So I gave him the book “Make Better Choices”, but I do think on this hon member Kamfer do not even have to make a better choice. He is already on our side fighting to make social service professionals classified as essential workers, and I am positive he has already sent off a text message to his national counterparts to fight for that as well. Thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups.

That concludes Question 6. I will now go to Question 8 and I see Minister Mackenzie.

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

In relation to expansion of the Mass Participation, Opportunity and Access Development and Growth Programme (MOD Programme):

(a) How this expansion will be implemented in 2025/26, especially in rural and under-resourced communities, and (b) what outcomes does his Department expect from this investment?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

In relation to the question, in relation to the expansion of the Mass Participation Opportunity and Access Development and Growth Programme, also known as the MOD Programme, how will this be expanded in 25/26?

The answer is in the 25/26 financial year the Department will expand the reach of the MOD Programme by absorbing the Neighbourhood School Programme, increasing access from 181 to 315 school sites across the province.

This approach ensures that more learners, especially in rural and under-resourced communities, benefit from the structured after-school

activities without the need to create entirely new centres.

The (b) part, the expected outcomes from this investment. The Department expects several outcomes from this approach.

- Greater access to safe, structured after-school programmes in more communities without the cost of duplicating services.
- Better use of resources without resources serving multiple schools in a coordinated way supported by new service level agreements.
- Youth empowerment as more learners benefit from sports, arts, life skills and mentorships, reducing the exposure to negative influences.
- Job creation with coaches employed and trained to deliver high-impact programmes.
- Improved school attendance and performance, particularly in rural areas where recreation and development opportunities are limited.

This strategy allows us to expand the footprint of the MOD Programme quickly and efficiently, ensuring more learners are reached while strengthening community safety, well-being and opportunity through a cost-effective, inclusive model. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Walters. Do you have a follow-up question?

Mr T WALTERS (DA): My follow-up question was very skilfully anticipated

and already answered. So thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The hon MEC made a very good point to say key among other things, the programme will create jobs. Right. Based on projections, how many jobs would be created in this?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon member.

Certainly I do not want to give the exact number because the hon member will hold me accountable, but I can make a guesstimate if you would like me to make a guesstimate. We have signed an agreement with Northlink College and the students studying at Northlink College, for example, will go to our after-school programme.

So I estimate between, if you look at 181 to 315, probably 124, hon member, but again that will just be an estimate for now, because I know you are going to hold me accountable for it. Thank you. Rightfully so.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Ngqentsu.

The M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon MEC.

On this ambitious programmes, are there any timelines perhaps? I did not get that.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Yes, hon member, we are going to do it in this financial year. So from now until the end of March 2026 it will be done.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups on Question 8.

I see hon Minister Baartman.

9. Mr P Johnson to ask Ms D M Baartman, Minister of Finance

What support has her Department provided to municipalities to ensure that their proposed projects align with the technical requirements and allocation criteria for grant funding as set out in the Grant Framework published on 7 March 2024?

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

In relation to the question, Provincial Treasury engages regularly with municipalities through monthly monitoring and annual technical and strategic engagements in line with our vision to be a reliable and enabling partner.

These interactions give Provincial Treasury a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing municipalities.

In response Provincial Treasury implements targeted support and capacitation initiatives to strengthen institutional capacity and improve financial performance. This includes technical advice, training, peer learning and, where appropriate, financial assistance through the Western Cape Financial Management Capability Grant. These integrated support measures help municipalities identify viable projects and prepare credible, compliant funding proposals.

As a result applications are submitted to the Provincial Treasury to meet key requirements, allowing for faster review and approval. This enables quicker implementation, more efficient grant spending and improved delivery of essential services. Ultimately the Provincial Treasury views our grant funding as a transitional tool aimed at fostering long-term self-sustainability within municipalities.

While financial assistance provides some immediate support, the overarching objective is to enhance municipal capacity to independently manage their finances and infrastructure in the future.

By strengthening institutional capabilities, promoting sound financial governance and supporting the development of sustainable funding strategies, the overall goal is to enable long-term sustainability and growth.

Formal in-year reporting against the Western Cape grant allocations for this particular grant has been institutionalised as part of the existing monthly and quarterly financial and non-financial reporting mechanisms provided for in respectively Section 71 and 52 of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, or MFMA, Act 56 of 2003.

Provincial Treasury actively monitors these reporting instruments throughout the year to determine whether grant expenditure takes place in line with the commitments made in the project implementation plans, or proposals as some would call them.

The reporting requirements are also included in the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Provincial Treasuries and municipalities before funds are transferred. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you, to the hon Minister. Hon Minister Baartman, thank you for the comprehensive explanation as you always provide when we ask you a question.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Minister Baartman, if you, if the hon Minister can please provide us with an example of a municipality within the Western Cape province that successfully managed to access some of the Grant funding from

the Provincial Treasury. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. I do have the list for this financial year. I am happy to also provide this to the Committee should they need this.

For example, for this 2025 financial year, Cederberg Municipality is going to receive through this Grant R2,5 million. This is for the installation of smart water meters for indigent customers.

Matzikama is going to receive a total of R2,68 million. That is for two projects. That is for an acid management system to assist them and for the revenue enhancement for the replacement of induction meters. They are currently in Phase 2 of that particular project.

In Overstrand, they are receiving R672 000 for two projects. This is one for a feasibility study that they need for their credit control and debt collection unit. This is connected to revenue enhancement, as well as long-term financial planning which is their second project.

Hessequa will be receiving just over R1 million for three projects. The first one is a system with a project on indigent management, which is R250 000. The second one is for physical review and verification of infrastructure

assets, R600 000, and also, a long-term financial planning programme, which asks R200 000.

Oudtshoorn is going to also receive just over R1 million for three projects. One is for a financial system development for the cost reflective tariff setting. That is R160 000 for their smart meter replacement programme, which is R800 000 and also to support them with internal audit support which is R100 000.

Overberg is going to be receiving R3,77 million. This is for four projects. The first one is R1,42 million for revenue enhancement and optimisation for municipal health services. That particular project is R1,3 million for revenue compliance and tourism enhancement, also a revenue project. For a feasibility study and business plan for the Uilenkraalsmond Holiday Resort ownership restructuring, R750 000, as well as R300 000 for revenue enhancement for a feasibility study for the establishment of a crematorium.

Saldanha Bay will be receiving R2 million. That is for the installation of smart water meters within the municipal area, to better assist the Municipality to curb water losses.

Kannaland will be receiving R500 000 for a municipal performance management data system and the rollout across the municipal organogram. Just on Kannaland, this is separate to the fact that we are also assisting them with their financial recovery plan with National Treasury at the moment.

Beaufort West will be receiving R495 000 for a comprehensive cost of supply study and revenue optimisation in the changing energy landscape. So, that is related to the Energy, and this is also separate to the fact that we are assisting them with their financial recovery plan, as well as the fact that we are working with National Treasury at the moment for funding for smart meters in the National Smart Meter Programme for them.

The Central Karoo District is receiving R900 000 for two projects. This is to assist them with capacitating their budget and treasury staff, and accounting and annual financial statement reparations, as well as for a long-term financial planning project. That one is R500 000.

Prince Albert will be receiving R2,5 million for three projects. The first is R800 000 for the compilation of a long-term financial plan with cost reflective tariffs. The second one, which is R700 000, is for a revenue enhancement strategy with a schedule, and to make sure that their indigent verification system is in order. For procuring and installing pre-paid water meters and electricity meters: R1 million.

Laingsburg will be receiving R540 000 for restricting and modelling of water tariffs to optimise revenue and enhance water management. [Interjections.]

This brings us to a total of R18,672 million and this ...[Interjections.] I just need to mention that this particular Grant is separate to the finances that we

have put aside to help the municipalities with their financial recovery plans and those we work with National Treasury on. We try our best to bring this together with the Department of Local Government and the National Treasury so that we do not overlap our respective programmes for municipalities.

Again, municipalities for the second year and the third year, those particular applications obviously will come up. With the Provincial Treasury, we are currently busy with municipalities in what we call our Strategic Integrated Municipal Engagements at the moment to try and understand what the possible needs for the upcoming year might be. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups in this regard. I now recognise hon Minister Marais.

Gangsterism in schools

10. Mr T C R Walters to ask Ms A JD Marais, Minister of Community Safety and Police Oversight:

How does her Department assist schools where gangsterism is experienced?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you hon member Walters for the question. As the lead coordinator of the Province's Anti-Gang

Implementation Plan and the facilitator of the Anti-Gang Priority Committee, the Department provides strategic guidance and alignment between the various stakeholders to strengthen interventions and support to the Western Cape Education Department.

The quarterly Priority Committee meetings provide departments with an opportunity to share the work that they are currently implementing. In addition, the participating departments use these meetings to discuss and unlock their challenges. Via the Anti-Gang Implementation Plan, the Department prioritises the alignment of interventions to strengthen efforts to address gangsterism.

This platform allows departments, including the Western Cape Education Department, to engage senior officials from different stakeholders on the kind of support that is required. At this strategic level, the Department has engaged the Western Cape Education Department on their current pressing issues relating to gangsterism and are in a process of arranging meetings at a local level, to explore and discuss localised issues and possible intervention plans to respond to gangsterism.

Furthermore, the Department continues to engage and encourage various stakeholders to contribute towards addressing gangsterism because as Law Enforcement alone, is unable to address this social issue. Also, the Department is in the process of exploring ways to strengthen preventative efforts to address gangsterism. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon Minister made reference to a strategic approach and then expanding it to a local level, which I hear as taking it away from, let us say, just a provincial globular level and taking it down to a precinct level, school level to localise the approach more.

How do you envisage particularly getting the SAPS Station Commanders on board in directly assisting schools with the safety plans at schools? How do you envisage that happening?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon member Walters. I have to say that we, at this moment, have a very good relationship with some of our Station Commanders. I would say almost 60% to 70%. They have already compiled, I would like to say, a safety pamphlet on how schools must also or how they will assist the schools. I can avail that to you, but it is still an ongoing process, and we must work very hard on our relationship, but so far, so good. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon MEC. Disappointingly, your responses are high-level responses, but they lack practice. Are these responses effective? If so, give us an example where they were employed. If you like, use Kostil or Kraaifontein as one of the gangster-infested areas. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon member, for the question. I just want to say that we will have our meeting with our LEAP officers and the structures on 5 May, to specifically address Kraaifontein and the areas that we are very concerned about, specifically with the schools. As I have said, we have a committee. Our Anti-Gang Strategy Committee that works closely with the communities, with the officials of the Education Department to address these problems.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the question was not in the event, alright, that there are gangsters. There have been gangsters, therefore what has been the response in practice, alright. Not what you are going to do. What have you done thus far given the rate of gangsters and how working-class schools of Scottsdene, as an example. For instance, Kraaifontein is just an example.

In your response, perhaps one or other stating any area where there is gangsterism. Here in Bonteheuwel and in Kuils River, I mean, no, no, no, Eersterivier for instance, no, no, what is this? Bishop Lavis, for instance, alright, it could have been one of the examples. So, I was not confining my question specifically Scottsdene, I was citing Scottsdene and Kraaifontein just as an example. Please be as practical as possible. Thank you very much, Thomas, for this important question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you. I think I will address your question in your question that you asked of me, Question 11. But practically, we do not have, I do not want to say we do not have oversight or real input in the school safety. We have LEAP officers that are working in our schools as peace officers. That is how we address it from POCS at this point. We have got a coordinating function, and we have got oversight over SAPS and that is quite limiting for us if we only have the oversight of SAPS, to get them there.

But we try our best with our Law Enforcement. We work very closely with the City and all the Law Enforcement, the Neighbourhood Watches, and our CPFs to address the problem.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, my question would be just one. Understanding maybe fairly these Anti-Gang meetings and strategies are a new one. Are there any success stories that perhaps the hon MEC would share with us from these Anti-Gang meetings that they are having, and the pamphlets? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. I do not have it on hand now, but I will provide you with the information. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes Question 10. I now see the hon Minister again.

11. Mr Ngqentsu to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Community Safety and Police Oversight:

In the light of recent reports that the Western Cape police had to escort teachers at the Zanemfundo Primary School in Philippi after armed extortionists stormed the premises demanding protection money:

(a) What immediate measures has her Department put in place to protect schools, educators and learners from extortion-related violence, particularly in high-risk areas such as Philippi, and (b) how does her

Department intend to address the systemic drivers of extortion crimes, such as unemployment and gang recruitment, to ensure long-term solutions beyond reactive policing?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, hon member, for this question.

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety encourages the schools' involvement in broader community safety structures, such as the Community Policing Forums and accredited Neighbourhood Watches. The LEAP officers are deployed in the Philippi East police precinct and patrol the area frequently.

The Zanemfundo Primary School is in Philippi policing precinct and the Department works with SAPS and civil society to improve community police relations and build local safety partnerships, including supporting CPFs with guidance and funding.

Subsequently, during the 2024/2025 financial year, the Philippi East CPF applied for funding to run a drug awareness campaign. As part of ongoing efforts, the CPF also plans to engage with primary school learners to raise crime awareness and encourage prevention efforts. A community march to show opposition against crime in the area is planned for 3 May 2025.

At a strategic level, POCS is the lead coordinator of the Western Cape Anti-Gang Implementation Plan. The Department has commenced with conducting

qualitative research to gain deeper insight into extortion and other related safety issues in murder priority areas. The findings of the research are being discussed at a strategic and local level. The main aim is to translate the findings into action and contribute towards a data-led and evidence informed implementation plan to address these social challenges.

Furthermore, the Department coordinates the Anti-Gang Priority Committee which is a transversal strategic meeting in which different departments participate and explore ways on how to strengthen responses to extortion and gang related issues. Such efforts align interventions and identify priorities through the whole of government approach.

Finally, the Department will be hosting a high-level multi-sectoral summit to develop a strategic and coordinated response to the escalating extortion crisis in the Western Cape towards the end of the first quarter. It will on 17 June. The summit will convene key Government agencies, law enforcement agencies, business leaders and civil society to formulate cross-cutting interventions and sector-specific solutions. The summit aims to establish actional measures that enhance law enforcement effectiveness, improve intelligence sharing, disrupt illicit financial flows and protect businesses, communities, and educational institutions from extortion-related threats. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, there are 40 seconds. You can go.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Unlike hon Walters, I do have substantive follow-ups. [Interjections.] What accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure inter-departmental cooperation yields long-term, schematic results and dismantling the socio-economic cohesion that ensures gang activities and school-based extortion?

Are there any CCTV cameras? If so, are they working because the City of Cape Town is commended for having CCTV cameras. To what extent are they aiding to address the issue of extortion in the surroundings? Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, I have permitted your question to be asked. That has now indicated that the time has lapsed. In terms of the process, that is the end of Oral Questions. Outstanding replies will be printed in the Hansard. ...[Laughter.]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Hon members, in terms of Rule 145, there will now be an opportunity for Member Statements as per the Rules and the hon members are familiar with the two-minute Rule. I now recognise the DA.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise in honour of a cultural treasure whose career is nothing short of revolutionary. Dr David Kramer does not simply create music, he crafts cultural experiences. He dares to step outside the

mainstream giving voice to the often-overlooked stories of the Cape Flats and the Karoo. He celebrates the unique dialects, the vibrant characters and the resilient spirit of our province in a way that has never been done before.

His early work, particularly his albums *Bakgat!* and *Die Ou Kalahari* introduced a fresh authentic sound to South African music. He blends folk, rock and traditional Afrikaans melodies with a raw honesty that resonates deeply with the audiences. He does not shy away from social commentary, using his music to shed light on realities of apartheid and the struggles of every day South Africans.

Beyond his solo work, David Kramer's collaborations with the late Taliep Petersen, were groundbreaking. Their musicals, including *District Six*, the musical *Cat and the Kings*, were not just theatrical productions. They were cultural milestones. They captured the soul of the Cape, bringing stories to stage with the power and authenticity that moved audiences to tears and laughter alike.

David Kramer's achievements extended beyond the stage and the recording studio. He is a champion of local talent, a mentor to aspiring artists and a tireless advocate for the preservation of our cultural heritage. He understands the power of art to bridge divides and to heal the wounds. His work is a testament to the transformative power of storytelling and the enduring spirit of the human heart.

We honour David Kramer not just for his talent, but also his courage, his vision and his unwavering commitment to telling the stories of the Western Cape. His work will forever be part of the soundtrack of the Western Cape. No, of South Africa! We extend our biggest congratulations to him on being awarded the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's Living Legend Award at a recent special tribute performance hosted and performed by his festive children. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now see the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, there is a disturbing pattern in this Legislature where chauvinistic tendencies by male DA members are becoming a daily occurrence. Female members, particularly from the Opposition parties including the ANC and EFF, are subjected to this regressive behaviour which is both distasteful and unacceptable. Such conduct has no place in our parliamentary democracy, hon Deputy Speaker.

Time and again, women in this House endure ridicule, unfair targeting and baseless attacks from male counterparts, especially within the DA. Just recently, hon member Windvogel was maliciously asked to apologise simply for exercising her democratic right. A clear example of systematic disrespect that women face here. This recalls previous incidents where the hon EFF members were mocked by male hon MECs and even the hon Premier.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot allow this Legislature to become a hostile space for women. This is not apartheid. This is a democracy where women have an equal right to participate without fear or belittlement. The role of women is no longer confined in the kitchen. We are lawmakers, leaders and must be treated with dignity.

We call on you, hon Deputy Speaker, to intervene decisively. We also demand that the hon DA male members and the hon MECs reflect on their conduct and correct it immediately. Respect for women is non-negotiable. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the PA. [Interjections.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. That the House notes and congratulates three extraordinary BMX riders who completed an inspiring journey from Burgersfort in Limpopo to Cape Town, arriving safely in our City. Further notes that the journey was not only a physical and mental feat of endurance, but a powerful symbol of hope and determination.

Through their efforts, they successfully raised funds and created awareness for their local BMX club, a vital initiative that engages young people in sport, discipline and community. Acknowledges that their commitment to a positive path offers a real alternative to the cycle of crime, gangsterism and drug abuse that too often plagues our communities. These young athletes are more than just riders, they are role models, mentors and ambassadors for

change.

Therefore, I move that this House congratulates these BMX riders on their achievement and commends them for their contribution to youth development, crime prevention and social upliftment. Their message is clear: with the right support and opportunities, our youth can rise above their circumstances and achieve greatness. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Cape Town's greatest treasure is not only its people, but the extraordinary natural beauty that surrounds us from the majesty of Table Mountain to the biodiversity that thrives in our parks, our wetlands and our coastlines. Yet, we are increasingly seeing the slow, but steady encroachment of urban sprawl into these protected and environmentally sensitive areas. Developments, while often necessary and beneficial, must not be allowed to chip away at the ecological boundaries that safeguard our natural heritage.

Our natural spaces are more than just scenic backdrops. They are vital ecological systems that filter pollution, support biodiversity, ensure environmental resilience and serve as a refuge for wildlife. As we meet the real and urgent need for housing and infrastructure, we must ensure that our regulatory frameworks, like the Urban Edge and Environmental Zoning, remain strong and are enforced. Development must be both smart and

sustainable, enhancing our City without eroding what makes it extraordinary.

Hon Deputy Speaker, millions visit Cape Town each year because of its natural splendour, and it is our duty to ensure that this heritage is preserved and not paved over. So, let us all recognise and thank the local organisations, the residence associations and the environmental groups who act as the vigilant eyes and ears of our communities, holding us all accountable and helping to ensure that the delicate balance between development and conservation is never lost. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the EFF.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF would like to take this opportunity to send its heartfelt condolences to the greater community of the Roman Catholic Church and the Christian community at large, on the passing of Pope Francis who passed away this past Easter Monday at the age of 88 years old.

Pope Francis will be remembered for being a man of faith who was devoted to the cause of the poor, marginalised and those suffering from oppression. His devotion to faith made him to constantly enquire about the wellbeing of others from different religious backgrounds, irrespective of their beliefs. Pope Francis used his final platform on Easter Sunday at the St Peter's Square in the Vatican City, calling for the ceasefire and peace in the apartheid-stricken Gaza against the people of Palestine.

Hon Deputy Speaker, unlike the members of certain political parties such as the DA and the ACDP among others, who recently visited Israel in a one-sided so-called fact-finding mission and then came back to report that they find no apartheid against the people of Palestine. These members of political parties are similar to certain people from other parts of the world who continue to allow the mass slaughter of Palestinian people to continue.

The Pope used his past 18 months making daily phone calls to religious groups based in Palestine until his last day, asking them to remain strong, grow in faith and not to lose hope. He was also an outspoken critic of Israel's siege on the territory. Unlike others who continue to keep a blind eye with regards to what is currently happening in Palestine, like they did during apartheid in South Africa.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, it is important to mention that to the people of Palestine, the Pope served as a reminder to them that they were not forgotten. His flesh might have rested, but his soul will forever live amongst the people of Palestine. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the NCC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the NCC rises today with concerns and unhappiness regarding the increase in evictions from properties in the Western Cape. But more so, hon Deputy Speaker, the clear

victimisation of our Coloured people who seem to be the target of these apartheid-style evictions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, never in my life or in the history of the Western Cape, have I seen the amount of Coloured people homeless and living on the streets. Never! Hon Deputy Speaker, † nou net die ander dag toe praat ek met my *auntie* en sy was part van die *forceful removal*. Sy het dit *ge-experience* die tyd toe hulle my oupa se grond afvat deur die *White* regime. En sy sê vir my, ‘julle moet mooi kyk. Die mense is besig met *forceful removals in the form of evictions*’ en dit is waar. [now just the other day I spoke to my auntie and she was part of the forceful removal. She experienced it during the time when they took away my grandfather’s land through the White regime. And she says to me, ‘you must look carefully. The people are busy with forceful removals in the form of evictions’ and that is true.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Premier has proudly announced at the SOPA in February the speed at which the Western Cape is growing, but it means informal settlements are growing at a speed. The City of Cape Town already spent over R1 billion on servicing informal settlements in the City of Cape Town, paid by residents who are staying in the City of Cape Town, where pensioners are being forced to pay rent, pay high levies for water, overcharge electricity tariffs and if not, the poor pensioners are found guilty for tampering with electric boxes which we found not to be true.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these people, they get heavy fines. Fines that they cannot even pay. Surely, they will face evictions, or the sheriff will come and repossess their goods. Now, hon Deputy Speaker, the people of the Western Cape are being forced out of their homes due to rising costs. Now, being forcefully removed by the apartheid Government, Coloured people were placed in areas where they did not want to be and 60 years later, the NP in the form of the DA, has still not addressed the elephant in the room.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the minute the Democratic Alliance embraces land expropriation without compensation and relocate Coloured people back to their land, there will be no more evictions or homeless people. Amase.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ANC.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, it is with deep concern that I rise today to address the ongoing escalating violence in the taxi industry, particularly in Cape Town, Nyanga, and Vrygrond Capricorn. These incidents are not only undermining public safety, but also threatening the livelihoods of many South Africans and the people of the Western Cape in particular who rely on this industry for daily transport and employment.

In Nyanga East, we have witnessed a series of targeted killings including the recent and cowardly assassination of Mr Diti. This tragedy follows the torching of approximately 18 taxis and the killing of a security guard a few

months ago. These are not random acts of violence. They are well calculated attacks that demand a clear and coordinated response from the highest level of government. We must, however, commend the decisive intervention by the South African Police Service whose operations earlier this year, led to the confiscation of 13 rifles and 7 handguns in Nyanga. Their swift action no doubt prevented further bloodshed.

We are also deeply concerned though that the much-celebrated CCTV surveillance infrastructure within the City of Cape Town continues to fail to meaningfully aid in the investigations of these heinous crimes. In a City that prides itself on innovation and infrastructure, this failure is both unacceptable and alarming, and those responsible for the political and administrative oversight of this CCTV surveillance, must be held accountable.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the situation in Capricorn has similarly deteriorated into a state of crisis. Gang activity and taxi related ructions have turned these communities into zones of fear and instability. While the deployment of police resources has brought some degree of temporary calm, this is not a sustainable solution. It is for this reason that we call upon Ministers Mchunu and Creecy to take urgent action and coordinated action to resolve this problem.

The indifference of the DA-led Provincial Government with the crisis unfolding in these areas, demonstrates the serious void of political leadership

in both political oversight and ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...given the trends and parties of the taxi drivers ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...of the advocate ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...commission of inquiry. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Today I rise to welcome a significant victory, not just for the Democratic Alliance, but for millions of South Africans who were set to bear the brunt of an unjust and ill-considered VAT increase. Thanks to sustained political and legal pressure from the DA, the proposed 0,5 percentage point hike in VAT has been scrapped. This is a win for fairness, a win for working families and a win for those who cannot afford to shoulder more burdens.

From day one, the DA stood firm. We said this hike was regressive. We said it was poorly timed, and we took action, filing legal challenges, raising our voices in Parliament and standing with the people of South Africa because while others shrugged, we stepped up. We govern with principle, and we fight for the vulnerable. This outcome shows what a determined leadership and active protest can achieve. It proves that Government decisions can be challenged and that when they are unjust, they must be challenged.

Let this be a clear message. The DA will continue to fight for a government that balances its books, not on the backs of the poor, but through fiscal discipline, ethical leadership and people-first politics. This is a victory for every South African who believes that Government must listen, and that public pressure still has power. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): [3:00:25] Baie dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*. Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die Vryheidsfront Plus doen 'n beroep op die DA om konsekwent op te tree as hy werklik omgee vir die armes en die middelinkomste belastingbetalers. Die Stad Kaapstad Munisipaliteit, onder die DA-beheer, is tans in die proses om buitensporige verhogings in eiendomsbelasting te implementeer wat vanaf 1 Julie 2025 van krag sal wees.

Die voorgestelde begroting weerspieël verhogings wat dubbel die

inflasiekoers is, veral in terme van eiendomswaardes bo R3,5 miljoen. Die inkomste en bekostigbaarheid van die middelklas kan nie tred hou met die hoër tariewe wat van hulle verwag word nie. Dit is 'n feit dat die eiendomswaardes in die Kaap teen 'n hoër tempo groei as in ander metro's. Dus vra ons dat die DA konsekwent sal wees en dat hulle hierdie hoër tariewe wat bo inflasiekoers huidiglik is, sal vermy. Baie dankie.

[Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus appeals to the DA to act consistently if it really cares about the poor and middle income taxpayers. The City of Cape Town Municipality under DA control is currently in the process of implementing excessive increases in rates that will be effective from 1 July 2025.

The proposed budget reflects increases that are double the inflation rate, especially in terms of property values above R3,5 million. The income and affordability of the middle class cannot keep up with the higher rates expected of them. It is a fact that the property values in the Cape grow at a higher tempo than in other metros. Therefore we ask that the DA will be consistent and that they will avoid these higher rates currently above the inflation rate. Thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb lid. [The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon member.] I now recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy

Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise on behalf of Al Jama-ah and the communities we serve to express deep concern over the increasing burden of water tariffs and utility hikes on the people of the Western Cape. At a time when many families are still recovering from the economic impact of the pandemic, we must ask ourselves who are these tariff increases really serving?

Water is not a luxury. It is a basic human right. The prophet Muhammad taught us that water should be freely accessible, justly distributed and never exploited for profit. Yet, in our province, the poorest households are paying a disproportionately heavy price for a resource that should unite us in dignity, not divide us in hardship.

The Al Jama-ah Party stands firmly against unjustified tariff hikes that deepen inequality. We call for a review of the current water pricing structures, greater transparency on how our rates are determined and an urgent investment in sustainable water infrastructure, especially in historically neglected communities like Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Bonteheuwel.

We propose a sliding scale model where the wealthy pay more, and the poor are protected. We call on the Provincial Government to prioritise the needs of the people over profit and to work with communities, not against them. Let us not allow austerity to draw on the dignity of our people. Let us lead with compassion, with accountability and with a vision of shared prosperity

for all. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the right to education is assigned in Section 29 of the Constitution, guaranteeing everyone access to basic education.

Now, hon Speaker, today, Equal Education and the Equal Education Law Centre has taken the WCED to the Western Cape High Court for their policy on late applications. Their focus is on the WCED policy and its failure to address late applications. The order, and it is an urgent order, is to put unplaced learners in schools. According to Equal Education and the Equal Education Law Centre, some children from disadvantaged communities have no access to schools at the commencement of each academic year.

This, the ACDP believes, is a groundbreaking case because as we believe a failure to place an unplaced late learner into school. The determination must be made whether it is constitutional or unconstitutional because the Constitution gives us the right to place learners in school, but now they are not placed because they are late.

So, the WCED is facing a major problem each and every year by not placing

late learners and I believe this is going to be a groundbreaking case because late learners, late or not, you must be placed because that is your constitutional right. I thank you. ...[Applause.].

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to express, on behalf of my party, the Democratic Alliance and the people of the Western Cape, our heartfelt condolences on the passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis. Pope Francis was not only the spiritual leader of over a billion Catholics around the world, but a global moral voice who championed compassion, peace and social justice. His unwavering commitment to the poor, the marginalised and the environment resonated far beyond the walls of the Vatican and into the hearts of the people from all walks of life.

As the first Pope from the global South, Pope Francis brought with him a perspective that prioritised inclusion, humility and servant leadership. His legacy will be remembered not only in religious teachings, but in his courageous stands for human dignity, intersect dialogue and global solidarity. We extend our deepest sympathies to the Catholic Church, especially to the Catholic Bishops Conference, to the faithful in South Africa and the Western Cape, and to all those mourning the loss of a remarkable shepherd and servant of humanity. May his soul rest in peace. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members' Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Members' Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish. [Interjections.] ...[Laughter.] Hon members, you do not need to debate it. Is there an hon member of the Executive that wishes to respond to any of the statements? [Interjections.] If not, that brings us to the end of Members' Statements.

I now recognise the hon Bosman.

MOTIONS

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I move:

That the House notes that hon Rachel Windvogel, during the Sitting of the House on 3 April 2025, made unfounded and inaccurate claims against Minister Ivan Meyer alleging that his visit to Taiwan constituted a betrayal of the country and posed a threat to trade relations with China; that the House notes that the hon Minister travelled to Taiwan in his personal capacity and did not engage in any formal discussions or represent the Western Cape Government during his private visit nor did he act in his capacity as a provincial leader; further notes the right of individuals, including public representatives, to travel freely without

political interference; notes that the assertion in the House by the hon Windvogel is a contravention of Rule 59; and resolves that the hon Windvogel unreservedly apologises for deliberately misleading the House and withdraws her comments which negatively reflected on the integrity and dignity of a Member of the House. I so move.

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

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers, and that parties who wish to do so, will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the motion for a maximum of three minutes, if they so wish. I recognise the ANC. Can I ask that the podium please be provided to the hon Leader of the Opposition. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, ...[Interjections.] we condemn the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...DA's motion

...[Laughter.] against the hon Rachel Windvogel, a blatant attempt to silence legitimate criticism of the Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Agriculture MEC, hon Dr Ivan Meyer's reckless excursion to Taiwan. ...[Laughter.]

Hon Windvogel's characterisation of this visit as a betrayal of South Africa's One China Policy is both accurate and protected under Section 117(1) of the Constitution, which guarantees every hon member the right to free speech in this House.

Hon Windvogel will not apologise for stating the truth.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: If the hon Chief Whip of the DA truly believed that the hon Windvogel's remarks were out of order, he had ample opportunity to raise a point of order under Rules 40, 52(d) and (e), and 66, during the 3 April 2025 Sitting.

Hon Dr Meyer's Taiwan trip betrayed our foreign policy and undermined the Western Cape's trade with the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Government officially has rendered Dr Meyer a persona non grata. Worse still, by seeking to punish a woman member ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No, no, no!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...for exercising her constitutional rights, ...[Interjections.] the DA compounds the culture of victimisation ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...that fuels Gender-Based Violence in our province. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: How?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: This motion is not merely an attack on one hon member's voice, it is an assault on every woman's right to speak out, especially from the Opposition benches. Women of other Opposition parties, notably the hon Cassiem of the EFF and the hon Stephens of the PA, are often singled out by DA men. [Interjections.]

We note the persistent lack of accountability by hon MEC Ivan Meyer for his Taiwan trip and the DA's unconvincing defence that because it was undertaken in a personal capacity, it falls outside this House's scrutiny. Such a distinction is untenable. There is only one hon Dr Ivan Meyer in this Chamber and every action he takes, private or public, must meet the same ethical and constitutional standards.

South Africa's foreign policy applies uniformly, regardless of the capacity in

which an hon member travels and no personal capacity shields, can excuse conduct that undermine our national interests. To allow office bearers to hide behind such a pretext would create a dangerous precedent ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and erode public trust.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The DA in this House is acting in blind defence at all costs of the Federal Executive Chairperson in the run up to the DA's next federal congress. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: In doing so, the DA in this House, is reaffirming their continued undermining of South Africa's progressive foreign policy, just as they recently did when their members of Parliament in the National Assembly, visited apartheid Israel ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...with blindfolds over their eyes and returned ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...claiming that there is no genocide taking place in Gaza ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We therefore ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...reject the (Microphone muted here. NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN HANSARD - Background audio at 3:12:17) motion in its entirety, uphold Rule 153 and refer the hon MEC Meyer to the Conduct Committee. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, when I call you to order and I call you to inform you that your time has expired, it is in terms of the Rules. The fact that you continue does not mean that it is captured. [Interjections.] So, it is

not going to go into Hansard and for that reason, your microphones have been muted, in your case, hon Sayed. It is in the interest of fairness and transparency.

I now recognise the Patriotic Alliance. The Patriotic Alliance? No. There is an indication that there will be no declaration from the Patriotic Alliance. The Economic Freedom Fighters? EFF?

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. We do not have a declaration, but we ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: My apologies, can you just put on your microphone. I have been pressing the mute button here.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Sorry, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: My apologies.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Sorry. I was saying we do not have a declaration, but we fully agree with the ANC. Thank you. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the NCC.

An HON MEMBER: Support the ANC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Ja, we do not support the whatever they have against the other hon member. ...[Laughter.] ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order. ...[Interjection.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, order! ...[Interjection.] Hon member, this is a very important matter that there is a motion being tabled. We are in the process of dealing with the motion, so I ask for your cooperation and just in the interest of all hon members. So, we are only at the declaration stage now. I will put the motion to the House and then you can indicate your support or not support to the motion.

I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, all we have got to say is freedom of speech must be protected ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Thank you!

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): ...and that is the conclusion of my declaration. Thank you. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. We support the ANC. Thank you. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, hon Minister Meyer travelled to Taiwan in his personal capacity and as the ACDP, we believe ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...personal capacity ...[Interjection.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...hon members of this House and public representatives ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Racist!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...may travel and should not be prohibited from traveling in their private capacity.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We believe hon Windvogel should apologise. I thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, yes. I just heard the hon Leader of the Opposition call the hon member a ‘racist’. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, ja!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I am very confused by ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. So, there is a point of order ...[Interjections.] Hon members ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Diverting now!

The SPEAKER: ...there is a point of order. I will now ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Sayed, there was a point of order raised against you ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Of course.

The SPEAKER: Did you refer to any hon member in this House as racist?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I did not. And you can listen to the Hansard. I referred to the political party as racist, not any hon member. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! I have allowed the hon member an opportunity. I will now revert to Hansard, and I will come back to the House with the ruling if there is a need to do so. I also recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, I did try to raise this point earlier. A number of allegations have been raised against the Chief Whip effectively referring to him as being involved in targeting women and GBV. I feel that those must be withdrawn,[Interjections.] otherwise a substantive motion should be brought to back those up. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members! There has been a point of order. I am dealing with the point of order. I am going to allow all hands that have been raised, so I will give you an opportunity, but it is only right that I deal with points of orders as they are raised. [Interjections.] So, there has now been a point of order ...[Interjections.] by the hon Bryant that hon Bryant, is there any particular hon member that has said that?

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): It was with reference to hon Sayed's speech. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you very much. Hon Sayed, there has been reference made. I will ...[Interjections.] I will consult Hansard, and I will

come back. If there is any infringement on the ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] ...speech in this House.

An HON MEMBER: Never mind.

An HON MEMBER: Certainly, it infringes ...[Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: What? We think the other way. This is not your House only.

An HON MEMBER: But freedom of speech has ...[Inaudible.] This is ...[Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Can we continue? ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The SPEAKER: I will refer to hon Sayed's delivery of his speech and I will revert back to the House if there is a need to do so. I now recognise the hon Nkondlo. There was a point of order.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, I wish to refer you to the statement you made earlier on about your role and responsibility, not to close freedom of speech in this House. It is very dangerous and concerning that it seems

Rules are going to be abused for people to engage now and make their own opinions about political statements that all of us are privileged to do in this House. So, I would like for you to attend to this new tendency which can actually get this House into a dictatorship rather than a House of democracy.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will make a statement on that particular. I do not think it was a point of order. It was a comment made by hon Nkondlo, which is very important. I will address that at the end of this process.

But it is safe to say, a motion has been tabled in terms of the Standing Rules that we have all agreed or adopted in the beginning of this session of Parliament and so, the motion is now being debated on the floor. So, it would be unprocedural for me to, at this stage, have an opinion or have an opinion prior to it becoming the property of the House. So, it only becomes the property of the House once it has been moved in the House. So, we are at that stage now and that is why I will make a statement at the end of this process.

With that being said, I recognise GOOD. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, we stand here today to address a matter of fundamental importance to the integrity of our proceedings and the respect we owe each other.

The motion before us brought forth in my name, is not merely about a disagreement or a difference of opinion. It is about upholding the truth and defending the right to personal freedom and ensuring accountability within these very Chambers. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: That is why we said that.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Just weeks ago on 3 April, the hon Windvogel made serious allegations against hon Minister Meyer suggesting his personal trip to Taiwan constituted a betrayal and threatened our nation's trade relations with China. [Interjections.] These were not casual remarks. They were weighty accusations levelled within the formal setting of this House, carrying the implicit authority of an hon member of Parliament.

However, the facts as clearly laid out in this motion, paint a starkly different picture. Hon Minister Meyer undertook this journey in his private capacity. He engaged in no official discussions, held no formal representations for the Western Cape Government and acted purely as a private citizen, exercising his fundamental right to travel freely. To suggest otherwise, is not only inaccurate. It is a deliberate misrepresentation of the truth. [Interjections.]

Why is this important, hon Speaker? Because the bedrock of our democracy rests on honest discourse and mutual respect. When unfounded accusations are made, especially those ...[Interjections.] who impugn the integrity and

dignity of a fellow hon member, it erodes the trust that is essential to us for us to effectively serve the people we represent. [Interjections.]

Rule 59 exists precisely to prevent such misleading statements and to safeguard the decorum of this House. To ignore this contravention, to allow such inaccuracies to stand unchallenged, would set a dangerous precedent. It would suggest that hon members can make baseless claims without consequence, undermining the very principles of truth and accountability that we all swore to uphold. It would stifle the right of every individual, including those in the public service, to engage in personal activities without the shadow of unfounded political accusations.

Therefore, supporting this motion is not about political partnership. It is about upholding the truth. It is about defending the fundamental right to personal freedom. [Interjections.] It is about ensuring that the integrity and the dignity of every hon member of this House is respected. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You are protected.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): It is about reaffirming our commitment to honest and responsible discourse within these Chambers.

Let us send a clear message today that misinformation has no place here. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Let us stand together in support of truth, integrity and ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...defend the fundamental rights of every individual. [Interjections.] I urge you, hon members, to unequivocally support this motion and I call for the hon Windvogel to ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...unreservedly apologise and withdraw her unfounded and damaging comments. [Interjections.] Let us restore the integrity of our proceedings and reaffirm our commitment to the principles that underpin this esteemed House ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I thank you.

The SPEAKER: ...your time has expired. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It is not the DA House.

An HON MEMBER: It's not [Inaudible.]. It is our House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order, hon members. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]... not your party.

The SPEAKER: Order! ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Let us. You have got us here.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order. [Interjections.]

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Declarations, and I have to announce that there are currently 34 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. [Interjections.]

The question put before the House ...[Interjections.] is that the motion be adopted. Are there any objections to the motion being adopted?

Hon MEMBERS: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. So, all those in favour of the question put before the House that the question being adopted, please say 'aye'.

Hon MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the question being adopted, please say 'no'.

Hon MEMBERS: No.

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it, and the question is therefore adopted. I will now afford the hon member Windvogel ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! I will now afford the hon member Windvogel an opportunity to unreservedly apologise for deliberately misleading the House, and withdraw her comments that negatively reflected on the integrity and the dignity of an hon member of this House. [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I refuse to withdraw my statement ...[Interjection.] and one of the reasons. The hon Minister did not even apply for leave. So, you want to separate the hon Minister Meyer from his ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel ...[Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I refuse, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Finish and *klaar*.

The SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Windvogel, you do not need to justify, defend your decision. If you do not want ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! There was a decision of the House, and we are executing the decision of the House. [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel, if you are not prepared to withdraw, can I please ask that you leave the Chamber.

An HON MEMBER: No. No, we are also leaving.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, we are also leaving the Chamber.

An HON MEMBER: The decision of the DA is a decision of the House. What House ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: What House is this? Now you can continue your [Inaudible.].

An HON MEMBER: ...on this democracy.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Continue your circus.

[Interjections.]

[The ANC exits the House.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, before I get on to Notices of Motion, I was going to address the matter by hon Nkondlo. But in the interest of the hon members not being in the House, I am going to reserve that comment until the hon member is in the House because it was raised by the hon member, and I want to address it when the hon member is present in the House.

With that being said, hon members, in terms of Rule 151, all notices of motion by the hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have duly been submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

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

That the House debates the effect of Government policies that have given rise to widespread inequality and the rising cost of living.

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

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

That the House debates the lack of effective Government programmes to guarantee the safety of women and children in the Western Cape.

[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 effectiveness of the Provincial Government's programmes to combat taxi violence in the Western Cape.

[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 province's winter readiness.

[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 rising Housing Demand Database and the Province's inefficiencies in accelerating the building of adequate housing for the poor.

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

The SPEAKER: We proceed in terms of Rule 150. We now move to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you 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 22 April 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 in the Programming Authority meeting on 22 April 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 will 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 as follows: hon D Stephens, hon D G Jacobs, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon D W Bryant, hon N P Masipa, hon N D Nkondlo, hon A P Bans, hon B Ngqentsu, hon M K Sayed, hon B Brinkhuis.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates three extraordinary BMX riders who completed an inspiring journey from Burgersfort in Limpopo to Cape Town, arriving on Monday 14 April 2025 in our city; further notes that their journey was not only a physical and mental feat of endurance, but a powerful symbol of hope and determination; notes that, through their efforts, they successfully raised funds and created awareness for their local BMX club – a vital initiative that engages young people in sport, discipline and community; acknowledges that their commitment to a positive path offers a real alternative to the cycle of crime, gangsterism and drug abuse that too often plagues our communities; notes that these young athletes are more than just riders, they are role models, mentors and ambassadors for change; congratulates these BMX riders on their achievement and commends them for their contribution to youth development, crime prevention and social upliftment; and notes that their message is clear: with the right support and opportunities, our youth can rise above their circumstances and achieve greatness.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I move without notice:

That the House with immense admiration and heartfelt gratitude extends

its congratulations to LET'S CONNECT, an NGO in Manenberg for the exemplary work they have accomplished in service to the community and society; notes that its unwavering commitment to making a difference, its boundless passion for change and its relentless pursuit of excellence have set an inspiring example for organisations everywhere; notes that, from the very beginning, LET'S CONNECT has demonstrated a steadfastness to resolve and address the most pressing issues faced by our society; notes that, whether tackling inequality, promoting education, improving healthcare or championing environmental conservation, its initiatives have consistently exemplified the values of compassion, innovation and perseverance; notes that it has not only transformed the lives of countless individuals in Manenberg, but also on the Cape Flats at large, and has fostered a culture of hope and optimism that resonates far beyond its immediate sphere of influence; and salutes the NGO.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House recognises the valuable and enabling role that e-Centres play throughout the province by providing free internet and digital services – particularly in rural and underserved communities; further acknowledges that the tabled Budget has allocated funding for two additional e-Centres in the upcoming financial year, which is a

testament to this Government's leadership in expanding and improving services where they are most needed; commends the Department of the Premier for its ongoing initiative and leadership through innovation; and notes that these e-Centres are critical to the strategy for job creation, education and fostering active citizenry.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes that, on Tuesday 15 April 2025, 200 residents of the City of Cape Town were affected and displaced by a fire in the Silahliwe Nkanini Informal Settlement in Lwandle, also known as the David Kanti Informal Settlement; thanks and congratulates the Cape Town Fire Department for their timeous work in fighting the fire, as well as the ward and proportional representation (PR) councillors for their work in trying to assist the residents and calling for donations to assist people at this time; commends the City of Cape Town for its excellent Fire Department and the firefighting efforts to prevent, contain and extinguish fires, such as this one, that stopped it spreading further, particularly at a time of the year that sees winds accelerate and intensify these situations; notes that, fortunately, no lives were lost but that does not take away from the pain and trauma of people losing their homes and possessions; and our thoughts are with them at this time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House recognises the City of Cape Town's measures to prevent fires in informal settlements, including educating people about the importance of fire breaks between dwellings, promoting community awareness and ensuring access to fire suppression equipment; and notes that a very important fire prevention measure is the prevention of cable theft and illegal electricity connection, and residents are urged to be aware of the risks posed by this and to work together with the City to prevent this kind of situation from reoccurring.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates and commends all firefighters in the Western Cape who have bravely battled a total of 11 149 wildfires during the peak season; recognises the courage and dedication of these men and women who serve on the front lines to protect our biodiversity and all who depend on it; and further extends a special vote of thanks to the Disaster Risk Management teams of the City of Cape Town and the Cape Winelands District Municipality for their outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in managing the majority of these incidents, these

men and women are not only brave, but embody the values this Government holds in service to its people.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes the successful collaboration between the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Transnet Port terminals and fruit exporting industry, including Agbiz, Hortgro, SATI, FPEF and the KAL Group, in funding and installing two 500 kVA generators at the Cape Town Port container terminal; acknowledges that this initiative will enhance the terminal's capacity during peak export seasons, ensuring efficient handling of perishable goods and reducing delays caused by operational disruptions; recognises the importance of public-private partnerships in driving economic growth, improving logistics efficiency and supporting South Africa's export-oriented industries; commends all stakeholders involved for answering the Premier's call to step up their proactive and solutions-driven approach, that aligns with the Western Cape's Growth for Jobs Strategy and that strengthens the province's role as a key contributor to the national economy; and encourages continued collaboration between the Government, Transnet and industry leaders to modernise and optimise the Port of Cape Town further for the benefit of all South Africans.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates Dr Mana Mildred Ramakaba-Lesiea on being awarded the prestigious Isithwalandwe/Seaparankwe by the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress in recognition of her lifelong dedication to the liberation struggle and democracy; further notes that Ms Lesiea, born in 1933 in Langa, Cape Town, joined the ANC in 1954 and played a critical role in various resistance campaigns, including the fight against Bantu Education, pass laws and forced removals in the Western Cape; further notes and appreciates that, as a committed activist, she was instrumental in the Treason Trial support campaigns, the Anti-Pass Campaign and the revival of women's structures and that her unwavering resolve saw her detained multiple times, banned and continuously involved in underground ANC activities, where she mobilised communities and the youth in defiance of apartheid oppression; recognises and commends Dr Ramakaba-Lesiea's immense contributions, including her leadership in the United Democratic Front, the South African Youth Congress and the ANC Women's League, as well as her service as a ward councillor and Member of Parliament post-1994; appreciates that her bravery, resilience and dedication to the freedom of South Africa continue to inspire generations; and congratulates and salutes her for this well-deserved honour and acknowledges her lifelong service to the struggle and the

empowerment of our people.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and extends its deepest condolences on the passing away of Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Rodney de Kock; further notes that, as a pioneer in the legal fraternity, he was the first black South African to be appointed as an Attorney General and played a crucial role in transforming South Africa's legal system; further notes that his dedication to justice was evident throughout his career, from co-founding the National Association of Democratic Lawyers in 1987, alongside stalwarts like Dullah Omar and Pius Langa, to serving as Attorney General and later Director of Public Prosecutions in the Western Cape; acknowledges that his fearless commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring access to justice for all South Africans remains an enduring legacy; further notes and appreciates that, following his appointment as Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions in 2020 by President Cyril Ramaphosa, Advocate De Kock led critical efforts, including South Africa's exit strategy from the Financial Action Task Force grey-listing and that his integrity, humility and dedication earned him the respect of the legal profession and the broader society; sends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the National Prosecuting Authority; and notes

that his untimely passing away after a brief battle with brain cancer is a profound loss to the nation.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates BMX riders Gauta Mahlakoane, Karabo Mokoo and Maxwell Ndou on their incredible cycling journey from Limpopo to Cape Town, an inspiring effort to raise funds and awareness for their community bicycle club, which empowers the youth to stay away from crime and drugs; and further salutes their courage, determination and commitment to uplifting their community through positive action.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its deepest condolences on the passing away of our beloved comrade, cde Mirriam Ntombizanele Sifile (Cde Charty), a dedicated ANC veteran, former ward councillor of Ward 1 (Nduli), former Speaker of the Witzenberg Municipality, and former member of both the ANC Boland Region and the Western Cape provincial executive committees; further notes and honours her lifelong commitment to the

struggle for justice, her exemplary leadership in local government and her tireless work as a founding member of the Ceres Advice Office, where she championed community development and access to essential services; further notes that cde Sifile's legacy of service, equality and progress will continue to inspire us as we strive to build a better society; and extends heartfelt sympathy to her family, friends and comrades during this difficult time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes a tragedy which occurred in the early hours of Sunday 6 April 2025 when a fire spread through an informal settlement in New Rest, Wellington; further notes that one woman lost her life in the fire which destroyed 200 informal houses leaving more than 1 200 people homeless and destitute; acknowledges the much needed and immediate response from NGOs such as Gift of the Givers, the Paarl-based Rural Islamic Welfare Association (RIWA) and the Women on Farms Project; notes that since the devastating fire, RIWA has been providing cooked meals to the destitute families daily; further notes that RIWA has embarked on a national appeal drive for clothing, blankets, school uniforms and other basic necessities; recognises that RIWA has displayed great teamwork by coordinating the distribution of food and clothing with fellow NGOs such as the Women on Farms Project; and

recognises the need for more rapid response to assist families in such disasters.

[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 to these motions?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if the member had read them out aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity to the 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, I wish to remind you that 30 minutes are allocated as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d), and that it will start now.

I recognise the hon D W Jacobs. [Interjections.] Hon Jacobs, my apologies. Hon Jacobs?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I want the podium.

The SPEAKER: Oh, you want the podium. [Interjections.] Can I just ask that the Table Staff stop the time because the House is governed by Rules and the Rule says 30 minutes for Motions without Notice.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the NCC rises to dip its flag to those youngsters who have lost their lives in the ongoing gang violence in Western Cape, especially those in the Coloured communities; please note that in 2024, the NCC stood in this House to sponsor a debate to address this continued bloodshed due to gang violence; further we note that this has not stopped, and week after week, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, find themselves next to open graves, saying their final goodbyes to yet another youngster; we also note that the NCC feels the pain of those families, and the tears of those families, their tears are our tears, our tears are their tears; their pain is our pain, our pain is their pain; so, we say to the young ones, rest well young ones, your blood will not be in vain, we shall overcome. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

For the House to know that today, Thursday, 24 April, Equal Education and Equal Education Law Centre will be taking the Western Cape Department of Education to the Western Cape High Court over the issue of unplaced learners in the province; further note that these two organisations' case will mainly focus on the WCED's policy and its failure to adequately and satisfactorily address the issue of late applications, and to timeously place learners in schools; take notice that this issue mostly affects children from disadvantage communities who normally lose a lot of school duration and end up not being assisted to catch up with school work which leads to them producing poor results. In conclusion, hon Speaker, I conclude by stating that this is a shortcoming on the part of the Government as it could have.

This thing is mixed up. Sorry, hon Speaker.

No child should stay at home for extended periods of time due to the fact that the whole Department is unable to find them placement in school. Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there

any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

An HON MEMBER: Absent.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Windvogel.

An HON MEMBER: Absent.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Stoffel.

An HON MEMBER: Absent.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

An HON MEMBER: Absconded.

An HON MEMBER: Absent. Absconded.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

An HON MEMBER: Absconded.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Sayed.

An HON MEMBER: Absconded.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Windvogel.

An HON MEMBER: Absconded.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Nkondlo. I recognise the hon Lekker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, that brings us to the end of Motions without Notice. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Conduct Committee on the breach of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, 2025, by hon member T Lithakong.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers, and that parties who wish to do so, will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the Report for a maximum of three minutes. I recognise the ANC. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): I do not want to. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: No declaration. I recognise the EFF. Do you need the podium?

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): No, no, it is fine, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the EFF calls for the Code of Conduct to be reviewed and amended so that it can allow flexibility, especially where an hon member such as. This is in the case of a ruling, sorry, hon Speaker. For the Code of Conduct to be reviewed and amended so that it can be allowed flexibility.

Especially where an hon members such as hon member Lithakong's position who experienced technical issues at the time and informed the Members Interest Department specifically, Adv P Burger, requesting to be allowed more time due to issues which includes there being a storm at the time, as I believe, hon Speaker, which was reported to the Department. Sorry, to Adv Burger and those were some of the issues which led to hon member Lithakong not being able to submit at the time.

Hon Speaker, just to add. If there is a ruling, it is that hon member Lithakong will be accepting any ruling, but also the current Rules are regulated unfairly, and they should be changed. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the NCC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the NCC declares that we do not support the recommended penalty as noted in the report. Hon Speaker, as a minority party in the House, we are here to represent the people that entrusted us with their votes on 29 May 2024. When we are representing these voters in this august House, we are on the ground, we are in the community, and we are always busy assisting our people where the ruling party has failed.

Now, hon Speaker, †ek maak ook maar baie van daardie *mistakes*. Dan sê ek ek gaan nou die *email* stuur en dan stuur ek dit nie. [I also make a lot of those mistakes. Then I say I'm going to send the e-mail now and then I don't send it.] But this was an administrative delay. There was no financial loss suffered by the WCPP and this was the first time that the hon member has contravened the Code. Now, if the hon member was already found guilty on the breach of the Code of Conduct, I would have agreed on the penalty. But let this be a learning curve. Also, this is the hon member's final warning, so I believe she will not have this experience again.

We, the NCC, declare that we do not support this recommended penalty and let this be a session deemed as a warning to the hon member. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): No declaration, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Freedom Front Plus? Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Al Jama-ah's position is that we do not support this penalty, and the decision should be reviewed. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The ACDP? [Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon Christians, you may continue.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP support the reprimand, but not the second bullet to say that the hon member should not have her privileges, her right to debates and committees, and be suspended.

So, we believe that the hon member has learnt a lesson, but the reprimand is good enough, not further than that. So, we cannot support that. It is a new member. It is her first year and I think the Committee has looked at all the recommendations. I do not know what the hon member said about mitigating reasons, but that should be sufficient. I think because it is a new hon member, a reprimand is in order. Thank you.

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

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I trust that in general, hon members of this House understand their role and generally, try to colour within the lines. However, sometimes it is necessary for the Conduct Committee to meet and deal with an infringement of the Rules and regulations governing the behaviour of hon members. However, it must also be born in mind that these findings should serve to refresh everyone's awareness of pitfalls so that we avoid it in future as no one likes conduct findings having to be served before the House, as they do today.

The Conduct Committee met on 6 November 2024, to hear the Registrar of Member's Interests present a report on a breach of the Code of Conduct by an hon member who failed to submit disclosure forms by the due date. Disclosures are a very important part of the accountability mechanism for the hon members and filing them correctly and submitting them on time, both here and in the National Parliament, contributes to the integrity of hon members and ultimately, the integrity of the House.

In this particular case, the hon member failed to submit timeously, despite at least five written reminders to do so, as well as a reminder to the Whip of the party concerned. The conduct process then followed, and no response was received to the complaint against the hon member by the time of the sitting of the Conduct Committee. The Committee deliberated on and accepted the

Registrar's report finding the hon member liable for the omission and thus, guilty of a conduct violation in this regard.

It is that report that is before this House today for consideration and I would urge the House to understand the gravity of the matter. We are all representatives of the people and regardless of our political differences, we are here by virtue of the votes of the people. When we fail in our duties and breach the Code of Conduct, we fail not only ourselves, but also the residents and the voters of the Western Cape.

I also take this opportunity to appeal to the hon members to be aware of the submission dates for our latest annual disclosures, which is at the end of this month. Do not forget or let it slip the House's mind. I have no wish to plagiarise my own speech in a few months' time. Hon Speaker, through you, I appeal to the hon members to ensure submission timeously. I thus move this report and urge the House to support it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have just noted that hon Marais had connectivity issues. I am going to allow hon Marais, if he wants to make a declaration, that he can do so. Hon Marais? Okay. I am not getting a response, so I am going to continue.

Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 26 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House is that the Report of the Conduct Committee be adopted.

Are there any objections to the Report being adopted?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. So, all those in favour of the question being put, that the Report be adopted, please say 'aye'.

Hon MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the question being adopted, please say 'no'.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it, that the Report being adopted.

Hon members, that also 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 adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:52.