
THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT

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

The House met at 10:00.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Good morning hon members. I would want to take this opportunity to welcome our esteemed guests to the Sitting today. Please note that for this Sitting the Standing Rules of the House will apply further in compliance with the powers, privileges and immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act of 2004. This entire hall, including all visitor seating areas, passages and ablution facilities will be regarded as the precincts of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Before we proceed I would like to make some comments about the logistical arrangements. Today we have hon members present in this hall together with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff and the housekeeping rules for the Sitting will be that the Sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules and in instances, hon members, where the Rules cannot be applied the ruling by the

Presiding Officer is final. Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are as provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. Members who are present in this hall have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Hon members, unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and who are entitled to cast their votes in accordance with our Standing Rules. Hon Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and will be called to order.

When a hon member wishes to raise a point of order, such a hon member may address the Presiding Officer as normal but must mute his or her microphone as soon as he or she has completed speaking. The hon members are kindly requested to ensure that their microphones are unmuted when they are recognised by the Presiding Officer and to mute their microphones when they have finished speaking. Hon members and guests, I kindly request that those who are not members of this House to please observe the decorum of the House.

For the purposes of the Sitting, language translation services are available by using the devices at your disposal. If guests requiring an interpreting device, please raise your hand and an attendant will assist you. Officials are available to assist hon members who are experiencing challenges with accessing the interpreting services during the Sitting. The Secretary and her Administration

will ensure that there is a dedicated technical support at all times. Hon members, the Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Debate on the Premier's State of the Province address.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I have received a copy of the Premier's State of the Province address delivered in the House on Wednesday, the 25th of February 2026. The address is printed in the Minutes of the Proceedings and I now place it before the House for debate. I recognise the hon Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed. ...[Applause]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, hon members, distinguished guests, residents of the Western Cape, I thank the people of George and the Garden Route for their hospitality and for sharing their lived realities, hopes and expectations. President Ramaphosa declared 2026 the year of decisive action to fix local government and transform the economy. The Western Cape is not exempt from this call, particularly as communities demand urgency, accountability and delivery.

The State of the Province Address must reflect honestly about our challenges, not only confidence in our achievements. The African National Congress enters this debate with a simple question: Are we hearing the true state of the province or a narrative of Western Cape exceptionalism? Beyond the Premier's polished

statistics and branding of success, millions face service delivery failure, spatial exclusion and unequal opportunity, conditions reinforced, not resolved by provincial policy.

This is the reality of two Western Capes in one, one of investment summits, innovation centres and marketing, and another of unemployment, unsafe communities, inequality and poverty. A province that works well for some and struggles to work for many. Responsible leadership does not only celebrate success, it confronts inequality. Good governance is measured by whether those furthest behind and brought forward, not by how well the best perform.

Hon Speaker, this month the official Opposition undertook a listening campaign and participatory oversight in the Garden Route, engaging residents, small businesses, farmers, backyard dwellers, civic organisations and workers. Their message was consistent – water insecurity, housing delays, collapsing infrastructure, healthcare, limited economic opportunities, overcrowded schools and unresponsive municipalities are eroding dignity and livelihoods.

Communities are not asking for narratives, they are demanding action, accountability, transparency and consequence management. A government that listens builds legitimacy, a dismissive government deepens distrust. Hon Speaker, Premier Winde speaks of inclusive Western Cape, but inclusion must be experienced in services, opportunity and governance, not declared in speeches. Across municipalities, governance and service delivery failures persist with insufficient provincial intervention.

Matzikama's water crisis, driven by poor management, continues, while MEC Bredell's Section 106 recommendations around unlawful mayoral appointments remain unimplemented. Hessequa residents report project mismanagement and intimidation of whistle-blowers. Bitou's management-induced water crisis is compounded by allegations of irregular supply chain appointments and weak consequence management.

In George, public dissatisfaction is evident. The Craven Week catering saga, the toilet tender scandal and the unlawful Kleinkrantz lease remain without consequences. This reinforces a pattern of governance drift, selective accountability and political convenience. We meet in George, approaching two years since the tragic building collapse. That was not merely an accident, it was a governance failure. The report funded by this Legislature remains unreleased, while concerns abound from national and built environment entities regarding municipal oversight, building compliance and standards.

Institutional consequences must follow. Hon Speaker, the housing crisis further exposes the gap between narrative and reality. In Mossel Bay, completed low-cost houses stand empty, while families remain in backyard dwellings and informal settlements, with limited consultation on the housing model. In Hout Bay, we witnessed another massive informal settlement fire, despite the 2021 commitment to housing on acquired land for the working class of Imiza Moyetu and Hangberg. Years later, not a single brick laid. These delays are systemic, not isolated.

As long as overcrowded and unsafe living conditions persist, fires, displacement and human suffering will remain recurring risks. Hon Speaker, 1,600 learners remain out of school, while a High Court ruling has not been implemented. This is a direct violation of the right to basic education and a constitutional failure in the face of growing enrolment. In Bitou, reports of oversight obstruction at schools point to a troubling governance pattern. The learner transport crisis in McGregor excluded vulnerable learners, and the ANC supported the activism and farmer support interventions for a solution.

The recent restoration of services is not a favour, it is a constitutional duty, and Wellington remains unresolved. Hon Speaker, in Bitou and Knysna, water insecurity threatens tourism, local jobs, economic stability, and is now both a social and economic threat. In Langeberg, repeated shortages and outages stem from years of underinvestment, ageing infrastructure, and reactive governance, despite available bulk water supply. When basic services fail, investment declines, and economic confidence weakens.

Fixing local government is central to fixing the economy. Hon Speaker, economic growth without structural inclusion entrenches inequality. Township economies remain excluded from mainstream growth policies. Emerging entrepreneurs face procurement barriers, and young people remain locked out of meaningful economic participation. Economic policy must democratise opportunity, building local supply chains and enabling marginalised communities to become producers, innovators, and owners of growth.

Youth unemployment remains a defining crisis, requiring alignment between skills development, future industries, and real labour market access. Hon Speaker, Safety Plan 2.0 was developed without sufficient public participation. Communities cannot be policed into safety – they must be partners in building it. We welcome national security support initiatives, but provincial coordination and community-informed implementation are essential for sustainable safety outcomes. Hon Speaker, gentrification in urban centres is accelerating spatial exclusion.

In Bo-Kaap, a day-care serving dozens of children closed without an alternative. Salt River faces similar displacement, deepening cultural and economic marginalisation. An inclusive province cannot develop patterns that displaces working class and historically marginalised communities from the city. Healthcare infrastructure facilities, such as Rosemore Clinic, damaged by fire, still reflects delayed responses. Hon Speaker, the GNU demonstrates that cooperative governance is possible. Yet this Provincial Administration adopts a posture of political distance and selective engagement with national priorities.

MEC Meyer's conduct on the One China policy and the provincial consequences illustrates misalignment ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Leader of the Opposition, please take your seat. Hon Walters, is that a point of order?

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I wanted to know whether the member is willing to take a question.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Only when I am in the Executive. [Laughter]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjection] Order! [Interjection] Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Even as ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, I have not concluded the point of order. Hon Walters, for the record, hon Sayed is not prepared to take your question. Hon Walters, you cannot rise on a point of order on a point of order. Is that a new point of order? [Interjection] Order. Hon Walters, what is your point of order?

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, given the answer, I wanted to ask you another question.

The SPEAKER: Order. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, I will recognise you now. Hon Walters, in terms of the Rules, you cannot rise on a point of order when a point of order has already been dealt with. So that is not a point of

order. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a new point of order?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I am covered, Chair, you have reminded that one, we are not in a kindergarten here.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Just for the record, that is also not a point of order. Hon Sayed, you may continue and apologies for the interruption.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Even as DA leader John Steenhuisen engages pragmatically with the People's Republic of China as a major trade partner, South Africa's constitutional values are grounded in international solidarity. The Provincial Government's selective international posture, engaging some while remaining conspicuously silent on Palestine, Western Sahara and Cuba, contrasts national foreign policy positions.

The contradictions are stark. Helen Zille publicly disputed the term genocide in Gaza and our case at the ICJ, yet the Provincial Government has acknowledged facilitating trade engagement with Israel. On Cuba, the silence is equally telling. This remains the only province not participating in the Mandela Castro Cuban medical training programme and there has been no clear condemnation of the U.S.-Cuba blockade. An inclusive Western Cape must align with a united South Africa, not selective international positioning that undermines national cohesion and diplomacy.

Hon Speaker, the people are speaking. They are calling for accountable municipalities, reliable inclusive growth and responsive governance. The ANC hears them and stands ready to advance oversight, strengthen public participation ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and restore people-centred governance ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Take your seat, please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Let us move beyond branding narratives and confront the reality ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... the reality of two Western Capes and build one Western Cape...

The SPEAKER: Can the Table Staff please switch off the microphone, the time has expired. Hon members, before I recognise the next speaker, I wish to remind you that the time allocations per member have been allocated as printed on the speaker's list. Hon members, I ask you at the beginning of the debate to please work with me. There is time allocated. The digital clock is a reminder

of your time and the remainder of your time, so please I ask for your indulgence and work that you would work with me.

Can I please also ask the Table Staff that once the time has expired to please switch off the microphone if the member has not concluded and continue in the vein of the Leader of the Opposition. With that being said, I now recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon fellow members of the Executive, but all members of the House, esteemed guests, including Councillors, Mayors and all other protocol observers, above all the residents of George, the Garden Route and the Western Cape. Premier Winde's theme for this year is very clear, getting it done with kindness, but hon Speaker, let us be clear and when I say us, I mean we, the governing party of the Western Cape.

Kindness is not softness. Kindness is not delay. Kindness is not indecision. Kindness in government means delivering with urgency while never forgetting that behind every decision that we make as the governing party, are people. For the Department of Infrastructure, this means three things. We build with discipline, we govern with integrity and we accelerate delivery. †Dit beteken ons bou nie net vinniger nie, ons bou beter en ons bou met mense in gedagte.

Maar kom ek begin by die begin en dit is ons paaie. [It means we do not only build faster, we build better and we build with people in mind. But let me start

at the beginning and that is our roads.] Roads are not just strips of tar and gravel. They are economic arteries. They connect farmers to markets. They connect workers to jobs. They connect children to schools and patients to clinics. And if we want growth, those arteries must remain strong. For far too long in this country, infrastructure has been repaired only once it collapses. Look at Gauteng specifically. In the Western Cape, we maintain before our infrastructure fails.

Under our new roads or provincial roads delivery model, we are shifting from reactive maintenance to structured, predictable, accelerated delivery. That is why routine road maintenance contracts have been put in place as of this month, to ensure that across this province we protect assets before they deteriorate, we sustain local contractor participation, legal contractors, we support jobs in our communities and we ensure mobility is never compromised. Therefore, on the 4th of March, we will launch what is called the Roads for You mobile app, the first app of its kind in the country.

This is governance innovation in action. Residents will be able to report road related issues directly, irrespective of who the road authority is. †Dit verkort die afstand tussen regering en gemeenskap. Dit gee ons mense 'n stem in dienslewering. Dit maak aanspreeklikheid prakties. Ons stel ook binnekort 'n nuwe grys versnellingsmodel bekend. Te dikwels vertraag verkrygingsprosesse en beperkte toegang tot materiaal noodsaaklike instandhouding, veral in ons landelike gebiede en hierdie model verwyder daardie knelpunte.

Dit beteken vinniger opgraderings, beter instandhouding en groter ondersteuning aan ons landelike ekonomieë. [It reduces the distance between the government and community. It gives our people a voice in service delivery. It makes accountability practical. We are also introducing a new grey development model shortly. Too often acquisition processes and limited access to material delay necessary maintenance, especially in our rural areas and this model removes those problems.

It means quicker upgradings, better maintenance and larger support to our rural economies.] And importantly, hon Speaker, the R300 extension, I am proud to say, has now been approved. But this is not just another road in this province. It links strategically to the Malmesbury bypass, Vioolsdrif bypass roads and is an important enabler for the Cape Highlands Metropolis. It strengthens freight mobility, it enhances regional integration, it unlocks economic corridors.

Infrastructure of this nature therefore does not simply move traffic, it moves opportunity for our people. †Dit bring my by nog 'n belangrike punt. Ons bou nie net sommer vir bou, agbare Speaker, in die Wes-Kaap nie, ons bou strategieë. [That brings me to another important point. We do not just build for the sake of building, hon Speaker, in the Western Cape we build strategies.] The R152 billion infrastructure pipeline the Premier referred to, is not some spreadsheet. It is a commitment. It gives investors certainty, it gives municipalities alignment and it gives our economy momentum.

It also packages projects properly, it moves them systematically from concept

to implementation and it creates visibility for funders and private partners. †Daarom hierdie Vrydag, dit is nou môre, sal ons die sooi spit by die nuwe afvalverwydering-sel by Karweiderskraal. Hierdie is die eerste projek wat suksesvol deur die volle pyplyn beweeg het van ons enkel pyplyn. Van konsep tot implementering, alles binne 'n periode van 10 maande. Dit is bewys dat hierdie versnellingsmodel van ons Departement werk. [Therefore, this Friday, that is tomorrow, we will turn the first sod at the new waste removal cell, at Karweiderskraal. This is the first project that moved successfully through the full pipeline from our single pipeline. From concept to implementation, everything within a period of 10 months. That is proof that this acceleration model of our Department works.]

Hon Speaker, but land sitting idle is opportunity delayed. That is why we are accelerating our rapid land release programme across our province. By releasing provincial land strategically, we unlock affordable housing delivery, stimulate construction activity and create dignity through ownership. In March, the tender for the Leeuloop will be awarded and Founders Garden will follow very soon thereafter. More releases will be announced later in the second and third quarter of this year. We are accelerating our land release programme across this province.

These will be catalytic developments. They will crowd in private capital, they will combine social and economic opportunities for all of our people and they are sending a clear signal: The Western Cape is investment ready. But I need the House to understand, Government's role is not to replace private capital. It

is to de-risk it, to structure, to align and then to accelerate in partnership with the private sector. †Dit is hoe 'n moderne infrastruktuurdepartement werk. Maar, agbare Speaker, versnelling sonder kapasiteit, is broos. [That is how a modern infrastructure department works. But, hon Speaker, acceleration without capacity is brittle.]

That is why we are strengthening municipal readiness and infrastructure governance. The infrastructure pipeline is therefore not just a provincial focus. It is designed to align municipal planning with provincial strategy. When planning is fragmented, projects stall. When governance is unstable, investors walk away. When priorities are misaligned, funding is normally wasted. Alignment ensures that bulk services, spatial frameworks and project pipelines speak to one another.

A practical example is the Railton Human Settlements project in Swellendam. By this Department providing bridge funding, we ensured continuity and prevented delays caused by short-term funding constraints to ensure that farmworkers and backyarders of Swellendam get their housing opportunity. It is not a tale of two provinces. †Kry julle feite reg, asseblief. Dit is hoe samewerking tussen regeringsfere behoort te werk. Ons sal ook binnekort beleidsraamwerke aankondig wat belyning met munisipale ruimtelike ontwikkelingsraamwerke verder gaan versterk.

Agbare Speaker, hier gaan dit oor duidelikheid, dit gaan oor koherensie, dit gaan oor geloofwaardige beplanning op munisipale vlak vir ons mense. Agbare

Speaker, beleggers belê waar bestuur stabiel is. Gemeenskappe floreer waar instellings bekwaam is en dienslewering versnel waar beplanning ernstig opgeneem word. Wanneer ons sê ons doen dit met deernis, *we do it with kindness*, bedoel ons dat dringendheid, maar ook medemenslikheid nie teenpole behoort te wees van mekaar nie.

[Get your facts straight, please. That is how cooperation between government spheres should work. We will also shortly announce policy frameworks that will further strengthen alignment with municipal spatial development frameworks.]

Hon Speaker, here it is about clarity, it is about coherence, it is about credible planning at municipal level for our people. Hon Speaker, investors invest where management is stable. Communities flourish where institutions are capable and service delivery accelerates where planning is taken seriously. When we say we do it with compassion, we mean that urgency but also compassion should not be opposite poles to each other.]

Behind every housing opportunity is a family seeking stability. Behind every upgraded road is a worker travelling home safely. Behind every catalytic project is a young person seeking employment. †Ons kan vinnig beweeg en steeds na ons mense luister. Ons kan durf toon en steeds vertrouwe bou in ons gemeenskappe. Ons kan belegging ontsluit en ons kan steeds plaaslike regering ondersteun. [We can move quickly and still listen to our people. We can show courage and still build confidence in our communities. We can unlock investment and we can still support local government.] That is what disciplined,

compassionate governance looks like.

And hon Speaker, infrastructure is not just about cement. It is about confidence. It is about dignity. It is about economic freedom for all in this province. Our new roads delivery model accelerates stability and growth. Our R152 billion pipeline unlocks investment in jobs. Our municipal support strengthens governance and sustainability where it matters the most for our projects to land. We are not waiting. We are not hesitating. We are not reacting to crisis.

This province, under this party's leadership, is planning. We are aligning. And above all, we are delivering on the mandate this Premier got with a full majority in 2024. And we are doing this with urgency. We are doing this with integrity. But above all, with care. And yes, with kindness. To each and every role player present here today and those who are following us online, whether you are big or small, this Government sees you.

Your governing party sees you. We respect you. And as a team, we all want to thank you. All of you are important. Let us work together and maintain respect for each other while we build a better, stronger, future Western Cape for us all. But now to our communities in George, in the Garden Route and across the Western Cape. We are in a local government election here.

†En ek moet sê, tans maak een bedrieglike groen swaeltjie nie 'n somer nie, hulle maak nie 'n somer nie. Die feite gaan uitkom van hoe hulle ons

gemeenskappe bedrieg, hoe hulle ons gemeenskappe mislei en hoe hulle by hulle oorwinnings uitkom. En ja, die DA in die Wes-Kaap aanvaar wanneer ons nie 'n wyk wen nie, maar ons aanvaar dit, want ons weet ons kontesteer met integriteit, want ons het respek as die regerende party in 'n provinsie en waar ons regeer, hetsy dit deur meerderheid op plaaslike regeringsvlak, of in koalisie, ons respekteer ons kiesers se integriteit en hulle menswaardigheid.

En daarmee wil ek vir ons kiesers vra, wanneer u later in die jaar in die stembus in 'n lyn gaan staan en wanneer party in hierdie provinsie aan u deur kom klop, onthou asseblief een ding, [and I have to say, currently one deceptive green swallow does not make a summer, they don't make a summer. The facts are going to come out of how they deceive our communities, how they mislead our communities and how they get to their victories. And yes, the DA in the Western Cape accepts when we do not win a ward but we accept it, we know that we contest with integrity, because we have respect as the governing party in the province and where we govern, whether through majority or in coalition, we respect our voters' integrity and their dignity.

And with that I want to ask our voters, call mom when later in the year at the ballot box you are going to stand in line and when some in this province are going to knock on your door, please remember one thing,] we need to maintain our momentum through stable governance at local government. You have seen the failures of where you split your vote to give us, sadly, coalition governments that fail. Look at Theewaterskloof. Look at Knysna. And I can go on and on and on. ...[intervenes]

†Die SPEAKER: Agbare Minister...

[The SPEAKER: Hon Minister...]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: I will respect the decision of the voters...

The SPEAKER: Order. Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...but those decisions do come with consequences.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjection] Order, members! [Interjection] Order! [Interjection] Order, members! [Interjection] Order! Hon Nkondlo, Hon Michels, Hon Chief Whip, there is a point of order by the hon Petrus, so I am first going to deal with that point of order and then I will recognise you. Hon Petrus, is that a point of order?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes, Chairperson, hon Speaker, are we now in a political election campaign meeting or are we reacting on the speech of the Premier?

ARBITRATOR: Thank you very much. [Interjection] Order, members.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Because this is far from the speech of the Premier.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the point of order raised by hon Petrus is in fact an important one for me to rule on for the remainder of the debate. In fact, hon Petrus, this is a political debate. So I do allow a bit of latitude when it comes to inputs. But I will also remind members that please draw reference to the Premier's State of the Province Address, as this is the reply or the debate on the initial debate. But I am listening carefully. But just for the record, this is in fact a political debate. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Just want to know, hon Speaker, if the MEC will take a question on housing. Just a short one.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I will ask the MEC. Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: No.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you just rise and then inform me for the record?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: No, hon Speaker, there is a Standing Committee for that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Minister is not prepared to take a question, hon Bans. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, thank you very much. But most importantly, as we are heading to a local government election, we have seen the impact of instability on the most important sphere of government across various communities, across our province, leading to citizens being without water for days, waste not being collected. And I am talking about, yes, Knysna. Knysna is an example of where you have a fragmented voter base that creates a coalition that is not governing in the interest of the people of Knysna, but in the interest of the coalition.

And yes, the Patriotic Alliance, the ANC and other small parties have destroyed Knysna for their own pockets, not to uplift the people of Knysna. So you need to protect, together with us, the stability of your town, of your municipality. But let us continue getting things done. We have seen in Knysna, and we have seen in Theewaterskloof, when they do not govern in the interest of our people, but for themselves, projects get stalled, member Sayer and perhaps the hon Petrus ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...must learn, do not take naps, and focus on getting things done.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: I thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Hon Michels, is there a point of order?

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Ja, agbare Speaker.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Yes, hon Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Michaels, what is your point of order?

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Ek wil net weet, is dit reg dat die MEC die Huis mislei deur net sekere munisipaliteite te noem en die DA, waar die DA *govern*, Theewaterskloof se laaste bestuur wat deur die DA ge-govern word, sukkel nou nog om hulle *audit report* te maak ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): I just want to know, is it right that the MEC misleads the House by just mentioning certain municipalities and the DNA, where the DA governs, Theewaterskloof's last council governed by the DA, is still struggling to make their audit report...[Interjections.]]

The SPEAKER: Hon Michels, hon members! Before I rule or first let me rule. Hon Michels, that is not a point of order. Hon members, when you rise on a point of order, you do not need to motivate your point of order. Rise, give your point of order, in order for me to rule. I do not want to get to a point where I ask you to quote the rule. So can I please ask that you work with me? I am going to provide you opportunity if you want to raise your point of order, but

please, you have no need to motivate your point of order. I will adjudicate on your point of order.

Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, it is, hon Speaker. I would like to ask you to ask the hon member to withdraw the accusation that he just made that the Minister is misleading the House.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip [Interjection] Order. Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, I have ruled already. I will look at Hansard and revert back if there is a need in terms of the Rules to withdraw. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, Speaker. Before I say thank you, let me just say it is quite ironic that last night's power napper is sitting next to a former mayor who was napping while Theewaterskloof was destroyed. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired. ...[Applause] Order!
Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, you know, I thought we had started the debate with the proper decorum, but the hon Simmers is out of order. He is misleading the House. The hon Petrus was not sleeping.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order members! Members, can I please ask that you please bear in mind that we have members of the public sitting in the gallery that came for this debate. Can I please remind you that rising on frivolous points of order are also un-parliamentary? [Interjection] Order! Hon Minister, I am on the floor. Hon members, we have just started the debate. We have a long way through the speakers' list. Can I please ask that you work with me in order to ensure that the citizens of this province hear the inputs of every member on the speakers' list? It is, after all, about the citizens. With that being said, I now recognise the hon Stevens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, and distinguished guests, I greet you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We rise today as the Patriotic Alliance after carefully listening to the SOPA 2026 yesterday. And hon Speaker, let us be honest and transparent from the very start. The speech we heard, much like the one last year, once again does not match the lived reality of our people. Outside of this Chamber, there is no celebration. There is fear. There is frustration. There is anger. And there is a growing belief that this Government has become comfortable with failure and constant promises.

Our people do not need beautifully written and rehearsed speeches. They need action. They need a government that works for them and not for the select elite few. Our province is bleeding, hon Speaker. But before I proceed, I elaborate

on the statement, I want to thank two individuals today. Firstly, our President of the Patriotic Alliance, hon Minister Gayton McKenzie, for taking the Christ of our people to Cabinet and swearing that Coloured lives matter too.

When we took the streets as Patriotic Alliance in our Coloured Lives Matter T-shirts, we were mocked and called all sorts of names. But we have conquered for our people. Secondly, his Excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, for hearing the urgency and not only for the Patriotic Alliance, but from other parties as well, requesting the intervention of the army in provinces where crime and gangsterism have spiralled out of control. We said army or nothing. And the army is coming.

Killing continued day after day. The death toll rises by the hour. It is no longer only adults shot in stray bullets. It is our children, our future leaders. Gang violence has tightened its grip on the Cape Flats and is spreading like an uncontrollable disease. But we need to stop beating around the bush. It is a socio-economic issue that the Premier forgets to mention. Premier, two machines are not the answer and will save the Western Cape. Or is it that you have given up?

Entire communities are held hostage by criminals while others lived behind high gates and walls, untouched by the harsh realities that imprison our people in their own homes. Parents are terrified to let their children walk to school, let alone play outside. Families are burying loved ones far too often and far too young. Yet here we stand, listening to polished words about progress and

the now infamous line of devolution of powers. Hon Premier, our people do not live in speeches. They live in the consequence of inaction, inaction by this very Government.

Drought continues to crush livelihoods. Communities struggle for basic water security. We hear about dam levels dropping again, about water becoming a luxury instead of a basic need. We are drowning in plans and strategies but starving for visible results. Reports do not coincide. Presentations do not feed families. People need action and they need it now. Our healthcare system is in a deep crisis. Hospitals are overcrowded and understaffed. Patients sit for endless hours in pain. Clinics run out of medication. Ambulances are delayed while lives hang in balance.

Kraaifontein Day Hospital has not had doctors for three weeks. Three weeks, hon Speaker. Patients are told to return when a doctor is available. When? How? Why? I do not know. The elderly and vulnerable feel abandoned by a system meant to protect, nurture and heal them. This is not a minor issue. It is a humanitarian failure unfolding in plain sight. Caledon Hospital is once again proven to be a serious disappointment to our public health system. The service delivery is unacceptable.

The management appears inactive, ineffective and the consequences are devastating for the people who rely on this institution for urgent medical care. Yesterday a mother rushed a teenage daughter to the hospital while she was experiencing seizures and running an extremely high temperature. Instead of

receiving immediate medical attention, she was told to wait because it was allegedly not an emergency. She waited nearly 12 hours. 12 hours while the child was in distress.

Eventually, out of desperation and fear for the daughter's life, the mother had to find means to take her child to a private doctor. This is not just poor service. This is a failure of duty. Rosemore Clinic burned down three years ago and up until today, nothing has been done, even after the visit from the Minister, our communities deserve better. Education is another disaster. We can no longer sugar-coat. Last week, the WCED delivered a beautifully painted presentation at our Committee meeting, one that was as long as the waiting list our children sit on.

We were read a presentation that could have been an email. Is this what our education system has come to? Schools are bursting beyond capacity. Teachers are overwhelmed. Resources are stretched thinly. Local children struggle for placement while poor planning and unmanaged migration place further strain on an already collapsing system. It cannot be right for foreigners to get preference over our own children. Some schools have more foreigners than South Africans. We are gambling with an entire generation and the cost will be paid for decades.

SASSA continues to fail the very people it was created to protect and sustain. The elderly, disabled and struggling families face delays and system breakdowns that push them deeper into poverty and the audacity of stopping

grants when an elderly recipient receives even R10.00 from a family member because it is considered an income. Utter nonsense. The grant is finished the very day it is received in this economy. Social support should not punish family support.

Farmworkers who have lived and worked on farms for decades are being evicted without dignity in Stellenbosch. In La Motte, the late Mr Peter Galant's family received an eviction notice after he served far more than 20 years. In Witzenberg, the Bekeer family faced the same fate. Koolfontein Farm and an elderly couple 78 and 84 years old were told to leave. Where must they go? And those are only a few mentioned as the list is endless. That is the lived reality of our people. Not polished words in a speech.

Let us not even get started on the housing crisis in the Western Cape. Law enforcement and Metro Police are losing public confidence. Communities feel unprotected. Criminals emboldened. And may I ask, what is the purpose of new Metro Police officers? To make noise? To drive up and down in their new Polo vehicles? As we can say, we see them, visibility without impact means nothing. When citizens stop believing the law will defend them, the social contract begins to break. We are dangerously close to that point.

But we must also speak about what happens in this Chamber. The constant disrespect, the shouting, the insults, the bullying and especially towards women in the Opposition. This disgraceful fate is not leadership. It is democracy. It is chaos. It is a province battling lawlessness. We send the worst message

possible. If we cannot model discipline and respect ourselves, we cannot condemn chaos outside these halls while performing inside them. The Patriotic Alliance is tired of blame-shifting and political theatre. Our people are tired. They want safety in their street ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stephens, your time has expired.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...dignity in the hospital, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Stephens. Order members. I recognise the hon Minister of Local Government and Environmental Affairs, Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, hon Premier Winde, Ministers, hon members, the people of George and the Garden Route. Hon Speaker, it is an honour for me to partake in this debate on the Premier's opening address for the official opening of the Western Cape Provincial Government. †*Hon* Speaker, dit is lekker om in die Suid-Kaap te wees, saam met die warm en gasvrye mense van George en die *Garden Route*. Dankie Premier, vir jou visie vir die provinsie en dankie vir die omgewing wat jy skep, sodat jou Kabinet kan werk.

En ons erken, Premier. Meer as 'n honderdduisend hektaar se veldbrande is reeds vanjaar deur die brandweermanne en brandweervroue geblus. Dit is net die Wes-Kaap waar die munisipaliteite onder mekaar en in samewerking met

die provinsiale rampbestuur soos 'n goed geoliede masjien kan saamwerk. Ons het vanjaar op die punt gestaan om Elim en De Kock-informele nedersetting buite Stanford te verloor. Ons werk in aksie, Premier. Toe ons die nasionale ANC-regering smee vir ekstra lugondersteuning, moes ons hoor dat die lugmag het net een helikopter, met geen bemanning nie.

Premier, met een helikopter met geen bemanning nie, beteken dit dat as Zimbabwe ons môre met drie hanggliders aanval, het ons moeilikheid. Agbare Speaker, dit maak mense van alle politieke partye skaam om hierdie tipe feite te hoor. Gelukkig kon ons manne en ons vroue wat met dapperheid, spanwerk en ons vennote, met die ondersteuning van goeie opgeleide mense, die vlamme beveg en sodoende 'n waardevolle erfenis van Elim en De Kock-nedersetting, waar mense alles sou verloor het, te beskerm. Dit is omdat ons omgee, agbare Speaker.

Die Wes-Kaap is tans die provinsie wat die meeste beeste inent teen bek-en-klouseer. Ons is nie die streek wat die swaarste getref is nie, maar ons is die provinsie wat die Landboudepartement en 'n Landbou Minister het wat omgee vir die landboubedryf. Agbare Speaker, toe die amptenare van Knysna Munisipaliteit oor Desember met vakansie gegaan het, het my Departement onder leiding van Graham Paulse en die plaaslike regeringsspan my bygestaan, etlike dae in Knysna deurgebring, om seker te maak dat die dorp nie uit water uithardloop nie.

Veral om te sorg dat die armstes van die armes, 'n *dignified life*, 'n

menswaardige lewe kon hê. Ons skole is die beste in die land, want ons onderwysers werk op die punt van Afrika. Ons hospitale en ons klinieke is die beste in die land, want ons dokters en verpleegsters op die punt van Afrika werk in die hospitale. Ons bou paaie en huise, ons maak brûe reg en dit wanneer dit in vloede beskadig word, want op die punt van Afrika het u 'n regering wat werk, Premier.

So kan ek elke departement van hierdie Wes-Kaap regering noem. Ons werk vir die mense van hierdie provinsie. Ons erken hard, want ons hou daarvan en dit is lekker om die resultate te sien. Die Wes-Kaap is die provinsie wat jaar na jaar die beste finansiële bestuur erken word deur die Ouditeur-generaal en ja, die ANC gaan sê ons kan nie skoon oudits eet nie, want hulle hou daarvan om korrupsie te eet.

Agbare Speaker, die laagste werkloosheidsyfer is 18 persent in die land. Agbare Speaker, 93,000 werkseleenthede is geskep in die land, maar nou is dit ook ongelukkig so, agbare Premier, dat as jy nie werk nie, jy ook nie die resultate sien nie. Knysna is minder as 'n uur van George. Vir te lank het 'n ANC koalisieregering daar gesit en nie gewerk nie. In plaas van werk het hulle gesit en konkel en dinge gedoen daar waar die lig nie skyn nie. Die resultaat is 'n dorp wat in 'n lowergroen area is, maar hulle kan nie water aan hul inwoners verskaf nie.

Hulle pompe is stukkend. Hulle pype is stukkend. Die dorp stink, want hulle vullisstelsel het gebreek. Hulle riool loop in die *lagoon*. Dis 'n skande, agbare

Speaker. Agbare Speaker, daar is ander mense wat ook nie hulle werk doen nie.

- Ons het 257 munisipaliteite in Suid Afrika, waarvan slegs 41 verlede jaar 'n skoon oudit gekry het. 20 van hierdie munisipaliteite is in die Wes-Kaap.
- 113 munisipaliteite het onbefondsde begrotings ingedien.
- 90 munisipaliteite het gekwalifiseerde opinies gekry.
- 17 munisipaliteite het die ergste moontlike uitkoms gekry: “Vrywaring van mening” (disclaimer of opinion), is net moontlik as jou finansies en rapportering so sleg is dat die Ouditeur-generaal dit nie eens kan beoordeel nie.

Agbare Speaker, as ek na hierdie slegte stand van sake kyk, wonder ek of die South African Local Government Association (SALGA) hulle werk doen? As hulle werklik kapasiteit, leierskap en vaardighede ontwikkel, sal ons munisipaliteite nie in daardie toestand wees nie. In plaas van 'n SALGA wat deur ANC geïnfiltreer is, het hulle 'n pragtige plan uitgewerk om hulleself te verryk. Hulle kry geld van munisipaliteite as lidmaatskapsfooie en dan nou offer hulle munisipale raadslede 'n dagsittingsfooie, R1,200.00 'n dag om 'n vergadering van SALGA by te woon, is 'n skande. Ek sal dit aanhou beveg, want ek dink dit is moreel verkeerd.

Agbare Speaker, na 30 jaar van ANC-bestuur, word basiese dienste soos elektrisiteit, water, vullisverwydering, paaie, hawens, skole en hospitale as wonderwerke voorgehou vir die land. In Johannesburg beveel die ANC-

burgemeester nou aan dat as jy wil bad, moet jy na die hotel toe gaan om te gaan stort. Dit is 'n skande, agbare Speaker. Hulle sit al 20 dae sonder water. Johannesburg was eens die ekonomiese hartklop van Afrika. Dit was die Goudstad genoem. Nou is dit net nog 'n ANC verleentheid.

Ek hoor Matzikama, Matzikama was nog nie een dag uit water uit nie. Agbare Speaker, maar dit is die leuens waarmee die ANC rondloop, want al wat hulle het, is leuens. Dit is 'n skande as ek kyk na ons Opposisie banke en ek sal my kop eerder in skaamte laat sak, as om so 'n geraas te maak. Agbare Speaker, die ANC probeer die leuens verkondig dat Bitou uit water uithardloop. Die ANC beweer dit nou al vir 'n geruime tyd. Bitou het die bul by die horings gepak. Bitou Munisipaliteit se planne is getref. Bitou sal nie uit water uithardloop nie.

Die eenvoudige verskil tussen 'n munisipaliteit wat werk en 'n munisipaliteit onder ANC-regering, dieselfde tegnologie, dieselfde ontsoutingsaanleg, die een in Bitou, DA Beheer, lewer 2 miljoen liter water 'n dag. Die een in Knysna, lewer nul water 'n dag. Hoekom? Want hulle fokus op korrupsie, agbare Speaker. Dit is die waarheid, dit is feite, ek praat feite, agbare Speaker. Agbare Speaker, die resultaat van 30 jaar sê nie werk nie, agbare Speaker, die resultaat van 30 jaar sê nie werk nie, is daar vir almal om te sien.

Ons is volgens die Wêreldbank een van die ongelykste lande in die wêreld, met 'n Gini Koëffisiënt van 0.63, danksy 30 jaar van ANC-regering. Met die G20 beraad, het die wêreld gesê dit is 'n ongelykheidnoodgeval, 'n ongelykheidramp

in Suid-Afrika as gevolg van ANC-regering, agbare Speaker.

Agbare Speaker, ons land het die ergste misdaad, ons land het die ergste misdaad as gevolg van ANC-regering, dan staan hulle hier skynheilig en sê maar die mense moet hulleself beskerm ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Hon Speaker, it is a pleasure to be in the Southern Cape together with the warm and hospitable people of George and the Garden Route. Thank you Premier, for your vision for the province and thank you for the environment that you create so that your Cabinet can work.

And we acknowledge, Premier. More than 100,000 hectares of veld fires have been extinguished by the firemen and firewomen. It is only in the Western Cape where the municipalities amongst each other and in cooperation with the provincial disaster management can cooperate like a well-oiled machine. This year we were on the brink to lose Elim and De Kock informal settlement outside Stanford. We work in action, Premier. When we pleaded with our national ANC Government for extra air support we had to hear that the Air Force only has one helicopter with no crew.

Premier, With one helicopter with no crew it means that if Zimbabwe tomorrow attacks us with three hang gliders, we have problems. Hon Speaker, it is embarrassing to people of all political parties to hear these type of facts. Fortunately our men and women who with courage, teamwork and our partners with the support of well-trained people, fought the flames and thus protected the valuable heritage of Elim and De Kock settlement, where people would have

now lost everything. That is because we care, hon Speaker.

The Western Cape is currently the province vaccinating the most head of cattle against foot and mouth disease. We are not the region who has been hit the worst but we are the province that has an Agriculture Department and Agriculture Minister that care for the agricultural industry. Hon Speaker, when the officials of the Knysna Municipality over December went on holiday, my Department under the leadership of Graham Paulse and the local government team supported me, spent several days in Knysna to ensure that the town does not run out of water.

Especially to ensure that the poorest of the poor can have a dignified life. Our schools are the best in the country, because our teachers work at the point of Africa. Our hospitals and clinics are the best in the country because our doctors and nurses on the point of Africa work in hospitals. We build roads and houses, we repair bridges and this when it is damaged in floods, because at the point of Africa you have a government that works, Premier.

So I can mention every department of this Western Cape Government. We work for the people of this province. We acknowledge our work, because we enjoy that and enjoy to see the results. The Western Cape is the province that year after year is acknowledged for best financial management by the Auditor General and yes, the ANC is going to say we cannot eat clean audits, because they like eating corruption.

Hon Speaker, the lowest unemployment figure is 18%, the lowest in the country. Hon Speaker, 93,000 work opportunities are created in the country but it is now unfortunately also so that if you don't work you won't see the results, hon Premier. Knysna is less than an hour from George. For too long an ANC coalition government sat there and did not work. Instead of work they sat and schemed and do things there where the light does not shine. The result is a town located in a lush green area but they cannot provide water to the inhabitants.

Their pumps are broken. Their pipes are broken. The town stinks because their waste system broke. The sewage runs into the lagoon. It is a disgrace, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker there are other people who also do not do their work.

- We have 257 municipalities in South Africa of which only 41 last year received clean audits. Twenty of these municipalities are in the Western Cape.
- 113 Municipalities submitted unfunded budgets.
- 90 Municipalities received qualified opinions.
- 17 Municipalities received the worst possible outcome: disclaimer of opinion, it is only possible if your finances and reporting are so poor that the Auditor-General cannot even assess it.

Hon Speaker, if I look at this poor state of things I wonder if the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) is doing their work? If they really develop capacity, leadership and skills our municipalities would not be in that state. Instead of a SALGA that is infiltrated by the ANC they worked out a

beautiful plan to enrich themselves. They receive money from municipalities as membership fees and then offer municipal councillors a daily sitting fee, R1,200.00 per day to attend a meeting of SALGA, it is a disgrace. I will continue to fight it, because I think it is morally wrong.

Hon Speaker, After 30 years of ANC management basic services such as electricity, water, waste removal, roads, harbors, schools and hospitals are portrayed as miracles for the country. In Johannesburg the ANC Mayor now recommends that if you want to have a bath you must go to the hotel to shower. It is a disgrace, hon Speaker. They have been without water for 20 days. It was once called the Golden City. Now it is just another ANC embarrassment.

I hear Matzikama, Matzikama has not been without water for a single day. Hon Speaker, but these are the lies the ANC is going around with, because all they have are lies. It is a disgrace, when I look at the Opposition benches, and I will rather hang my head in shame than to make such a noise.

Hon Speaker, the ANC tries do tell lies that Bitou is running out of water. The ANC has alleged this now for quite some time. Bitou took the bull by the horns. Bitou Municipality's plans are ready. Bitou will not run out of water.

The simple difference between a municipality that works and a municipality under ANC government; the same technology, the same desalination plant, the one under DA control, delivers 2 million litres of water per day. The one in Knysna delivers nought litres per day. Why? Because they focus on corruption

hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the result of 30 years of not working is there for all to see.

According to the World Bank We are one of the most unequal countries in the world with a gini coefficient of 0.63, Thanks to 30 years of ANC government. With the G20 Summit the world said it is an inequality emergency, an inequality disaster in South Africa as a result of the ANC government, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, Our country has the worst crime, our country has the worst crime because of the ANC government, honorable speaker then they stand here hypocritically and say but the people must protect themselves...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dit maak seer, agbare Speaker.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: It hurts, hon Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjection] Order! Order! Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order? [Interjection] Order, members, there is a member on the floor.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I just want to know if ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Is the MEC willing to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is prepared to take a question, please pose your question and can the Table Staff continue the time?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): [Inaudible.]...

The SPEAKER: Your microphone is not on.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): The MEC just alleged in this meeting to say that it is because of the ANC that there is crime in the Western Cape, can he just tell Parliament today what has the DA done in terms of crime in the Western Cape, with statistics that can be proven.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, you have captured the question?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, I know it hurts, but the truth... †Hulle sê in Afrikaans, vertel die waarheid, dit sit jou vry, dit maak jou vry. [They say in Afrikaans, speak the truth, it frees you, it sets you free.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agbare Speaker, die ANC het nie ons polisie gekapasiteer nie, die Premier het 'n plan op die tafel gesit, die Premier eksperimenteer met daardie plan, ons het in die stad Kaapstad ons eie polisiëring gedoen, ons kan 'n lang lys noem, maar my tyd hardloop uit, ek moet nog eers bietjie pak gee, agbare Speaker.

Agbare Speaker, ons amptelike werkloosheidsyfer is 31%, uitgebreide werkloosheidsyfer is 41%. Dit is 'n skande in die oë van die Here dat ons sit met 42% van ons mense wat nie werk het nie. Ek weet nie hoe die ANC daai mense in hulle oë kyk nie, agbare Speaker. Agbare Speaker, [The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, The ANC has not capacitated our police, the Premier put a plan on the table, the Premier experiments with that plan, we have in the city of Cape Town done our own policing, we can name a long list, but my time is running out, I must still hand out some punishment, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, our official unemployment figure is 31%, extended unemployment figure is 41%. It is a disgrace in the eyes of the Lord that we have 42% of our people who do not have work. I don't know how the ANC can look those people in the eye, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker,] we are already a water scarce country and climate change is going to hit us hard, it is going to become hotter and drier.

Over the past decade, the Western Cape saw a 90,6% increase in population, †mense vlug na ons toe, want hulle kry iets hier, agbare Speaker. Hulle vlug weg waar die ANC regeer, want hier kry hulle dienste. [people flee to us, because they get something here, hon Speaker. They flee away from where the ANC governs, because here they receive services.] It is estimated that over the next 10 years, another 1.2 million people will move to the Western Cape. It is going to be difficult, but we need to get ahead of this curve. Therefore, under the leadership of Graham Paulse and HOD Gerhard Gerber and also I must mention Treasury HOD Yolinda, because with their support, they help us to develop the Provincial Water Resilience Plan, a crucial ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat? Please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, just in line with the reminder that you gave last night, that the audience should not be clapping during this particular debate. Can you just remind the audience?

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, there was a point of order, please take your seat. Hon Minister, please take you seat. Hon Minister, I have not ruled yet. Order! [Interjection] Order! [Interjection] Order, members! Hon Leader of the Opposition, you rose on a point of order, please allow me to rule on your point of order. Order! Hon members or the guests in the gallery, just a friendly reminder, you are very welcome to the Sitting, but you may not participate in the proceedings of this Sitting and that includes the proceedings that are happening on the floor.

So just a kind reminder that you may not clap or show your satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the input from the podium. With that being said, can I please also remind members that interjections are allowed and while I am on the floor, to the members on my left hand side, the same courtesy I extend to you, when you are on the floor, please provide me with that same courtesy? While interjections are allowed, running commentary is not allowed. Can I please ask that you provide the member at the podium with an opportunity to make his or her input? Because if you are on the speakers' list, you will have the same opportunity and privilege.

With that being said, hon Minister, you may continue.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dankie hon Speaker, dis lekker om blou

DA water te drink, ek is nie 'n Knysna nie. Agbare Speaker, [The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker, it's nice to drink blue DA water, I'm not a Knysna. Hon Speaker] the assistance required that a municipality's books must be in order, this is crucial to our voters. Voters must understand the impact of a municipality, of electing leaders that cannot work within finances. If your money is not in order, your municipality will crumble, I can promise you that. †Agbare Speaker, ons mense verdien waardigheid, ons mense verdien waardigheid. Die Grondwet sê 6 kiloliter water en 50 kilowatt electricity.

Ons het 'n studie gedoen wat wys dat mense het eintlik nodig 150 kilowatt electricity en 10 kiloliter water. Dit moet ons fokus wees, dit moet ons doel wees en ek is jammer dat hier so min burgemeesters vandag is, want dit is waarop ons moet fokus. As ons meer energie in huise kan kry, sal ons kinders in die huise kan tyd bestee en hulle huiswerk doen en nie op die straat lê nie. Beter skool resultate, veiliger woonbuurte. Skoner water sal help dat ons hospitale nie so vol is nie.

As 'n span, kan ons hier provinsie saam bou. Ons munisipale dienste is besig om te duur te raak en ons moet die waarheid op die tafel sit, ons moet dit nie onder die tafel wegvee soos die ANC nie, sit dit op die tafel. Ons munisipaliteite is besig om te duur te raak en ons sal 'n indringende gesprek tussen myself, Minster Baartman, HOD Yolinda en HOD Paulse moet hê om ons munisipaliteite se hande te vat. Maar, Premier, op die punt van Afrika is daar

ook 'n entiteit wat werk, Cape Nature.

EPWP program, u het dit gister genoem, Cape Nature het 'n EPWP program ontmerk wat vir jou hoendervleis gee. Daar is 'n persoon wat die program binnegegaan het, hy het nou al sy derde graad bereik. Daar is 'n dame wat met 'n Graad 8 begin het, sy het nou matriek, sy het drie kinders, sy het matriek behaal en sy is vas aangestel. [Hon Speaker, our people deserve dignity, our people deserve dignity. The constitution says 6 kilolitres water and 50 kilowatt electricity.

We have conducted a study that shows that people actually need 150 kilowatt electricity and 10 kiloliters of water. That must be our focus, it must be our goal and I am sorry that today there are so few mayors here because that is what we must focus upon. If we can get more energy in houses our children can spend time in the house and do their homework and not lie on the streets. Better school results, safer neighborhoods. Cleaner water will help that our hospitals are not so full.

As a team we can build this problem together. Our municipal services are becoming expensive and we have to put the truth on the table, we must not sweep it under the table like the ANC, put it on the table. Our municipalities are becoming expensive and we will have to have a thorough discussion between myself, Minister Baartman, HOD Yolinda and HOD Paulse to take our municipalities hands. But Premier, on the point of Africa there is also an entity that works, Cape Nature.

EPWP programme, you mentioned it yesterday. Cape Nature has developed an EPWP programme that will give you goosebumps. There is a person that entered the programme, he has now reached his third degree. There is a lady that started with Grade 8, she has now matric, she has three children, she gained matric and she has been appointed permanently.] On the tip of Africa, there is an entity that works.

Hon Premier, I conclude: Premier Winde, your heart is in the right place. We truly cares, you truly care for all the residents in this beautiful province. In turn, he expects each one of his Ministers to demonstrate the same level of care in their respek for their portfolios.

†Dankie vir jou visie vir ons provinsie. Dankie dat jy van ons die beste en die hardwerkendste Ministers verwag om aan te hou druk en aan te hou skuif, want ons werk nie vir onself nie, ons werk vir ons mense van hierdie pragtige provinsie. Ek dank u.

[Thank you for your vision for our province. Thank you that you expect of us the best and hardest working Ministers to keep on the pressure and keep on shifting, because we do not work for ourselves, we work for the people of this beautiful province. I thank you..]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agbare Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon Minister.] I now recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and greetings to all. Hon Speaker, as we reflect on the Premier's address who yesterday spoke so passionately about the rich history of the Western Cape and who so confidently spoke about Bo-Kaap and the Cape Malay culture, reminding us that this home of ours is indeed the birthplace of ancient innovation and culture. But, hon Speaker, with all this poetry in his two-hour-long speech, we were somehow waiting and hoping that some way we will be honest by reminding us that it is exactly his DA Government who continues to challenge and erase the beauties of our culture here in this province.

Hon Speaker, with all the rich cultural beauty in this diverse province, the reality is that it is this DA Government who continues to evict our Coloured and African people from land across the province. Hon Speaker, it is his Government who is currently auctioning off land in Cape Town which includes the iconic Good Hope Centre which holds so much cultural history for our people of the Cape.

Hon Speaker, it is also his DA Government who continues to harass places of worship by silencing the call to prayer with letters of noise nuisance. Hon Speaker, it is his DA Government who continues to create obstacles which include systematic discrimination against the Minstrel associations as we have seen in Cape Town. But even worse, hon Speaker, it is also his DA Government who are at the forefront of exclusion from land failing to adequately address historical injustices.

Hon Speaker, while the list continues for cultural discrimination in this province, the Premier went a bit further and painted a picture of success under this DA Government right here at the tip of Africa. Yes, hon Speaker, the Premier is correct. At the tip of Africa, there is a place where human spirit is as vibrant and where culture echoes through colourful streets as he mentioned. But hon Speaker, the Premier forgot to mention that it is here at the very same tip of Africa where the majority of black people are still battling oppression under this DA Government.

Hon Speaker, it is at the same tip of Africa where the majority of homeless people are living in streets and are constantly ignored without being provided with dignified shelters and meals to eat. And while not much was said about homeless people in yesterday's Sopa, we are also constantly reminded by this DA Government through the departments and committees that not all homeless people want to live in shelters provided by the province. But the reality is not all of them have been approached with this opportunity. We know that since 2020, about 30 families have been living in tents and shacks on the pavement in Observatory and this is just one example, hon Speaker.

And instead of assisting these families by providing them with dignified homes, this DA led City of Cape Town has been, and the Government has been, in and out of court, attempting to evict these same families from a piece of land without success. Hon Speaker, while touching on the issue of housing opportunities, which were created since 2009, in the same breath the Premier fell short of announcing the housing backlog in the province, which are

currently tilting towards a million housing opportunities still needed by our people.

And not forgetting the corruption when it comes to handing over those houses, specifically in DA municipalities. Hon Speaker, this year the Premier surprisingly remembered to touch on gang violence on the Cape Flats. But it was obvious that he was not going to be honest to acknowledge the failures of his Safety Plan, which was supposed to eradicate crime in this province. However, the Premier, as usual, spoke about the failures of SAPS in the efforts to combat crime, and further stated that he cautiously accepts the deployment of military in the province.

However, in the same breath he forgot to also mention the failures of his so-called Safety Plan, which cost the Province millions of rands without producing anything in return. Hon Speaker, Cape Town's central police station still remains at the top of the police stations, with the highest number of crime incidents reported in the entire country. The province also features a number of townships in the top 30 stations with the highest number of reported crimes in townships such as Mitchells Plain and Mfuleni, Kraaifontein and Worcester.

But with this being said, hon Speaker, the Premier does not realise that it is not only the Cape Flats who needs intervention when it comes to gang violence and an increase of crime. Because the reality is that in many parts of this province, including here in George, George residents are held hostage daily due to crime and it should be about time that this Government gathers capacity in order to

multitask in more than just the Cape Flats.

It is also important to note that crime can not only be policed away, hon Speaker, as it is a symptom of serious underlying problems, which include the exclusion of African and Coloured people from the economy. Because when this DA speaks about investments in our Black communities and townships, all they are saying is that they are giving money to their friends to run infrastructure projects. Hon Speaker, whilst the Premier celebrated 93,000 new jobs created in the sector such as trade, hospitality, agriculture, construction and manufacturing within the province, the reality is that the majority of those jobs, job opportunities pay small salaries.

Most employed people in the province continue to remain poor as a result of earning these small salaries whilst working as cleaners, waitresses and waitresses in the hospitality industry, as well as those who are exploited on a daily basis picking up grapes in the agricultural sector. So before one brags about job opportunities being created, they must also show the quality of those job opportunities and whether they are for the nature capable of moving one out of poverty.

Hon Speaker, families of construction workers who died whilst working on the George building which collapsed a few years ago, are yet to be compensated after losing breadwinners. The investigations relating to the collapse of the building is also thrown under the carpet, despite this DA Provincial Government claiming that it will create its own independent investigation on the cause of

the collapse. Hon Speaker, whilst the Premier celebrated the success of GoGeorge bus services, he omits to mention that there is nothing done by this Provincial Government to assist those within the taxi industry. It is not every town which has bus services such as the GoGeorge services in the province.

They are remote areas which continue to battle with issues of transport as a result of Government not willing to assist in the taxi industry. Hon Speaker, it is the EFF's position that vacant and unused land and buildings should be positively utilised in projects that enrich service delivery and assist our people. But in conclusion, hon Speaker, here on the tip of Africa where the DA governs and brags about a government who works for all, the reality is that that very same government has not delivered the realities of most of the province and our people in the poorest of the poorest communities continue to wait for the day that they will be heard and vote government who actually works for all. Thank you.

The hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

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

†Mnr D J WESSELS (DA): Agbare Speaker, Premier Winde, medelede van die Wetgewer, Burgemeester van die Distriksmunisipaliteit, Burgemeester van George, geagte gaste en dan die belangrikste van almal, die mense van George, die Tuinroete en die Wes-Kaap, dit is 'n voorreg om vandag hier in George te

praat. Die stad waar ek my grootwordjare deurgebring het en waar my wortels gevestig is.

Om hier te wees, weg van die formele kamers van Kaapstad, is 'n herinnering waarom hierdie debat werklik gaan. Dit gaan oor die hoop, die daaglikse realiteite van mense vir wat ons verkies is om te doen.

[Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Hon Speaker, Premier Winde, Co-members of the Legislature, Mayor of the District Municipality, Mayor of George, honored guests and then the most important of all, the people of George, the Garden Route and the Western Cape, it is a privilege today to speak here in George. The town where I spent my growing up years and where my roots are established.

To be here, away from the formal chambers of Cape Town, is a reminder about what this debate is really about. It is about the hope, the daily realities of people who have elected us to do.] Hon Speaker, the DA-led West Cape understands that for democracy to be real it must be felt. It must be tangible and nowhere is this more true than under this DA-led government.

†Net Maandag, agbare Speaker, het die DA die Wes-Kaapse Wetgewer na die mense gebring om vir hulle te luister. In George het ons gesit saam met 240 agterplaasbywoners van oraloer George. Ons het nie 'n raadsaal 400 kilometer weg van hulle gesit nie. Ons was hier as een gemeenskap. Ons het geluister na die kwessies rondom behuising en ons het gehoor hoe die liegstories en onwaarhede ontmasker is rondom die sloping.

En, agbare Speaker, nooit weer kan ons toelaat dat ons gemeenskappe se vooruitgang, 'n politieke speelbal word nie. [Just on Monday, hon Speaker, the DA brought the Western Cape Legislature to the people to listen to them. In George we sat together with 240 backyard dwellers from all over George. We did not sit in a council chamber 400 kilometres away from them. We were here as one community. We listened to the issues around housing and we heard how the lies and untruths were unmasked around the demolition.

And hon Speaker, never again can we allow that our communities' advancement become a political ball.] The DA in the Western Cape wants the people of George to know we are a caring government. This is about fairness to the people we serve. Hon Speaker, the outcome was powerful. Residents learned that George Municipality has re-zoned nearly 25,000 properties to formalise backyard dwellings, giving people dignity and security. They learned that the demolition is an absolute last resort.

†In die laaste vyf jaar, was sloping nie eers 1% van hierdie totale uitkomst nie. [In the last five years, demolition was not even 1% of these total outcomes.] We want to work towards compliance. That is what fairness looks like. It is not about empty slogans. It is about transparent, accountable governance that treats every person with respect. It is about ensuring that whilst challenges remain, the solutions are grounded in reality, in data, and in genuine human engagement.

In the coming year, hon Speaker, we intend to go to more towns. We intend to go listen to more people, to find solutions for our people across the province. This year, we are governing with kindness, not because we are weak but because we want to be on the ground with the people. We want to govern with the people and to provide more dignified solutions.

†Agbare Speaker, ek nooi elkeen in om môre in te skakel op die raadsvergadering van die George Munisipaliteit, waar Burgemeester Browen Johnson sekere aankondigings gaan maak, wat sal bewys dat terwyl sekere konsentreer op Facebook Lives, konsentreer hierdie Regering op die *livelihoods* van ons gemeenskappe. [Hon Speaker, I invite everyone to tune in tomorrow on the council meeting of the George Municipality, where Mayor Browen Johnson will make certain announcements, that will prove that while some concentrate on Facebook Lives, this Government concentrates on the livelihoods of our communities.] However, hon Speaker, while the DA-led Government tries to provide dignity, the PA seems to believe that the path to governing this province and our municipality is paved with division.

In George and across the province, the PA spreads misinformation. They try to create conflict where none should exist. †Gemeenskappe word gebreek in plaas van gebou. [Communities are broken instead of being built.] They make grand promises they have no intention or capability of keeping. Hon Speaker, we saw the PA leadership in Beaufort West, where chaos and mismanagement left the municipality in tatters. However, it is this DA-led Government, Western Cape, that invested in Beaufort West.

More than R14.3 million was spent there since 2021 to stabilise the municipality through emergency grants, generators and water resilience funding. Again, hon Speaker, we saw the results of the ANC and PA's destructive coalition politics in Knysna, which stalled the progress and wasted valuable time. The DA and the coalition George Municipality deployed three refuse compactor trucks to assist the ANC-led Knysna coalition government during the spiralling refuse correction crisis that was on the brink of becoming a full-blown public health emergency.

As the Knysna Municipality under ANC-led coalition grapples with water outages, the DA coalition, who governs George, stepped in to provide 105,000 litres of critical water to assist, showcasing the stark contrast and the commitment to serving all the residents. †Dit is die mandaat, ons werk vir ons mense. [That is the mandate, we work for our people.] Once again, hon Speaker, we saw the ANC and PA empty promises in Theewaterskloof. Theewaterskloof has required over 5.4 million in support since late 2024. With the recovery process still in early stages, it is the Western Cape Government that provides the support because we must fix the mess that other political parties leave behind.

†Die PA en ANC's bestuursvermoëns spreek boekdele. Dit spreek tot chaos. Dit spreek tot onbevoegdheid. Dit spreek tot selfsug. En dit spreek tot mislukking. [The PA's and the ANC's management capability speaks volumes. It speaks to chaos. It speaks to incompetence. It speaks to selfishness. And it

speaks to failure.] But, hon Speaker, the people of the Western Cape are far too smart for this. As they know, leadership is not about raising issues loudly. It is about resolving them effectively.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Wessels, please take your seat. I recognise the hon Chief Whip.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Hon Speaker, we cannot allow to be misled in this House and sit quietly. The hon is speaking here saying that we are being, that Beaufort West is stabilised. As we speak now, my waste has not been removed in Beaufort West two weeks ago. So we cannot, he must withdraw here saying there is a stable municipality! There is nothing stabilised by the ...[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I have noted your point of order. If you can take your seat. Hon members, you are fully aware in terms of ...[Interjection] Hon members, I have the floor. Hon Walters, please take your seat. I am still ruling on this matter. Hon members, you are fully aware that this is a political debate. If any particular member feels that a member that is at the podium is misleading the House, they are more than welcome to follow the procedures and the Rules and follow that guide. Members are fully aware of substantive motions that could be brought. I would want to remind members again. I now recognise hon Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, it is very difficult to hear the

speaker on the floor with all the shouting that is taking place. It appears ...[Interjection] You can hear I have that same problem. Deputy Speaker, it appears that the PA representatives have woken up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no need to explain, hon Walters. Hon members, as you are aware that interjections are allowed, I am making detailed notes my side in terms of the running commentary. I would again remind members to keep the decorum of the House and I will now note the hon Wessels to continue.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. In the words of Minister Meyer, the way the ANC governs is it † [Speaking in vernacular – 1:13:04] *dilolo*, nothing, †niks gebeur daar nie [nothing happens there.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Wessels? Hon Wessels? Hon Chief Whip?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Hon Speaker, perhaps you did not hear me correctly. I was asking for the hon Wessels to withdraw because he is misleading the House. He came as proof to us whether the DA is really taking care of the people of Western Cape because we are sitting with rubbish that has not been picked up for two weeks. So, please withdraw what you are saying. †Want dis nie waar nie, wat jy besig is om te doen. [Because it's not true, what you are busy doing.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip? Hon Chief Whip? If I can give guidance, I have already ruled in that regard. Hon Chief Whip, I have already

ruled in that regard. Should you maintain the view, I will then encourage you to follow the process of bringing a substantive motion. Hon Wessels, please continue.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Hon Speaker, DA at work is not a slogan, it is a promise and we are applying the same principle of opportunity to housing.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Wessels, I recognise the Leader of the official Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you. Can the hon Wessels be advised to speak and not read the speech? My understanding is the convention, you are not allowed, the Rules are clear, you cannot to read ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No need to explain. Thank you so much. Hon members. Hon members, as Presiding Officers, we will not dictate to members on delivery of input. I will now allow the hon Wessels to conclude with 22 seconds remaining.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Can we also then ask the ANC not to steal and to govern? So to the people of George and the Western Cape, I say this, the facts are on our side, the investments are real, the progress is undeniable, and the DA's strength is not in slogans, it is in governance. †Soos die ander breek, sal ons bou. [As the others break, we will build.] And at the tip of Africa lies the

Western Cape that works and at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains
...[intervenes]

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): ...lies George, where we ...[intervenes]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Agb Wessels, u tyd is verstreke.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Wessels, your time has expired.]

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): ...see greatness in action, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Michels.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Agbare Speaker, goeiemôre Premier, *members, Executive. Member* Wessels, ek verstaan dat u het ook 'n *flat* gehad in die *building* wat collapse het. Nou wonder ek of u nie die rede is hoekom ons nie die *report* kan sien van die Premier nie, maar *anyway*, laat ek aangaan.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Speaker, good morning, Premier, members, Executive. Member Wessels, I understand that you also had a flat in the building that had collapsed. Now I'm just wondering if you are not the reason why we cannot see the report of the Premier, but anyway, let me continue.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Michels, if you can take your seat. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am getting a bit of adulation, so do not know whether you are hearing me. You cannot directly address a member of the House and I would like to call a point of order on the hon Michels. I do not want to disrupt his speech, but that is in fact one of the Rules of the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members and those that are on the speakers' list, I would want to remind you once again to speak through the Chair. Hon Michaels, you may continue.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Dankie, agbare Speaker. Dit is *sad* hoe ons bruinmense mislei word met statistieke deur die DA. Vandag wil die NCC die realiteite van die Wes-Kaap in kort *highlight*, om te wys hoe die DA ons bruinmense mislei. 93,000 *new jobs* beteken niks vir ons bruinmense nie. 93,000 *new jobs mostly* vir buitelanders. Ek, daar wat ons, daar wat ons ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. It is sad how our brown people are being misled with statistics by the DA. Today the NCC wants to in short highlight the realities of the Western Cape, to show how the DA misleads our brown people. 93,000 new jobs mean nothing to our brown people. 93,000 new jobs mostly for foreigners. I, there that we, there that we ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Michaels, if you can take your seat. A member is on the floor, I recognise the hon Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, thanks. Can we request the hon Speaker to withdraw that first statement? †Hulle kon gelieg het vir die mense van Theewaterskloof, maar hulle hoef nie te lieg vir die hele Wes-Kaap nie. [They could have lied to the people of Theewaterskloof, but they do not have to lie to the whole of Western Cape.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Wessels. I will apply my mind, and if need be, I will revert back to the House after I have checked the Hansard. I recognise the Leader of the Official Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I think it is double standards. The hon Wessels did not withdraw his misleading statements when he misled the House, and just for him to remember, he must read Rule 57 around reading, nè? Thank you. But that is on another point.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Syed. Members, I would once again encourage you that we are not wishing to entertain frivolous points of order. We would not want to disrupt the speaker that is on the floor. There is a number of residents that are viewing and watching online together with those in the gallery that came to listen to the inputs. We will now proceed accordingly. I have already ruled. Hon Michaels, please continue.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Ja, Premier, u praat nou van statistieke, kom ek praat van wat ek hierdie week ervaar het in George. Die hotel wat ek heelweek by

gebly het, ek het nie een bruin werker daar gesien nie en daar is 'n groot komponent werkers. Die week het 'n video ge-trend in George oor buitelanders wat op die strate werk, dit het ge-trend, almal het dit gesien, geen bruin persoon nie.

Die George *building collapse* het ook hierdie *Government* ge-expose, want toe kom dit uit hoeveel buitelanders op daardie projek gewerk het, so daar is my statistieke, want dit is goed wat ek *experience* het. Ons praat van *hospitality*, geen bruin werker by daai hotel nie. Ons praat van landbou, in Grabouw was 'n vrou op 'n plaas afgedank, omdat sy die *Wi-Fi password* gehad het en raai wie het in haar werk ingeval?

Agbare Speaker, ons praat van die landbou, dit is 'n vrou wat in die landbousektor was. Plaaswerkers, bruin, die Wes-Kaap was grotendeels bruin, bruin plaaswerkers, gaan nou op 'n plaas in die Wes-Kaap, dan sal jy net buitelanders, *undocumented* buitelanders op daai plase kry. Bruin mense, verlede week het 'n *meeting* met die *Legal Aid lawyers* gehad en die statistieke daarso is *scary*. Hulle kan nie meer byhou rondom die uitsettings op plase van bruinmense nie.

En as ons verder gaan, u praat van die DA, deel van hulle *campaign*, gaan op die DA Wes-Kaap se *site*, dan sal julle sien hulle praat u kom, hier staan, Premier, u kom heeltyd rondom die misdaad in die Wes-Kaap, kom u heeltyd die Nasionale Regering, waarvan die DA deel is, kom u heeltyd *blame* oor die *crime* situasie in die Wes-Kaap, maar deel van u-hulle se veldtog nou vir die

komende verkiesing, sê u-hulle stem DA vir veiliger *communities*. So dit is ook 'n leuen wat die DA versprei, want aan die eenkant sê hulle dit is nie hulle verantwoordelikheid om ons *communities* veilig te maak nie.

Maar aan die ander kant, sê hulle *vote* vir ons, ons gaan hulle *communities* veilig maak en dit is hoe die DA ons mense mislei. Vandag kom die NCC en die NCC is eintlik teleurgesteld in dit, wat die Premier hierso gesê het. As jy gaan kyk na die *rural* areas, wat grotendeels omring word deur plase, dan sal jy vind as ons praat van plaaswerkers, dan praat ons omtrent van 60% van 'n dorp se mense, want 'n groot deel van jou dorp se mense, werk ook op die plase en die behandeling van ons plaaswerkers, ons is op die stadium op die punt waar ons 'n krisis ervaar op die plase.

Nie een keer, en ek hoop vandag die Minister van Landbou in die Wes-Kaap gaan praat oor die krisis wat die plaaswerkers *face* rondom die uitsettings op die plase en Knoflokskraal se mense is baie veilig en baie *happy* ook daarso en ek is net so happy saam met hulle, ons Khoi-mense het opgestaan en ons Khoi-mense gaan bly op Knoflokskraal. En u, toe ek in George, toe ons George toe kom die eerste keer en toe vat u die *gap* en hardloop en gaan *meet* met Knoflokskraal se mense, Premier en u het vir hulle *ge-promise* hulle gaan bly, so moenie vir my praat van Knoflokskraal nie, Premier.

Want u het vir hulle gesê, die mense is baie *happy* vir die Premier, maar die Premier het gedink toe ek in die Wetgewer kom, dat ek gaan die Knoflokskraal so hard *push*, ja, ek sou dit *ge-push* het en toe ek my eerste rug draai en toe

hardloop die Premier na Knoflokskraal se mense toe. Maar wat Knoflokskraal betref en dankie dat u dit ophaal, ek gaan u hand vat, Minister, Leier van die DA in die Wes-Kaap, ek gaan julle, u is gewoonlik baie gou om van ons Khoimense te praat, ek vra vandag en ek maak 'n beroep by hierdie SOPA dat ons as Wetgewer, die mense van Knoflokskraal ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Yes, Premier, You now talk of statistics, let me talk about what I experienced this week in George. The hotel where I stayed all week, I have not seen one brown worker there, and there is a large component of workers. During the week a video trended in George about foreigners that work on the streets, it trended, everyone saw it, no brown person.

The George building collapse also exposed this Government because then it transpired how many foreigners worked on that project, so there are my statistics, because those are things that I experienced. We talk about hospitality, no brown worker at that hotel. We speak of agriculture, in Grabouw was a lady that was fired on a farm because she had the Wi-Fi password and guess who started in her job?

Hon Speaker, we speak of agriculture, it was a lady who was in the agricultural sector. Farmworkers, brown, the Western Cape was mainly brown, brown farmworkers, now go to a farm in the Western Cape then you will only find foreigners, undocumented foreigners on those farms. Brown people, last week had a meeting with the Legal Aid lawyers and the statistics there is scary. They cannot keep up anymore with the evictions on farms of brown people.

And if we go further, you speak of the DA, part of their campaign, go to the DA Western Cape site, then you will see they say you are coming, here it says Premier, you talk around crime in the Western Cape all the time, you blame the National Government, of which the DA is part, all the time for the crime situation in the Western Cape but part of your campaign now for the coming election, you say vote DA for safer communities. So it is also a lie that the DA spreads, because on the one hand they say it is not their responsibility to safeguard our communities.

But on the other hand they say vote for us, we are going to safeguard your communities and that is how the DA he's misleading our people. Today the NCC comes and the NCC is actually disappointed in what the Premier said here. If you go and look at the rural areas, that are mainly surrounded by farms, then you will find when we speak of farmworkers, then we speak of about 60% of a town's people, because a large part of your town's people also work on the farms and the treatment of our farm workers, we are at the stage where we experience a crisis on the phones.

Not once, and I hope today the Minister of Agriculture in the Western Cape will talk about the crisis farmworkers are facing around the evictions on the farms and Knoflokskraal's people are very safe and very happy also there and I am just as happy along with them, our Khoi people stood up and our Khoi people went to live on Knoflokskraal. And you, when I, in George, when we came to George the first time and then you took the gap and ran and met Knoflokskraal's people and you promised them they are going to remain, so don't talk to me

about Knoflokskraal, Premier.

Because you said to them, the people are very happy for the Premier, but the Premier thought When I get into the Legislature I am going to push Knoflokskraal so hard, yes, I would have pushed it, and when I turned my back the Premier ran to Knoflokskraal's people. But regarding Knoflokskraal and thank you that you bring it up, I am going to take your hand, Minister, Leader of the DA in the Western Cape, I'm going to, you are usually quick to talk about our Khoi people, I ask today and I call at this SOPA that we as Legislature, the people of Knoflokskraal ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Michels.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): ...en vir hulle dienste gee, dankie.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): ...that we provide them with services, thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Michels, your time has expired. Hon members, we will proceed, I recognise the hon Dr Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Premier, the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the members of Parliament, the Mayor of George, the Mayor of the GRD, the councillors from both municipalities, esteemed guests, and most importantly, the people of George, the Garden Route District, and the Western Cape gathered here, the Premier yesterday spoke about the tip of Africa. For me, I want to focus on George, the city for all reasons. The GRD as the tip, as the heartbeat of the

tip.

Hon Deputy Speaker, yesterday, members of this Parliament experienced good governance in action when they took a GoGeorge bus to the State of the Provincial Address here. GoGeorge is a provincial treasure, and also a municipality treasure, the first and the most successful non-metro integrated public transport network in South Africa. It provides dignified, safe, and accessible transport for nearly 21,000 passengers daily. I do not think there has been a time in history where members of a provincial or even a national parliament took public transport to an official parliamentary sitting.

Others may call it a political triumphal entry, but we call it a commitment to a service that works. A service that puts residents first and proves that reliable public transport is possible when Government delivers. This is the DA difference. Hon Deputy Speaker, because of the success of GoGeorge, the DA-led Western Cape has invested almost 65 million in Tembaletu for road upgrades, including the pedestrian pathways and improved access for GoGeorge buses.

This project will be completed in May this year, enabling GoGeorge buses to collect residents closer to their homes and transport them to the George Central Business District for work, school, and other opportunities. We are expanding the network and leaving no one behind. While we upgrade the roads, we are also creating jobs for local residents. This project alone has created 55 local jobs, a job for Abantu Bethu to provide for their families. During our oversight

visit to the site, the people of Tembalethu expressed their appreciation for these upgrades.

This is a win for Tembalethu and a clear demonstration that we deliver in every part of the province. From the full integration of the Tembalethu routes over the next five years, also to extend the network to the Victoria Bay, the Wilderness, the Harold's Bay, even George Airport, we are ensuring that every resident from Plakkersdorp to Lawaai kamp is connected. Furthermore, Deputy Speaker, this DA-led Western Cape Government is breaking down barriers.

As part of the growth for job strategy, the Mobility Department has developed the Getting You to Work initiative, a jobseeker travel voucher programme designed to make transport more affordable for individuals seeking employment. The programme provides free transport vouchers on Golden Arrow buses. To date, more than 28,000 jobseekers have registered for the programme, benefiting from over 34,000 free trips. Building on the success of the jobseeker travel programme in Cape Town, the province, in partnership with George Municipality, has engaged to expand the programme to George.

In 2026, we shall provide free travel on all George bus routes. Approximately 7,500 jobseekers, including all the residents, will be able to benefit. Hon Deputy Speaker, in Plakkersdorp, the Provincial Mobility Department has improved road infrastructure to reduce pedestrian fatalities. The project included bus stop shelters, AI cameras to collect data, lightning and cyclic lanes, which are about 17.6 million. It took them eight months to complete and

has created 30 local jobs because here in the Western Cape we improve the lives of the people, with the people.

Hon Deputy Speaker, George is where the N2 meets the N12 and where the flights from across the country land daily, bringing visitors and investors to a destination of choice. Visitors are drawn to world-class attractions like the golf courses, adventures experienced across the Outeniqua Mountains and the region's exceptional natural beauty. The Garden Route Botanical Garden offers a gateway to the unique fynbos of the Cape Floral, a biodiversity treasure while scenic routes throughout the Outeniqua Mountains.

When you have time, you need to go into Wilderness Heights and go and see the map of Africa. The quality of life attracts retirees and families from across South Africa and abroad who choose George for its beauty, safety and strong communities, from all over up to Uniondale. Tourism and investment continue to grow because George has become a place where people want to live, work and visit, supporting the broader growth for jobs vision of building infrastructure for a connected economy.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Tourism and investment continue to grow because George has become a place where people want to live, work and visit, supporting the broader Growth for Jobs vision of building infrastructure for a connected economy.

During the Festive Season, GoGeorge – I mean, sorry, George Airport alone

recorded almost nearly 1 million passengers, providing a major boost to the local community. However, hon Deputy Speaker, accessibility for the people of George is not just about bringing people in, it is about ensuring everyone here can have an access.

That is why the Western Cape Government is investing millions in major infrastructure projects currently under construction. The example of those includes the Energy Resilience project, a combined investment of about R11,3 million.

George Hospital upgrade, about R945,5 million upgrades. Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, when people go to the ballot boxes this year they need to remember that DA gets things done. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, a DA Government also builds a future. We lead through innovation and right here in George we have a shining example that is capturing the world's imagination, which hon Minister Wenger will explore and talk more about the George.

This project is providing that quality healthcare does not have to be centralised in Cape Town, it can be equitable, accessible and world class right here in George. From George Hospital to the expansion of even facilities like the Mediclinic.

Hon Speaker, when you pick up one end of the stick, you pick up the other. So

when you supply, when we have got more supply, we have got more demands. We face every real, very real water crisis. Garden Route dam levels are dropping and Level 3 water restrictions have been implemented, but we see the municipality is doing something. People of George ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): ...do not give up hope ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon(intervention)

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): ...be careful of the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...Mbombo ...[Interjections.]

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): ...false... [Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...your time has expired. [Applause.] I recognise the hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the guests in the House and my colleagues in the Provincial Parliament.

I think one of the things we must speak about in this 2026 SOPA is to really request for political counselling for the ruling party, the Democratic Alliance,

just about the concept of democracy. That they need to catch up and smell the democracy coffee very fast as voters are far ahead, leaving them and the Blue Train to seek alternative homes, as your whitewashed political scam can no longer hold. You would have seen already in 2021 where you have lost some municipalities that became hung, as people are no longer able to listen to your blue lies.

So it is important, as your members were standing here, grandstanding with arrogance, that you really take time to listen to the voices that are different to yours. Already here in this House we have seen the collapse of governance in as far as separation of powers is concerned. The makeshift of this House into a toothless ornament that rubberstamp, not oversight the Executive.

This Province is slowly falling into a sophisticated dictatorship and closing out on democracy, if your truth is not blue. Some in the Executive have been instructing their departments to refuse oversight by members of this House, [Interjections.] demanding that they must first notify and get permission from the very respective MECs. [Interjections.] We are told by the WCED, the Provincial Department of Health, are the two culprits, with one of our hon members even taken to a disciplinary process by this Parliament to being intimidated, trying to silence hon members of this House of their constitutional duty. [Interjections.] † [Speaking in vernacular 1:47:16]

We are told to first report our unannounced visit, imagine, over the very MEC we are to oversight. Such double standards as this DA, like dogs with rabies,

is all over the country with cameras to spaces where they do not govern, to expose poor services, but when it is here in the Western Cape it cannot be done, you must first get permission. The blue-eyed girls and blue-eyed boys of the DA must be shielded from public scrutiny as they are too fragile to account for their blatant neglect of our communities. [Interjections.]

Clinics are overflowing with patients sleeping on floors as there is not enough beds, and staff is overstretched as the Department of Health is sitting with about 2 772 staff vacancies, and the entire Provincial Government underspend to the tune of almost R200 million on Compensation of Employees due to recurring delays in filling of vacancies.

When DA took over healthcare staff in the province were around 24 951. By 2023 that number had reduced to 21 683.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Taking population growth ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, are you able to take your seat? [Interjections.] I recognise the hon member Booysen. [Interjections.]

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, comments were made about permission being requested from the Department of Health. That is not true, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] It would be

prudent for hon member Nkondlo to be direct instead of misleading the House.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Booysen, you are fully aware of the processes. I will allow hon member Nkondlo to proceed. [Interjections.] We have six minutes and 58 seconds remaining. Hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): The truth hurts. Taking population growth into account, the number of staff per 1 000 reduced significantly by 39%. This seems to be part of a de-staffing policy by the Western Cape Provincial Government across.

The major hospital infrastructure has been maintained with 10 new regional hospitals constructed in the past 15 years. However, the number of clinics reduced from 179 to 166 from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

Yesterday the hon Premier tabled a 57-page speech, taking a maximum of two hours of listening to him, in what he terms a State of the Province Address.

He further provided a eulogy about the Western Cape as a tip of Africa, a place where human spirit is vibrant and a melting pot of history. It is in this history that the very hon Premier could only stop at greeting the descendants and custodians of indigenous people of this place of human resilience, the paramount chief of the Greco-National Conference of South Africa.

The shared history of culinary flavours tells a story of dispossession, slavery, colonial dehumanisation and apartheid degradation of a people that here, in what used to be called the Cape Southern Frontier between 17th and 19th century, saw conflicts between the indigenous Khoi and San people and Dutch-British settlers. [Interjections.] These were battles over livestock and land that later became the resistance against colonial expansion.

The Human Rights Commission can tell you today of actually similar living experiences of the landless farm workers that have been continuing to live under atrocious and inhumane conditions. If, as per your 2026 call for genuine and meaningful acts of kindness, hon Premier, please explain to us what held you back as the longest serving member of this House and Premier, to initiate a reconciliatory redress and restitution of land for the Khoi and San people in the Western Cape, [Interjections.] as you have energetically fought hard against National Government and undermined the Constitution and its foreign policy, to fly to the US just to protect the interests of agriculture and commercial farmers ...[Interjections.]

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...to your suicidal rescue of AGOA.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, kindly take your seat. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The hon member Nkondlo is not on the Conduct Committee and the Chair of the Conduct Committee. No reports have been ATC'd. May I ask how the hon member has managed to come by information [Interjections.] where she is not on the Conduct Committee and it is confidential? I thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Minnen. [Interjections.] In that particular regard I will advise that there are processes [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja, please! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...based on the content. [Interjections.] I will allow the hon member Nkondlo to proceed [Interjections.] in this regard. We are fully aware of various processes. This is a political debate, [Interjections.] but I would once again afford hon members opportunity to proceed and hon member Nkondlo will now carry on. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We shall not be silenced, hon member Van Minnen.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, please take your seat. I see the hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise in terms of Section 2 of the Powers and Privileges Act of the Western Cape. What hon member Van Minnen has raised, if correct, is a criminal matter [Interjections.] and it needs to be referred to the Conduct Committee with speed.

An HON MEMBER: Ja! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hence I have alluded to that fact. Hon members, hon members, this is a political debate. [Interjections.] There are various processes ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...that if any particular member would want to use any of the levers within the Rules, they are more than welcome to do so. Let us continue with the debate in the spirit of residents, those viewing online, wanting to hear the responses to the hon Premier's State of the Province Address. Hon member Nkondlo?

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] for clarity.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I think the evidence is here for everybody to see. [Interjections.] The very thing we spoke about of silencing and intimidation of hon members when there are views that are actually intimidating the hon members of the ruling party.

You also pushed and forced your way into interfering in [Interjections.] Transnet Cape Town Port as a national public entity with no concurrency to convene stakeholder forums in protection of the citrus industry against operational issues that were resulting to losses due to delays in Port services.

Why have we not seen the genuine and meaningful acts towards standing up against delinquents in the industry that violently chase out farmworkers, children and families in harsh weather conditions, after years of service without even alternative shelter?

Where were you and why are you silent when your second biggest region, Cape Winelands, is home to the country's hotspot of farmworker evictions in Witzenberg and De Doorns, both under the DA administration? You are silent when Daniel Kamfer, after 24 years, is being kicked out from Rosenhof Farm. [Interjections.] You are silent when Geraldine Maart and David Jonkers are also kicked out in Skoonvlei Boerdery. You are silent when Ouma Sarie, an 84-year old, and Oupa Karel De Wee, a 79-year old, are kicked out because they are old. You and Provincial Minister Meyer are silent and looking the other way instead, where you were ready to produce guidelines to help farm-

owners to employ foreign nationals the legal way, as you enable and facilitate a repeat of dispossession. This is a repeat of a colonial project that mirrors a blooded inheritance and foundation that is built on this agri sector in this country and province.

Farmworkers of today, the people and subject of the very chiefs you invite as guests to the gallery, but you are missing in action to help resolve their plight for land and dignity under your rule.

The agri sector has been growing with commercial agriculture generating R491 billion in 2023, yet farmworker wages are not benefiting the trickle effect, with wages averaging just below the minimum wage in what you call a job and such brings dignity to the people.

We welcome and look forward to the 10 000 labour inspectors that President announced and would engage the Department of Labour to deploy a significant amount of these labour enforcement officers to this province. Between November 2025 to 2026 the Household Affordability Index ranks Cape Town amongst five most expensive cities, with a monthly food basket costing about R5 100 and peaking close to R5 400.

The cost of living in the Western Cape continues to rise, particularly in food, transport and energy. Structural inequality persists as historically disadvantaged individuals and communities face systemic barriers to capital. As the hon Premier boasts R5 billion procurement spent that went to women.

We want to see where the spend and the nature of the spend and the type of businesses that were assisted, so that we have got a conclusive picture.

The National Government has a land donation policy with incentive, but to date there has not been a single hectare of land donated by White land-owners to the Griqua, the Korana and other Khoisan groups in the Cape as a gesture of kindness. [Interjections.] These predominantly White farm-owners here in the Western Cape received the lion's share of the R700 million of the taxpayers' money in the equity schemes, with a majority in the very Cape Winelands where the State bought shares for farmworkers, who many are now out of those farms and have never seen a dime from the dividends in those farms.

This is one of the heists of the State funds that we as the ANC join and support NGOs that have called for a forensic investigation of this programme and all culprits be brought to book, and we are happy the Portfolio Committee of the Department of Land Reform and hon Minister Nyhontso are also positive. We call for and join others on the moratorium on farm evictions, particularly in this province, [Interjections.] as we support the call for this moratorium to ensure that farm-owners and the ESTA are tightened in as far as land-owner obligations as employers.

We further ask you, hon Premier, who said nothing about the plight of Black emerging and small-scale farmers operating in the informal sidelines of townships and small towns. These informal farmers are treated badly by your municipalities, here in George, harassed with law enforcement, fined and their

livestock impounded at high fees. They are landless with no designated land space for farming and grazing land, and this is an abuse under your watch, where some of these groups are laying complaints of their animals wandering around.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): And we call for a multi-party ad hoc committee...
[Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo, your time has expired. [Applause.] [Interjections.] Hon members, we are at the midpoint of this particular debate on the response to the Premier's State of the Province Address.

I would want to again alert members that as Presiding Officers, when points of orders are raised, we pay attention to various inputs and if need be we will revert back to the House. So we do take note of the various points of orders that are raised based on inputs from hon members, and we do look into it in order to then come back to the House.

So let us proceed in that order and maintain the decorum of the House. I now recognise the hon member Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy

Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus will continue to be the adult in the room. [Interjections.] We will continue to stabilise coalitions and as we have saved the George Municipality from collapse, once again we have stepped in in the interest of the community.

Now the hon Premier spoke about what happened at the tip of Africa. Hon Deputy Speaker, before the ships arrived from Europe, the Khoi and the San lived here as First Nations.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): The hon Premier failed to acknowledge First Nations people.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): Thousands of years they sustained themselves, governed themselves, preserved their culture and their identity, but then came colonisation. Then it was followed by conquest and followed by the apartheid legislation of 1950. Through that law, not through their consent, their identity was changed to Coloured. [Interjections.] Forcefully removed from well-located areas, relocated to what we call today the Cape Flats, where there are crime, exclusion, poverty and marginalisation. [Interjections.] Stripped from land, stripped from dignity, stripped from economic opportunities, [Interjections.] stripped from their right to their land and self-determination.

Now ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: FF Plus is going to solve.

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...we stand in the same Western Cape where dispossession began and while the City's Mayor, Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, prepares to auction off public land without their consent, without their participation, hon Premier, will you continue to stand by and watch a repeat of exclusion and dispossession, or will you confront spatial injustice in this province with political courage and action? [Interjections.]

Land is not just property ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...it is part of our history, it is part of our heritage ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...part of our identity.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): Hon Deputy Speaker, even the courts, when we applied for an interdict, even the courts are no longer blind. They look through coloured lenses in the new South Africa. [Interjections.]

That is why you can still sing “Kill the boer, kill the farmer” today. [Interjections.] That is why there is still Black Economic Empowerment, racial laws in South Africa today. [Interjections.] [Interjections.]

While I acknowledge the programmes being done ...(intervention)

An HON MEMBER: It sounds like [Inaudible.] speech.

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...very little effect where it matters. Jobs cannot stop a bullet. Bullets are flying daily on the Cape Flats.

An HON MEMBER: It sounds like [Inaudible.] speech.

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...18,1% unemployment rate might be low, but hon Premier, go to the Cape Flats, it is not the reality there. [Interjections.] We have geographic pockets of poverty in South Africa, high unemployment due to spatial injustice.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I listened to the hon Premier last night. I heard words, lots of words, but little to convince me that anything is going to improve in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Now what can change the trajectory of the Western Cape is when we have control over the affairs that affect this province. More power, more federal autonomy over policing, over housing, we must decide in the best interest of our citizens.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): We will unlock new possibilities for the citizens of this province, or have the DA then sold their policy of federalism? Have you sold it out? Have you turned your backs on federalists such as Helen Suzman, federalists such as Dr Van Zyl Slabbert and Harry Schwarz, and their dream of a progressive federal South Africa?

Hon Deputy Speaker, devolution of power over the affairs that affects this province can help us improve the quality of our education, the quality of housing we will build for our people and the future trajectory of this province. I ask the hon Premier to look into the possibility of expanding our economy in the province in terms of aquaculture. You never mentioned it, but it is the fastest growing food production sector at this moment. Red tape is preventing ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...progress in that sector ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FF+): ...for our people. [Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, I am there, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

An HON MEMBER: Brilliant!

An HON MEMBER: Brilliant [Inaudible.] speech.

†n AGB LID: *Watse speech?*

[An HON MEMBER: What speech?]

An HON MEMBER: Brilliant.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I would like to begin by thanking hon Premier Alan Winde for calling a moment of silence last night for the victims of crime, including specifically the learner who died as a result of taxi violence yesterday in Atlantis.

I was in contact with the principal this morning and was assured that the school and the family are getting all the support they need to get through this difficult

time. I am sure that I speak for the House when I say our thoughts are with the family.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have a vision to deliver quality education for every learner in every classroom, in every school in the Western Cape, because quality education means more economic growth, and more economic growth means more jobs, and more jobs means a better future for our children, and when it comes to quality education the Western Cape is getting it done.

To deliver quality education, we are working hard to improve learning outcomes in the Western Cape. We have invested in our #BackOnTrack programme to reverse learning losses, providing extra classes to 20 700 learners, and extra training to 2 400 teachers last year. Our #BackOnTrack training for Grade 4 and 7 teachers is now SACE accredited and contributes to the continued professional development points.

We have implemented new measures in the Foundation Phase, including extra time for mathematics and reading within the school day, baseline assessments to identify where children need extra support, reading fluency benchmarks to check whether learners are at the right skill level for their grade, and a structured numeracy intervention for teachers and learners to complement our existing reading programme, and it is working, [Interjections.] and it is working.

Our Grade 3 learners have just achieved their highest annual systemic test

results ever in mathematics and language. Our Grade 4 learners achieved South Africa's top scores in reading in the International Pearls results. Our Grade 5 and 9 learners achieved our country's top scores in mathematics and science in international [Inaudible 2:08:12] terms results, and our matrics achieved the highest pass rate and bachelor's pass rate ever for our province. We are getting it done.

To deliver quality education we are working hard to expand access to education in the Western Cape. We are building more schools faster than any other province. We have reduced the time taken to build schools from a few years to just a few months.

We are working with the private sector funders to increase the number of [Inaudible 2:08:48] schools in our province, and it is working.

We have nine schools reaching completion for the 2026 school year, and a further two are opening [Inaudible 2:09:01] in their initial phases.

We currently have 15 new schools in construction through our Rapid School Build programme. Funders are already committed to spending over R320 million in new independent school infrastructure investment, and two weeks ago one of our independent school providers announced their plan to build 10 schools in 10 years, providing high-quality, low-fee education to 10 000 learners. We are getting it done.

To deliver quality education, we are working hard to make our schools safer.

We have 82 school resource officers deployed at our schools in partnership with the City of Cape Town. We have completed security fencing upgrades at 180 schools. We have subsidised holiday security at 400 schools, and it is working.

We have seen a significant decline in burglary and vandalism incidents during the school holidays. School resource officers are confiscating dangerous items and taking them out of the school environment, while setting a positive example for learners in the community, and we have much closer partnerships with law enforcement and SAPS to fight crime around schools. We are getting it done.

To deliver quality education we are working hard to support learners with special education needs in the Western Cape. We have built 82 additional classrooms for learners with special needs over the past five years. Our special needs schools have received a total of 13 school buses to ensure that our most vulnerable learners can get to and from school safely.

We are allocating more funding to support learners with autism and learners with profound intellectual disabilities, and we continue to protect special needs education from budget cuts, even in a tough fiscal environment, and it is working.

Over 30% of South Africa's special needs matric candidates write their exams in the Western Cape. We provide more supportive accommodations for special needs candidates than any other province, and we have a 91,9% matric pass rate

for learners with special needs, and we have the top matric candidate with special education needs in the country

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...for 2025. We are getting it done.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you can take your seat. I have noted a hand raised by the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, for indulging me. Is the hon MEC willing to take a question on unplaced learners, please? Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: The Leader of the Opposition this morning has demonstrated that he is only capable of asking a standard grade question and so I will not take any questions. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. We will proceed. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am not sure whether there is – whether hon Minister Maynier is familiar with the education system

currently in terms of the latest developments on grades. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. The one thing we can say is the Leader of the Opposition is certainly not aware of the current education system.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the bottom line is this, no matter how much the Opposition members complain, the facts speak for themselves. More children have a place in a new brick and mortar school in the Western Cape, more children go to school in a secure environment in the Western Cape, more children can read for meaning in the Western Cape, more children write matric in the Western Cape, more children will do well in mathematics and in physical science in the Western Cape, more children will get jobs in the Western Cape, and more children will have a brighter future in the Western Cape, because we are getting it done and we will continue to get it done by delivering quality education for every learner in every classroom in every school here in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] I thank you. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: What about the 1 600 unplaced learners? [Interjections.]

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon Minister.] I recognise the Hon Brinkhuis. Hon member Brinkhuis, before you proceed, we are just adjusting the time allocation. Hon member Brinkhuis, you may continue.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJ): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Speaking in vernacular 2:14:32]. Good morning, hon Premier, good morning, hon members, good morning to the hon community of George and all the citizens of the Western Cape.

At the stakeholder engagement session hosted by the South African Human Rights Commission Western Cape Provincial Office exactly a year ago, Western Cape municipalities detailed scarcity of land as one of the several challenges in clearing the growing housing backlogs in the province.

In September 2024 the George Municipality recorded 400 000 housing applicants on its database. Compared with other cities in South Africa, Cape Town remains highly inequitable as its spatial structure still reflects the apartheid urban patterns, and this is being deepened by the City's auctioning of prime properties and historical buildings. Al Jama-ah is deeply concerned about the planned auction of more than 50 municipal land parcels by the City of Cape Town, which is taking place today, Thursday, 26 February 2026.

The DA-run City of Cape Town is determined to deprive the masses of

previously disadvantaged people of their land and to continue keeping them in detrimentally overpopulated townships on the Cape Flats, leading to the endless establishments of informal settlements and backyard dwellers, while expanding unfair land ownership in favour of the privileged White people. Al Jama-ah is dismayed at the City's disregard for people's needs for land restoration. The people who were brutally removed from their land and homes under the Group Areas Act are longing for the return of their land.

The auction is a clear manifestation to the landless masses that there is no will to return the land to its rightful owners, but a commitment to further entrench spatial injustice and peripheral settlement patterns for marginalised communities. Inequality levels are high in the Western Cape. The influx of Zionists scrambling to buy up land is like a genocide of people other than Whites and the existing inequalities will further be entrenched.

The Province's budget and auction of land parcels of the Good Hope Centre continue to harm the culture and education of our people. There are close to 2 700 learners who have not been secured placement in schools. The Western Cape Education Department is wasting more than R5 million in legal fees to deny Heathfield High School principal, Mr Wesley Newman, to return to his post at the school. We demand that Mr Newman be returned to his post at Heathfield School, as ruled by the Labour Court earlier this month.
[Interjections.]

We further call on the Province to implement an effective socio-economic

response to eradicate gangsterism, more efforts to prevent drug addiction and to provide passionate treatment to victims of drug abuse. The recent increase in gang violence and shootings of innocent people is a clear indication that the Western Cape Safety Plan is not working.

Al Jama-ah calls on all religious groups to embrace one another and not to remove Ramadan Mubarak billboards. I thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon member. I now recognise the Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Wenger. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived, it is what difference we have made to the lives of others.

Nearly a quarter of a century after Nelson Mandela spoke these words they continue to challenge each of us entrusted with public office, because our work is not about positions or titles, it is about impact. It is about whether the decisions we take as Provincial Government translate into real change in the lives of the people we serve. In the Western Cape that is the standard we hold ourselves to. To build a province where people can live lives that they truly value, where opportunity is growing, communities are safer and where Government works for the people, and we are seeing progress.

In healthcare that begins at the start of life, because if we are honest about

what drives inequality in our country we must confront the reality that it often begins before a child has even been born.

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

An HON MEMBER: Yes, Chair.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

An HON MEMBER: I want to establish from the MEC whether she is prepared to take a question regarding accusation ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No, no, no, no, no, you cannot pose your ...[Interjections.] ...question, hon member. Please take your seat. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: No, hon Speaker, I have got a lot to respond to.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. Stunting, which is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor

nutrition, is not just a health issue, it is a barrier to opportunity. It affects how a child learns, how they grow and ultimately how they participate in the economy, and that is why we launched Khulisa Care, the pilot programme, because we understand that the first 1 000 days of life are decisive.

Through this programme we are supporting mothers and their babies with targeted nutritional support, counselling and follow-ups. Nearly 900 women are already enrolled and more than 2 800 vouchers have been issued, and it is not about ticking boxes or reporting numbers, it is about whether a child is given a fair chance at life, whether we are willing to intervene early enough to break the cycle of poverty and inequality that too often repeats itself across generations, and we know that good intentions are not enough, policy must work.

That is why we are testing, refining and learning, and we have the intention of scaling it once we have the evidence to support it, because if we get this right we are not only improving health outcomes, we are investing in the future of our society.

Hon Speaker, healthcare does not begin and end within the walls of a clinic or a hospital. It is a system and it is one that no single institution can deliver alone. That is why we have deliberately chosen a path of partnership in the Western Cape. Through our Universal Health Care Think Tank we have brought together leaders from Government, private healthcare, academia and civil society to co-create a system that works for the patient.

We have already mapped 590 existing partnerships across the province that represent real and practical opportunities to expand access and improve quality of care, because the question is not whether care is delivered by the public or the private sector, the question is whether the patient receives the care they need, when and where they need it, in a way that preserves their dignity. That is the standard we are working towards.

That is why we are partnering with private ambulance services for non-emergency patient transfers, so that we can free up emergency services to respond where needed most. It is why, right here in the Garden Route, we are piloting a chronic disease management programme with private GPs in Knysna and Bitou, ensuring that patients can access care closer to home without additional financial burden.

Hon Speaker, a well-run health system also depends on the basics being in place, and here we must speak honestly. When municipalities fail, where water systems collapse, when services cannot be sustained, it is our residents and our healthcare facilities that carry the burden.

This week I visited clinics in Zoar and Amalienstein in Kannaland, where Day Zero became a reality and the taps ran dry. [Interjections.] I met with the clinic committee members and staff to assess how they were able to continue [Interjections.] care under these challenging conditions, and I am incredibly proud of our team and grateful to the District Municipality that has been

trucking water to our clinics so that they can operate.

The same applies when national infrastructure projects stall, like Pacaltsdorp and others in the Garden Route. [Interjections.] People of Pacaltsdorp have been waiting for more than a decade for clinic redevelopment. Three contractors later and still no completion. This is felt by every patient who waits longer, travels further or receives care in a facility that is not fit for purpose, but we are continuing from our side to invest and deliver. For example, in Knysna the R48 million Hornlee Clinic will replace an ageing facility and improve access for the community. In Mossel Bay a R16 million new satellite clinic under development and beyond the Garden Route [Interjections.] new clinics that will be finalised this year in Diazville, Ravensmead and Weltevreden. These are practical ways we are making interventions in daily lives. [Interjections.]

We are also embracing innovation. For example, at Mitchells Plain Community Health Centre our telehealth pilot has meant that through automated reminders we have reduced chronic medicine non-collection rates to as low as 5%.

Hon Speaker, in response to some of the issues raised in the debate. The Cuba Medical Training programme, it is so popular. The hon member would like to know that even ANC-run provinces are not interviewing candidates last year. It is only Gauteng and the North West [Interjections.] that continue to participate, and let us be clear, the only reason that this exists is because of the ANC's political fraternity with Cuba.

Shockingly this programme [Interjections.] has never been even evaluated.
[Interjections.]

On Caledon, I acknowledge, yes, there are challenges in Caledon and we are working hard to resolve them. At the moment we are upgrading the theatre and radiology, we are building a new obstetric unit and acute psychiatric service at a cost of R41 million, and we hope to have this done by the end of the year, which will help to ease some pressure there.

We are also implementing a COPC in Grabouw to add wellness initiatives
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, hon Speaker. When the hon MEC is making statements she must take questions. Can the hon MEC take a question? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION (ANC): These are serious
[Inaudible 2:26:06]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION (ANC): I am begging. I am begging [Inaudible 2:26:11]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, I have – I note your point of order. [Interjections.] The point of order is that you request the hon Minister to take a question. I want to remind hon members you do not need to motivate your point of order, and as part of the Rules and procedure the hon Minister has an option whether to take a question or not.

I wish to remind the hon members of the Executive, when that is posed to you, the – and you decide to take a question, it will be deducted from your time as allotted on the speakers' list as published.

Hon Minister, with that being said, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: No, hon Speaker.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister is not ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: I am running out of time.

The SPEAKER: ...prepared to take a question. Hon Chief Whip of the

Opposition, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question and for that reason ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: I only have one minute.

The SPEAKER: ...I am going to ask that you do not pose your question to the hon Minister unofficially and allow the hon Minister to continue. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. On Kraaifontein, the claim that there has not been a doctor for three weeks is simply not true. Between 9 and 26 February we have had on average seven doctors on duty every day per week, and three on the weekend. [Interjections.]

On oversight, we welcome it. In fact, the Standing Committee conducts regular visits to our facilities, including unannounced ones, all the time. In fact, the whole ANC caucus visited George Hospital last week [Interjections.] and our staff dropped everything to accommodate them with less than 24 hours' notice. [Interjections.] All we are asking is that when hon members do individual oversight [Interjections.] it be done in good faith and respect the laws of the land. [Interjections.] We have to protect patient privacy as set out in the Health Act and in POPIA. [Interjections.] Let me be clear, we will ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ...not allow
...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order!
[Interjections.] Order! Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is the hon former Finance
MEC willing to take a question on what is good faith? [Interjections.] Just on
good faith. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order! Hon members – hon member
Nkondlo, hon member Nkondlo, you – [Interjections.] hon member Nkondlo!
Hon members, what is happening on the floor is completely out of order.

The hon Minister has an opportunity to make her inputs. You have another
opportunity through your speakers on the speakers' list if you do not agree with
the input made by the hon Minister, but you cannot have running commentary
and directly engaging the speaker on the floor.

Hon members, this is a kind reminder that this is not going to be allowed and I
ask that you please work with me in order to maintain the decorum of the House.
[Interjections.]

Hon Minister, there was a request from the Leader of the Opposition if you are
prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: No, hon Speaker [Inaudible 2:29:35]

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. Hon Minister, before I recognise you again can you please take a seat, because it seems to be another point of order from hon member Walters. Hon members Walters, what is your point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, you did in fact make the ruling the ANC should not disrupt the meeting like they disrupt. [Interjections.] They cannot disrupt [Interjections.], they cannot disrupt ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a member on the floor. [Interjections.] Order!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chairperson, [Interjections.] hon Chairperson ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...I am again [Interjections.] receiving adulation. [Interjections.] Hon Chair, they cannot disrupt this House like they disrupt hospitals. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You do not even qualify to be a speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Hon member Walters – order, hon members!

An HON MEMBER: Undermining his own Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, can I please ask, there are members in the gallery, there are members watching online, that want to get the inputs of the various speakers.

Can I please ask that you observe the decorum of the House, for the second time. Hon Walters, that is not a point of order.

†n AGB LID: Dankie! [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Thank you! [Interjections.]]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, my apologies. With 51 seconds remaining I now recognise you. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. At its heart healthcare is about people. It is about the mother who wants her child to have a better future. It is about the patient who deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. It is about communities who want to know that their Government is there for them. Our responsibility is to build a system that is compassionate, accountable and effective. [Interjections.] A system that puts

people first, and so we will continue to do the work, we will continue to invest, to innovate and to partner, [Interjections.] and we will continue to focus on what matters most, which is making a real difference in the lives of our residents, because that is what public service demands of us. To get it done and to get it done with kindness. I thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members of the House, people of the Western Cape, a special welcome to my wife Debbie, Alderman Johan du Toit, ACDP councillor, MMC.

Hon Speaker, of course the ACDP and this House must celebrate when it comes to good reports. If you see the hon Premier mentioned the unemployment rate, 18,1%, that is something that we can celebrate about, and what we can celebrate about is the vision of the hon Premier to have it at 10%.

Yes, hon Speaker, a job brings dignity, a job brings respect, and, yes, a job stops a bullet, and we welcome also the vision of the hon Premier to have 500 MOD centres, because we know in the most vulnerable communities parents working, children after school can go to a safe place where they are nurtured, cared for.

The hon Premier also mentioned about the Mitchells Plain train reopening and

I know it is a PRASA competency, but this is not running optimally. All trains are not running optimally. Let me just give you the difference it will make if we have train services running regularly. A single for a mother or a father going from Mitchells Plain to Cape Town with a taxi is R25, a double return is R50. With a train it is R25 a return. That is R125 a week, R500 a month, hon Premier, R6 000 a year. For people that are struggling imagine the difference when it comes to saving that amount of money. Hon Speaker, I want to know from the Premier, how far are the talks to localise PRASA? We want to know.

Hon Speaker, as a young boy, a young schoolboy in a township, very poor township where I grew up in Bonteheuwel, raised by a single mother, there was kindness. Kindness I learned in a school by a passionate teacher giving us religious instruction. The ACDP calls on bringing God back to our schools, bringing prayer back to our schools, bringing the Bible back to our schools. This will be speaking to the hearts of our children, reducing crime, because then you are dealing with the core of the matter, changing people from inside. [Interjections.] The ACDP, [Interjections.] the ACDP, unashamedly a Christian party that fears God, with servant leaders, believe that Christian values will transform communities and then we will have safer streets.

Hon Premier, I do not know if you saw the video going viral of *gogos*, goggles, of mothers, of old people, you speak about dignity to our old people, laying and sleeping 03:00, 04:00 in front of SASSA offices. I did send a message to hon Minister Londt. It is a disgrace to see old people, vulnerable, lying in front of SASSA offices, 03:00, 04:00 in the morning. Hon Premier, you need

to address this, because when we talk about Government we talk about what can we do. We are serving the people of the Western Cape.

The ACDP is asking Christians to live their values in their homes and in the communities, and the consequence will be that we will have dignity, respect and, yes, kindness in every community. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. I now recognise hon member Lekker. [Interjections.]

Mr P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hon Speaker, therefore let us repent and pass from ignorance to knowledge, from foolishness to wisdom, from injustice to righteousness, from godlessness to God. These words by Clement of Alexandria speak across centuries. They speak to moments when a society must decide whether it will remain comfortable in injustice or rise in pursuit of righteousness.

Today, here in George, we face that moment. We are gathered in a town of breathtaking beauty and brutal contradiction. From the sky George looks prosperous and orderly, but on the ground in Pacaltsdorp, Thembaletu and Uniondale our people are landless. They are cramped in backyards, they are trapped on housing waiting lists older than their old children.

Hon Premier Alan Winde, this is your province. Seventeen years of DA rule, 17 years of speeches, 17 years of promises, yet the geography of apartheid

remains intact. Blanco and Preto? [2:38:46] still speak the language of separation. Working class African and Coloured families remain on the margins while privilege sits comfortably in the leafy suburbs, and yesterday, hon Premier, you asked us to applaud incremental change while the structural infrastructure and inequality stand firm.

Let us speak plainly about housing. In George, families who registered in 2001, 2004 and 2006 are still in the waiting list. They hold municipal cards as proof, they have never been called to sign subsidy forms, yet houses are being allocated. How? How do houses get allocated when long-standing beneficiaries are ignored?

Hon MEC Tertius Simmers, you oversee human settlement. There are R34 million left unspent in the Housing Development Fund in George, while people still sleep in shacks. [Interjections.] That is not a shortage of resources, that is a political choice. [Interjections.] We demand a full provincial [Applause.] audit of the George housing database.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Publish the 2006 list, publish the beneficiaries of the past five years. If there is nothing to hide open the books.

The same pattern exists in the City of Cape Town. In Kuyasa 2 373 houses were identified for retrofitting due to poor workmanship. Fewer than 300

houses were fixed before the project stops. Residents were told there is no budget. Yet R10 million was approved in 2019 for the [Inaudible 2:40:40] housing project retrofits, it was never implemented. [Interjections.] In sub-council 10 in Khayelitsha service sites on F1964 and 21020 are ready. The budget exists for 261 top structure. Construction is stalled due to lack of authorisation.

Projects are frozen not because of impossibility, but because there is no urgency for the poor, and then hon Premier stands here celebrating a multi-billion rand deal book, green hydrogen, manufactured EVs solar system. Investment is welcome, but how do you announce a R600 million year and R1,6 billion there, while housing projects in Khayelitsha are stalled deliberately? How do you speak of the green economy while families in Site C live under corrugated iron? Growth without justice deepens inequality if you do not know.

You welcomed the reopening of Kapteinsklip line, we welcome it too. Our people need mobility but let us not rewrite history. That line was delayed by race politics and fear mongering, and it is reopened largely as a result of National Government intervention.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You do not get to applause for fixing what politics helped to delay. [Interjections.]

Let us turn to Conradie Park, your so-called better living game-changer. Behind glossy brochures lie a harsh reality. Evictions without due processes, arbitrary fines, electricity sold through expensive private apps, elderly SASSA recipients suffocating under inflated tariffs. A rent paying resident reportedly sleeping in his car because biometric access has denied him entry and now you celebrate a private school as progress.

The poor Conradie cannot afford private education, they need public schools. Education is not a commodity, it is a constitutional obligation. Your Administration is turning it into a business.

Now let us speak about the George building collapse. [Interjections.] Workers died, families were shattered. [Interjections.] You say SAPS has completed its investigation and that the docket is with the NPA for a decision to be made. That is a process, but where is your leadership? [Interjections.] What support has Government given to the victims of families? When will you release the full report publicly?

A government that hides reports hides accountability. [Interjections.] Not only has that report been hidden from the public, it has been hidden from the members of this Legislature. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): We cannot speak of infrastructure in George without

honouring the lives lost and demanding justice.

Hon Speaker, crime is tearing this province apart. The hon Premier told us that over 345 people were murdered in Western Cape in January alone. 345. That is not a statistic, it is a crisis. Yet your response focusses on technology, scanners, surveillance. You announce the procurement of advanced vehicle scanners. We welcome the intervention against illegal firearms and tracking, but crime is not solved through gadgets alone. Where is the prevention?

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Where is the diversion programme? Where is the large-scale youth employment? Children as young as 14 are being recruited into gangs. We raised this last year. Your Government is silent. Crime is rooted in poverty, inequality and spatial exclusion. Your approach deliberately delinks crime from the socio-economic reality.

345 murders in one month should trigger an emergency social investment.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Instead, we hear you lobbying for devolved policing powers. You will not get them. If police stations lack computers, support them. [Interjections.] Do not merely stage photo opportunities to expose shortcomings. Hon Premier, unfortunately you are not here, but I must tell you,

your leadership requires accountability and not blame shifting.

An HON MEMBER: Ja, you are right.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): To hon MEC Wenger, who presides over a system under severe strain. In the Garden Route district, George Regional Hospital is a 24-hour hospital. Seventeen ambulances respond roughly to 8 000 calls per day. One ambulance serves Oudtshoorn. Transfers are delayed, clinics in Pacaltsdorp are overstretched. Alcohol-related trauma floods the emergency ward. Where is the comprehensive violence prevention strategy? Where is a decisive intervention in the working-class communities? [Interjections.]

The era of managing inequality must end. The era of confronting it must begin now, and I thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. [Interjections.] Order. Thank you. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.] I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Meyer. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, hon members of the public, my Cabinet colleagues, my caucus members, hon members of the Opposition and the various leaders.

Firstly, I would like to thank the George Municipality for hosting us here today in this beautiful building. I can see a lot of effort was put into the preparation

and I want to thank the hon Speaker and his staff, and George Municipality, in particular, Mayor Browen and your MMC, your Municipal Manager and all the staff. Thank you for this preparation that you have put in. [Interjections.]

Hon Premier Winde, this is the State of the Province Address and I have seen and listened carefully to not only your speech, but the speech of the Leader of Government Business, Mr Simmers, hon Minister Bredell, hon Minister Maynier and hon Minister Mireille Wenger. Truly world-class speeches. Substance, facts and evidence. This is not rumours and lack of depth ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: If you must say so yourself.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, is that a point of order?

An HON MEMBER: Probably not.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, hon Speaker. Given the MEC's ambition to be a National Minister of Agriculture, is he prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. [Interjections.] That is not a point of order. [Interjections.] Hon members – hon Minister, before you continue. Hon members, I wish to remind you that frivolous points of orders

are unparliamentary.

An HON MEMBER: Especially by frivolous communists.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] Today, as we respond to the hon Premier's State of the Province Address, I rise to speak to the theme that captured not only our philosophy, but our practice, getting it done with kindness.

Some may ask what place does kindness have in a debate on economic growth, exports, biosecurity, jobs and safety? Hon colleagues, kindness is not softness, as we have heard in speakers before me. Kindness is discipline, kindness is a skill, it is a competence, kindness is delivery with dignity. I have just listened to hon Minister of Health today. That speech was from A to Z a speech of kindness and compassion. Thank you, hon Minister Wenger, for a brilliant speech. [Interjections.]

In the Western Cape kindness is also a competitive edge. I listened how she responded to the issue of Theewaterskloof. That is kindness in action, because when we focus on people, on our exporters, on our farmers, our workers and our communities, we build a province where jobs, safety and wellbeing are reinforcing one another.

Today I want to highlight how this principle is driving our work in two decisive areas: [Interjections.] the export promotion, export-led growth strategy, and secondly I must speak about foot-and-mouth disease, †bek-en-klouseer tydens hierdie debat, [foot-and-mouth during this debate,] but both demonstrate what it is getting things done with kindness look like in practice: firm in purpose, compassionate in action and relentlessly focused on results.

†Agb lede, [Hon members,] getting things done with kindness through jobs and market access. Hon Premier Winde has set the tone for economic acceleration and we are matching that ambition with delivery. We are not boasting when we say in the last five years 90% of the jobs were created in the Western Cape, we say it because our hearts are bleeding, because we do not want the Western Cape to succeed, I want South Africa to succeed, but for South Africa to succeed we need delivery and good governance in action, but with kindness, with humility and with dignity.

So for us the Western Cape has positioned itself as South Africa's leading export region. By 2030 – that is my goal – we aim to expand the value of goods and services exports to R320 billion, on a clear path to triple exports by 2035 and my target is R450 billion. This is not a dream, this is a plan; a delivery is already visible.

Our development with Wesgro into India, a breakthrough for African retail access. 1,5 billion people. Wesgro concluded a groundbreaking partnership

with Reliance Retail, India's largest retailer. I recently met the High Commission of India and the [Inaudible 2:52:32] General of India. They were here yesterday. Really great people, expanding our access into that market, because we had 47 Western Cape products, from rooibos to dried fruit to spices, and we are now listed in flagship stores in Mumbai. The campaign generated 1 million hits on the Cape Trade Portal within just two months – a government at work. This is the Western Cape taking Africa to the world and doing so with excellence.

Middle East, converting missions in buyers. By January 2026, Gulfood, nearly half of South African Pavilion exhibitors were from the Western Cape. The world's largest annual food and beverage trade show, with 1,5 million products, 855 exhibitors, 700 million into the Middle East, and this is what we are about, bringing our products to the global markets.

In fact, I want to refer this hon members of this House to the reality that soon Afrifood, based on the back of Gulfood, will be visiting here in the Western Cape. Following the success that I led to Dubai Chamber of Commerce, they will now send 20 buyers to the Western Cape April this year, a government at work, not noisemakers, impact makers. Real buyers ready to sign real deals.

In the ASEANS we are bridging into high-growth markets. We strengthen this through the Africa Support Singapore Forum and we are now working to link them to the Cape Trade Portal and Proxtera. I am seeing already our Western Cape products on the plane of Singapore Airlines. I think I will invite both

this side of the House and this side of the House to join us on Singapore Airlines when we have one day Karoo lamb being served on Singapore Airlines. That is not only a dream, it is in the making. A government at work. Lamb shanks can also go – I know that is your choice [Interjections.], but I will talk to the Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Airlines and I will take my friend, Noko Masipha, with. [Interjections.]

Ladies and gentlemen, I would very much now like to move to more important and very strategic matters. For me it is important, because we have seen the impact of †*bek-en-klouseer* [foot-and mouth,] but export-led growth for us is important. Just yesterday I visited the Zelpy Farm owned by Beverly Joseph and Fergus Ontong. †Hierdie plaas voer 50% van al hulle hops, voer hulle uit. 90% van al hulle proteas word uitgevoer. We believe in export-led growth.

Dames en here, ons is hier in die Suid-Kaap en hier is ernstige uitbreek ook van bek-en-klouseer. Met die uitbreek van bek-en-klouseer in die Wes-Kaap het die Wes-Kaapse Regering, die agb Premier van die Wes-Kaap, agb Minister Bredell en ek onmiddellik saam met die DG, Dr Harry Malila, onmiddellik die Provinsiale Rampbestuur Sentrum geaktiveer.

Die eerste geval van bek-en-klouseer het verlede jaar in November plaasgevind daar in Gouda, dit het daar uitgebreek. Danksy die goeie samewerking met die Munisipaliteit van Witzenberg, die Drakenstein Munisipaliteit, die rooivleisbedryf, Agri Wes-Kaap, die boere, beide kommersiële- en kleinboere, het ons onmiddellik daardie probleem opgelos. Ek is baie trots op al daardie

samewerking.

Vroeër, hier in Februarie, het ons weer gevalle van bek-en-klouseer in Mbekweni, Kalkfontein, Mfuleni, Makhaza en Khayelitsha, Mosselbaai, George en Klapmuts gehad, asook nou weer in Swartland in Malmesbury.

In Fisantekraal het ons onlangs beeste ingeënt teen bek-en-klouseer. Hoewel daar geen kliniese simptome was van bek-en-klouseer nie, en ons dit wel gedoen as 'n voorkomende maatreël, want ons moet ook beide groot boere beskerm, maar ook die melkboere beskerm in daardie streke binne 'n 3 kilometer radius. Dit is vir ons van kritieke belang.

Tot dusver het die Wes-Kaapse Regering 17 000 diere ingeënt teen bek-en-klouseer. Tot dusver het ons gister ook 30 000 entstowwe weer ontvang. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ons stuur vir amptenare vandag om nog 10 000 entstowwe Kaap toe te bring. Onder leiding van die agb Premier en die agb Minister van Finansies het ons R100 miljoen opsy gesit vir bek-en-klouseer. Ons het goedkeuring gekry van die agb Minister van Finansies en Provinsiale Tesourie om addisioneel personeel aan te stel om bek-en-klouseer te beveg.

Verder het ons bek-en-klouseer kontrole- en beheerpunte opgerig regoor die Wes-Kaap. Ons vergader, onder leiding van agb Minister Bredell, elke Dinsdag – en die agb Premier en die Direkteur-Generaal - ons vergader met elke munisipaliteit, al 30 munisipaliteite. Al vyf distrikkurgermeesters gee vir ons gereeld terugvoering oor die stand van bek-en-klouseer.

Ons het entstowwe ook, en 'n hulplyn, 'n bek-en-klouseer hulplyn geloods, en 'n epos. By Elsenburg het my Departement ook 'n bek-en-klouseer beheer- en kontrolekamer opgerig. Hier in die Tuinroete alleen is 9 409, amper 10 000 inentings reeds toegedien teen bek-en-klouseer. Dit is tot gister se syfers. Ek wil graag versoek dat almal wat betrokke is by landbouskoue asseblief geen diere toelaat by landbouskoue hier nie. Ek was die afgelope naweek by 'n landbouskou in Riversdal, uitstekende bio-sekuriteitmaatreëls was daar toegepas. Ek doen 'n ernstige beroep op alle landbouskoue hier in die Wes-Kaap om geen gesplete hoefdiere daar toe te laat nie, want ons moet bek-en-klouseer hier beheer in die Wes-Kaap.

Die Wes-Kaapse Kabinet besef die erns van die bek-en-klouseer epidemie. Ons gaan bek-en-klouseer met alles tot ons beskikking beveg. Dankie aan ons boere, ons munisipaliteite, ons verkeer, alle mense wat hier werksaam is – agb Minister Isaac Sileku, baie dankie vir jou hulp. Môneoggend, agb Premier, hou ek 'n groot padblokkade. Dankie, agb Minister Sileku, om te stop vir die padblokkade, alle voertuie gaan geskut word, alle voertuie gaan ontsmet word, want geen bek-en-klouseer moet hier toegelaat word nie. Bek-en-klouseer het geen gevaar vir menslike gebruik nie. Dit is industrie wat 50 000 mense werk gee, dit is 'n industrie van R13,5 miljard. Ek het alle erns om dit te stop hier in die Wes-Kaap en ek bedank u vir u hulp in hierdie verband.

[This farm exports 50% of all their hops. 90% of all their proteas is exported.

We believe in export led growth.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are here in the Southern Cape and here is serious outbreak also of foot and mouth. With the outbreak of foot and mouth in the Western Cape, the Western Cape Government, the Premier, hon Minister Bredell and myself immediately activated the Provincial Disaster Management Center along with the DG, Dr Harry Malila.

The first case of foot and mouth occurred last year in November there in Gouda. Thanks to the good cooperation with the Municipality of Witzenberg, the Drakenstein Municipality, the red meat industry, Agri Western Cape, the farmers, both commercial and emerging farmers, we immediately solved that problem. I'm very proud of all that cooperation.

Earlier, here in February, we again had cases of foot-and mouth in Mbekweni, Kalkfontein, Mfuleni, Makhaza and Khayelitsha, Mossel Bay, George and Klapmuts, as well as now again in Swartland in Malmesbury.

In Fisantekraal We recently vaccinated cattle against foot and mouth. Although there were no clinical symptoms of foot and mouth we did it as a preventive measure, because we have to protect both large farmers, but also the dairy farmers in those regions within a 3 kilometre radius. It is of critical importance to us.

Until now the Western Cape Government vaccinated 17 000 animals against foot-and mouth. To date we we have also received 30 000 vaccines, yesterday.

[Interjections.] Today we are sending officials to bring another 10,000 vaccines to the Cape. Under the leadership of the hon Premier and the hon Minister of Finance we have set aside R100 million for foot and mouth. We have received permission from the hon Minister of Finance and Provincial Treasury to appoint additional staff to fight foot and mouth.

Furthermore we have set up foot and mouth control points all over the Western Cape. We meet under the leadership of the hon Minister Bredell every Tuesday – and the hon Premier and the Director General - We meet with every municipality, all 30 municipalities. Five District Mayors regularly provide us with feedback about the status of foot and mouth.

We have also launched vaccines and a helpline, a foot and mouth helpline, and an e-mail. At Elsenburg my Department also set up a foot and mouth management and control room. Here in the Garden Route alone almost 9 409, almost 10 000 vaccinations have already been applied against foot and mouth. That is until yesterday's figures. I would like to ask that all who are involved with agricultural shows should please not allow animals at agricultural shows here. The past weekend I attended an agricultural show in Riversdal, and outstanding bio-security measures were applied there. I seriously appeal to all agricultural shows here in the Western Cape to not allow any split-hooved animals there, because we must control foot and mouth here in the Western Cape.

The Western Cape cabinet realizes the seriousness of the foot and mouth

epidemic. We are going to fight foot and mouth with everything to our disposal. Thank you to our farmers, our municipalities, our traffic, all people working here – hon Minister Isaac Sileku, Thank you for your assistance. Tomorrow hon Premier, I'm holding a large roadblock. Thank you hon Minister Sileku, to stop for the road blocks, all vehicles are going to be impounded, all vehicles are going to be disinfected, because No foot and mouth must be allowed here. Foot and mouth has no danger for human consumption. It is an industry providing work for 50,000 people, it is an industry of R13,5 billion. I am serious do stop it here in the Western Cape and I thank you for your assistance in this regard.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Minister, u tyd is verstreke, baie dankie.

[The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired, thank you.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Baie dankie. [Applous.]

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you. [Applause.]]

The SPEAKER: I now – [Interjections.] order! I now recognise the hon member Herron. [Interjections.]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] Hon Speaker, the Western Cape, this place on the southern tip of Africa, has various advantages over other provinces.

We have a mild Mediterranean climate coupled with sensational natural splendour that underpins a lucrative tourist market that creates many jobs. We have a well-developed food and wine culture attractive to affluent locals and tourists alike, that creates many jobs. We have some of the safest neighbourhoods in the country, historically better resourced education sector due to racially skewed resourcing that has enabled the development of top schools and universities. We have a government that obtains demonstrably better audit outcomes and that drives its narrative of being exceptionally well-run compared to other provinces, and with each State of the Province Address, the hon Premier takes credit for all of these advantages, while blaming National Government for the fact that all of these advantages stop at Klipfontein Road in Cape Town. [Interjections.]

This year the hon Premier did have something real to boast about, the boosting of employment, because the more jobs the better and there is no doubt about that, but there is something deeply wrong when the number of jobs increases while at the same time food insecurity increases. We heard nothing from the hon Premier about that. He did not tell us that moderate food insecurity rose from 10,6% to 13,1%, and that overall food insecurity from mild to severe now sits at roughly 50% in our province, according to recent reports.

We are witnessing the rise of a brutal new reality, the working poor. Even those who are employed are hungry. That is not how these sums are supposed to work. More than half the province is uncertain where their next meal will come from, in a province that celebrates its economic success.

We must ask what these new jobs and our unemployment rate mean, what they mean, when working class people are forced to choose between buying bread and electricity, having already forfeited up to a third of their salaries to pay for transport.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, property values in the Western Cape are skyrocketing with enormous benefit to those who have money. The rest are entrapped by their poverty. The fact that no affordable homes have been built in decent neighbourhoods in the Western Cape and cities since the collapse of apartheid, and that all new homes built for people of colour are precisely where Vorster and Botha would have liked them, far from town, jobs or social amenities, is continuation of spatial injustice.

Spatial injustice is not just about badly located housing, it is about indignity, redress, what schools your children can attend, the quality of health care and you can expect the whole bang shoot of equal rights and justice.

This year marks 13 years since the decommissioning of the GF Jooste Hospital. When it was decommissioned people living on the wrong side of the M5 were promised something better, a Klipfontein Regional Hospital, but now the people are told to wait till 2033. [Interjections.] This well-run Government needs 20 years to build a hospital ...[Interjections.]

†'n AGB LID: Skande!

[An HON MEMBER: Disgrace!]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): And who bears the costs? The people of Manenberg, Khayelitsha, Philippi, Crossroads, Mandalay, Heideveld, Nyanga and Gugs.

Hon Speaker, Manenberg has entered the top 30 murder stations in the country for the first time in years, and Mitchells Plain has eclipsed last year's murder total already, and we still have a quarter to go. These are not just stats, these are children growing up in trauma, parents burying children, emergency rooms overwhelmed and what does the hon Premier do? He defunds health infrastructure, reduces the services that would treat gunshot wounds, trauma injuries, psychological scars, to fund a Safety Plan that the deployment of soldiers tells us is obviously not working. If the Safety Plan was working, we would not be racing towards last year's murder totals before the year has even ended. [Interjections.]

The hon Premier blames spiralling crime on National Government's failure to invest, but he says nothing about a food security plan, says nothing about his Government's duty to invest in community development, education, built environments, social services and human dignity. He says nothing about inequality.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Yes, the Western Cape is beautiful, the wine is delicious and a few more people have jobs, but it is led by a man who simply does not understand the need to lay places at the table for all its people.
[Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, let me briefly say, yesterday the hon Premier wanted to play us a gunshot recording. He wanted to play it for everyone. I have not asked this side of the House, but I guess every hon member on this side wakes up every single morning to those recordings [Interjections.], and so the hon Premier to use it as a prop is disgraceful. It is not a novelty, it is why we keep saying that the Safety Plan is failing.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Applause.] [Interjections.] Order!
[Interjections.] Order. I now recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair?

The SPEAKER: Hon member Van Minnen, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, a point of order on the hon Premier. It is irrelevant for the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon Premier is speaking about hon member Herron's residence.

An HON MEMBER: How is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is completely irrelevant where hon member Herron lives for him ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: How is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to raise a point. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is not a point of order. That is not a point of order. Hon member Van Minnen, you may continue. [Interjections.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the crime debate rises above party politics. It carries the fear of a mother lying

awake at night listening for gunshots. It carries the fear of a young girl in Thembalethu whose protection order means nothing if the system meant to enforce it is overwhelmed. [Interjections.]

This is the daily life of thousands in the Western Cape. Between 1 October and 31 December 2025 more than 1 100 people were murdered in our province. Twelve people a day. Twelve mothers who will never answer their phones again. Twelve children growing up without parents.

644 of these murders were committed with firearms, 713 attempted murders also involved firearms, 257 lives were lost to gang violence. Our communities are bleeding. In Pacaltsdorp, Thembalethu, Hanover Park and Delft residents are not debating policy around the braai. They are talking about survival. Which route is safer to drive. They teach their children to drop to the ground when they hear gunshots. This is not normal and we must stop pretending that it is.

A parliamentary reply from South African Police Service shows that more than 290 000 active criminal cases are under investigation in the Western Cape, being handled by just 2 729 detectives. On average that is 107 cases per detective, but the average hides the pain.

In Pacaltsdorp a single detective carries 439 active cases. That is 439 lives, 439 families and 439 cries for justice on one overwhelmed desk. How do you give justice proper attention when you are suffocating under files?

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

An HON MEMBER: Given the misinformation presented here by the hon member on the number of detectives in the province, is she prepared to take a question? Because detectives are...

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon member, hon members, [Interjections.] we – hon members, order! [Interjections.] If – order, hon members! If there is a point of order and the point of order is if the member is prepared to take a question, you cannot pose the question. Hon members, this is the third time that I am ruling on that same point, [Interjections.] and the processes of parliamentary processes and Rules are there for a reason, which this entire House adopted and accepted at the beginning of this term of office.

You cannot flout the Rules and you cannot use the Rules to create or drive a specific narrative. There is a Rules review process underway and if you have any objections to the Rules in its current form then please submit your proposals to amend those Rules, but in the interest of that Rules review not being completed, the current Rules stand as the Standing Rules adopted by the House. Hon member Van Minnen, are you prepared to take a question?

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I do not have time at this point.

The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question. Hon member, is that a new point of order?

An HON MEMBER: Thanks, hon Chair. Hon Chair, I accept your ruling. Misinformation and misrepresentation are dangerous [Inaudible 3:09:59]

The SPEAKER: That – hon member, that is unparliamentary. [Interjections.] That you are rising on a Rule or on a process that I have already ruled on, and in terms of the Rules you cannot rise on a point of order when a point of order has already been ruled on. If you have an objection with the ruling, for that there is also a process and a procedure that empowers hon members to challenge the ruling of the Presiding Officer, but until such time my ruling stands. Hon member Van Minnen, you may continue.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. We do not criticise the men and women in blue. Many are exhausted, doing their best in impossible conditions. We criticise an ANC-led National Department that has left them under-resourced and under-supported. [Interjections.]

Between 2020 and 2025 more than 47 000 charges were laid in the Western Cape for violating protection orders. [Interjections.] These numbers represent desperation. Someone, often a woman, [Interjections.] standing in court saying, † “*Ek is bang, help vir my.*” [“I’m scared, help me.”] [Interjections.] and convictions? Just under 6 500. A fraction of cases that cried out for justice. Think about what it means to apply for a protection order, to admit

fear, relive trauma and trust the system to protect you and then see the system failing you. When a protection order is violated without consequence it sends a message, not only to the victim, but also to the perpetrator.

President Ramaphosa has authorised the deployment of the South African National Defence Force to assist the police. Through you, hon Speaker, to our colleagues in the ANC, let us lower the volume. This is not a victory parade, it is not a master stroke fixing years of failure, it is an admission. An admission that the ANC-led Ministry of Police has lost control and failed. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Yes, stabilisation is necessary when organised crime challenges the authority of the State. Soldiers can secure high-risk areas and provide visibility, but let us not mislead the public, soldiers do not build docket, they do not run informant networks, [Interjections.] they do not analyse crime intelligence. They can hold the line on a temporary basis, but they cannot fix the system. Stabilisation is a breathing space, nothing more.

Real safety requires structural reform, professional intelligence led policing, properly resourced detectives and a prosecution system that turns arrests into convictions. If we treat this deployment as a solution, †dan is ons besig om te baiza van die waarheid af, [then we are busy to baiza from the truth.]

The miracle cure some are marketing is not a silver bullet. [Interjections.] It

is not the cavalry solving years of political failure, it is a stop gap. [Interjections.] That time must be used to fix crime intelligence, resource detectives and rebuild a working prosecution system. The people we serve are not looking for dramatic announcements, they do not want what is being offered at this particular point from National Government, they want lasting safety. [Interjections.]

Where municipalities have operational strength and oversight, National Government must expand powers so local law enforcement can help investigate crime, not merely patrol. We cannot keep capable institutions sidelined while communities are under siege, and this is the crux: we need convictions that remove criminals from the streets and guns from circulation, and that is not something the Defence Force can do, but provincial and city authorities can, if given the power.

In the past week I visited the Joint Operations Centre in the City of Cape Town and the local one in Mossel Bay. These are state-of-the-art facilities that assist in building cases, compiling evidence and constructing watertight prosecutions. They stand ready, all they need is expanded investigative powers, yet there is refusal.

Instead of empowering those who can secure convictions, the ANC-led National Government deploys soldiers who cannot perform these functions. We must ask why. Why prioritise spectacle over safety? Why leave the Western Cape facing violence rather than peace? And this question extends to coalition

partners, one of whom who earlier today decried devolution as infamous, and then of course we have the weird defund the police dogma coming from the corner.

While we fight daily for safety, the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture under PA Minister Gayton McKenzie, [Interjections.] has slashed funding to sports federations and development programmes by up to 60%, [Interjections.] in a country with record youth unemployment, in a province battling gang recruitment. While the hon Minister shouts, † “*Ons baiza nie*,” [“We do not baiza”,] he is baiza-ing away from young people who need opportunity most, [Interjections.] cutting programmes that keep them on fields, on stages and out of gangs.

Arts and culture are not luxuries, they are economic engines and safe spaces. The Cape Town International Jazz Festival generates about R900 million for the province and supports more than 5 000 jobs. [Interjections.] The Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees sustains small town economies, and the Stellenbosch Woordfees and Suidoosterfees create opportunities for learners and young creatives. These are pipelines of hope.

You cannot speak of economic growth while pulling the rug from under events that inject hundreds of millions into this province. Loud slogans are not policy. † “*Ons baiza nie*” [“We do not baiza”] does not pay salaries, [Interjections.] protects jobs or builds safer communities. The Democratic Alliance does not speak loudly for theatre.

Through you, hon Speaker, to all Opposition colleagues, when it comes to crime, jobs and safety we do not *baiza*, we govern, [Interjections.] we deliver, we build, [Interjections.] and we get things done. I thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Thank you very much – order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Thank you very much, hon member. Hon guests in the gallery, just a friendly reminder again that you may not participate in the proceedings on the floor and that includes supporting or showing or expressing your disapproval or support with the inputs made from the podium. With that being said, I now recognise the hon member Petrus. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: The Mayor of George, the Mayor of George. [Interjections.] That is the Mayor of George, ja. [Interjections.] †*Hy baiza nie*. [Tussenwerpsels.] [He does not baiza. [Interjections.]]

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes.

An HON MEMBER: And you defeated the DA, hey?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker, hon Premier ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: At least there he was awake.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): ...hon members, greetings to the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, †*in die Huis herinner die DA my aan die gedig van C Louis Leipoldt:*

“Op my ou ramkiekie. Op my ou ramkiekie met net een snaar speel ek in die maanskyn deurmekaar. Wat gee ek om wat mense sê, ek is mal.”

[in the House the DA reminds me of the poem of C Louis Leipoldt:

“Op my ou ramkiekie. Op my ou ramkiekie met net een snaar speel ek in die maanskyn deurmekaar. Wat gee ek om wat mense sê, ek is mal.”]

†’n AGB LID: Daai een snaar maak jou lekker aan die slaap.

[An HON MEMBER: That one string puts you well to sleep.]

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA):

“As die varings my aanroer by die wal.”

Al wat hulle hulself mee besig hou is om van die PA te praat en van Gayton McKenzie te praat, in stede ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA):

“As die varings my aanroer by die wal.”

All they are keeping themselves busy with is to speak of the PA and speak of Gayton McKenzie, instead ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Exactly.

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): ...om te werk en diens te lewer vir die mense van die Wes-Kaap, maar ons het nuus vir u, ons gaan nie een tree vir u terugstaan nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ons gaan die druk toepas, u het nog niks gesien nie, [Tussenwerpsels.] en ons gaan werk daartoe dat elke munisipaliteit, agb Premier, in die Wes-Kaap oorgeneem word, [Tussenwerpsels.] sodat ons mense, [Tussenwerpsels.] sodat ons mense voordeel kan kry ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): ... to work and deliver service for the people of the Western Cape but we have news for you, we are not going to stand back one yard for you. [Interjections.] We are going to apply pressure, you have seen nothing yet [Interjections.] and we are going to work that every municipality, hon Premier, in the Western Cape is taken over [Interjections.] so that our people [Interjections.] so that our people can benefit [Interjections.]]

†'n AGB LID: Nee, dat julle mense kan voordeel kry.

[An HON MEMBER: No, that your people can get the benefit.]

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): ...uit beter dienslewering [Tussenwerpsels.] en werksgeleentede.

[Mr B Petrus (PA): ... from better service delivery [Interjections.] and job opportunities.]

†'n AGB LID: Nie die mense, julle mense. Daar is 'n groot verskil.

[An HON MEMBER: Not the people, your people. There is a big difference.]

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Julle gaan nie 'n kans het nie.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): You're not going to stand a chance.]

†'n AGB LID: Is dit?

[An HON MEMBER: Really?]

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Julle gaan nie 'n kans het nie, en hier waar julle staan was julle wyk, julle is in PA wêreld hier, welkom [Tussenwerpsels.] in die PA wêreld. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dankie, MEC.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): You're not going to stand a chance, and here where you stand had been your ward, you are now in PA territory here, welcome [Interjections.] in the PA world. [Interjections.] Thank you, MEC.]

†'n AGB LID: Regeer nie deur die PA nie, die munisipaliteit. Welkom in DA land en in DA provinsie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Not governed by the PA, the municipality. Welcome to DA country and in DA province. [Interjections.]]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Patriotic Alliance, we rise today not to ask, not to merely request and not to beg, [Interjections.] but to demand. For too long we have been patient, for too long we have engaged politely, but those days are long gone. Our people are tired and when our people are tired we must act. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker, we must be honest. Our province is in disarray. The crisis we face does not affect one department, it stretches across multiple departments and municipalities with devastating levels.

Let us begin with housing. The long-awaited housing crisis continues to trap our people in backyards, informal structures and overcrowded townships. Families who work hard every day still cannot access decent housing. The criteria are too rigid. The system excludes the very people it claims to serve. We demand relaxation of housing criteria so that the middle-class families and those who fall outside current subsidy brackets can receive assistance.

The current subsidies simply do not benefit everyone. There must be broader access and practical solutions for human settlements. We cannot build houses in isolation. Every housing development must include supporting institutions

like clinics, schools, law enforcement services and childcare facilities. Without these we are simply relocating poverty.

Our education system must undergo complete transformation. How many teachers of colour are truly being appointed in so-called traditional White schools? Transformation cannot be selective. It cannot be cosmetic. It must be real and it must be evident. We must ensure equal representation, equal opportunity and equal access, not just for learners, but for our educators as well. [Interjections.]

Now, hon Speaker, and let it be clear, the Patriotic Alliance will not support any breakaway of the Western Cape from the rest of South Africa [Interjections.] and I hope you will support us in [Inaudible 3:22:24]

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

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Minister of Social Development, Minister Londt.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear! [Interjections.]

†Die MINISTER VAN SOSIALE ONTWIKKELING: Dagsê, agb Speaker, *hon Premier, my Cabinet colleagues, hon members of the Provincial Parliament, the media and public here in George and the citizens of the Western Cape.*

†Agb lid Petrus, ek moet wel sê die verskil tussen DA land en Lala Land is groot. [Tussenwerpsels.] Agb lid Petrus, u sê in u Lala Land gaan u al 30 munisipaliteite oorneem in die Wes-Kaap. Daar is nog nie 'n enkele munisipaliteit [Tussenwerpsels.], agb lid Petrus ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Hon member Petrus, I have to say The difference between DA land and Lala Land is great. [Interjections.] Hon member Petrus, you say in your Lala Land you are going to take over all city municipalities in the Western Cape. There is still not a single municipality [Interjections.], hon member Petrus ...[Interjections.]]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Minister, daar is 'n punt van orde. Neem asseblief u sitplek in. [The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, there is a point of order. Please take your seat.] Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the hon MEC is speaking directly to the hon member Petrus, he cannot be addressing, he must speak through you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is indeed correct. Hon Minister, can I remind you to please speak to me and not directly to the hon Minister?

An HON MEMBER: He is being deliberate. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, through you to the Chief Whip and the ANC ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: Again addressing the Chief Whip.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Michels, is that a new point of order?

†Mnr J R MICHELS (NCC): Ek wil ook vir, ek wil ook by die agb Minister weet wat bedoel die agb Minister dat die wyk se mense Lala Land is?

[Mr J R Michels (NCC): I also want to, I also want to know from the hon Minister what does the hon Minister mean that the ward's people are Lala Land?]

†n AGB LID: Ja!

[An HON MEMBER: Yes!]

†Die SPEAKER: Dit is nie 'n punt van orde nie. Agb Minister, [Tussenwerpsels.] [The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Hon Minister, [Interjections.]] *I recognise you.* You may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, through you, I

want to firstly congratulate, because we need to give credit where credit is due. Hon member Bans, that is the first point of order you raised correctly today, so well done to you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: On a point of order, hon Chair. Hon Speaker, you just addressed the issue of addressing a member. Deliberately the MEC is repeating what he has been corrected for. Can you please make a ruling [Interjections.] for him to withdraw what he raised now, because I am not his *sub judice* here, I am not his member. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. I am not – you are indeed correct again. Hon Minister, can you please address me and not directly to the hon member? I am not going to rule on the contents of that direct, because that was not your, that was – hon member, you cannot go into a dialogue with me.

The point of order was that the hon Minister must not address you directly and I have ruled on that. The content and the input, I do not need to rule on. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Through yourself, the hon Chief Whip of the ANC just reconfirmed that previous statement that I made. So thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Through yourself, the hon Chief Whip of the ANC just reconfirmed that previous statement that I made. So, thank you.

Hon Speaker, through you ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, what is your new point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You see, hon Speaker, once we are being treated in this manner where the Rules are not the same, it becomes a problem in this House because the same hon MEC, you stop him from doing it. That hon member Petrus. He repeats it for the third time. We have one hon Speaker here. For the third hour saying that he must withdraw what he is doing. You again, you are giving him an opportunity to proceed. He proceeds again with hon member Bans and that is just. Its content must continue. It cannot be right. It cannot be right ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjections.] Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): If you do not address me through the hon Speaker

...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...hon Bans since he was speaking. [Interjections.]
Let us have a ...[Interjections.] Let us have a conversation then.

The SPEAKER: Can the microphones please be switched off.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Let us have a conversation ...[Interjections.] I am not speaking to you. [Interjections.] You will address. [Interjections.] You yourself do not recognise the hon Speaker. [Interjections.] Yourselves, you do not recognise the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Chief Whip, the hon Minister did, in fact, say through me to you. So, the hon Minister was absolutely correct in the manner in which he addressed you. [Interjections.] Hon Nkondlo, is that a new point of order? [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is an hon member on the floor.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, I would like hon Speaker, for you to continue to be consistent in your rulings. You had actually ruled on hon member Ngqentsu, who after your ruling stood and made a comment or an opinion again after you had ruled. The hon Minister is doing that and you are

silent on it. I am asking you that you keep consistency in your ruling if indeed, you want us here in this House to still maintain decorum. Also, continue to also tell the hon members on the right not to heckle us because we will heckle back.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members or hon member, the consistency in my rulings are verified by the Table Staff. So, there is consistency in the rulings. I have ruled and if you have any objections to any ruling, you are more than welcome to use the parliamentary process and procedures to challenge those rulings. But the consistency has been applied, and I am comfortable that all hon members are treated equally. With that being said, hon Minister, you may continue, with a friendly reminder to please speak to me.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Through you, to the DA colleagues, your heckling is exemplary. Hon Speaker, through you, †die gekekkel van die agb Opposisie is oorverdowend [the cackling of the Opposition is deafening.]

Hon Speaker, ...[Interjections.] where the hon Petrus, through you, hon Speaker, said they are going to take over 30 municipalities, not a single municipality they will take over in this province. They will try and become the kingmakers, and they will then go and disrupt the governance in that municipality, like they did in Beaufort, like they did in Theewaterskloof, like they did in Knysna. They are a poison to this province because they do not

have any track record in governing any government. Be aware, citizens of the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Getting back to the Hon Premier's debate, through you, hon Speaker, because I still need to speak to my boss and keep my job. The Western Cape Department of Social Development is a department that boldly transforms lives, strengthening communities, and expanding the reach of compassionate, impactful service. The staff in this Department and the NGOs that work with us, they are actionable, living proof of what kindness is in practice.

At the heart of our work is dignity: dignity for vulnerable women and children, dignity for persons with disabilities, dignity for youth, dignity for all who need just that extra bit of help. Our actions speak louder than our words.

You can just ask the NGO and NPO partners that work with us daily to further expand the social services footprint. I am really proud of this Department that unlike other provinces, we pay our NGOs on time, every time. In fact, we pay them ahead of time so that they do not have to dip into their own pockets. That is our responsibility, but it is funny that some provinces cannot even take the responsibility and that is what the hon Premier says: we are getting things done. That is what we do. [Interjections.] We made a commitment ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: We made a commitment to help strengthen these organisations through innovative interventions.

During the State of the Province Address, the hon Premier mentioned the Cape Care Fund which we launched in June last year. Through the Fund, we have already mobilised just under half a million in the first few months. These funds are then strategically directed to organisations that serve vulnerable women, children, and persons living with disabilities.

Last year, when we handed over donations to St. Anne's, a GBV shelter, the manager, Ms Oslynn Macounie, said:

"Our President recently classified GBV as a national disaster, however it's not declarations that changes lives, it's action. And I want to thank Primedia Cares, Tile Africa, and..."

They thank myself, but the Department in effect for the action that we have taken to help change their lives.

It is not just about money. It is about empowering civil society partners who share our vision of a Western Cape where care for the vulnerable is a priority.

It is about action and action, hon Speaker, through you to hon Stephens and hon Christians. Both of you are well aware that SASSA should do better. Every single person in this province knows that SASSA should do better. It is

unacceptable that people queue up: unacceptable!

But the hon members in this House and the residents of this province know that SASSA is a national competency. [Interjections.] SASSA is national DSD that need to look after it. [Interjections.] So, when you see people queuing up, you must know that is the Minister ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...Sisisi Tolashe and her Department that do not care about the residents of this province.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: And then they go and do fanfare trying to pay lip service to caring for the vulnerable in this province, when they just do not care. How do I know that they do not care?

The last time that SASSA Western Cape, the regional office that falls under national, was willing to meet with myself and my office, was 30 May 2025. That is the last time that they were willing to meet. Several times, we have followed up: again and again and again! 'Meet up with us so that we can take your hands and solve the queue issues in the province,' and the SASSA Western Cape office does not want to meet up.

We followed up on 12 February, 20 February and just this morning, my office sent another email because ...[Interjections.] the National Government DSD, they do not care about the Western Cape people standing in the queues. Maybe, the next discussion should be: let us get devolution to this province that is competent in managing. Let us manage the SASSA stuff, okay, because maybe then, you will see how people care. Because this province has shown ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...we get things done. So, I do hope ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...that maybe in the month of March or April, SASSA will finally deem it worthy to meet with the representatives from this province again. [Interjections.]

Another way we are empowering organisations is through the SWIMS app. This app, as the hon Premier explained, is designed to lessen the administrative burden of social workers. This is an app that came from our social workers. It has scaled up. It has is now rolled out to the sister department in Education. We started rolling out to another sister department in Health and Wellness. We have rolled it out to three NGOs already and we will roll it out further because

this can revolutionise the way we look after the most vulnerable in this province, and possibly even, the country.

One of the social workers in our partner organisations that testified to her passion and why she does this job, that is often unthankful, is Stacey-Lee Dippenaar. Stacey-Lee grew up in the foster system. She recently told us that she looked up to social workers as a child and that is why she decided to become a social worker, because of their impact on her life. Stacey-Lee is dedicated to positively changing the lives of other vulnerable children with empathy and compassion.

It is social workers like Stacey-Lee, that are at the heart of communities. They are the critical backbone that supports frontline practitioners every single day.

Hon Speaker, access to social services should not depend on distance or location. As the hon Premier has mentioned, through another sister department, hon Minister Isaac Sileku. We have got those DSD Mobile Offices That travel to the most remote parts of this province, taking services to the doorsteps of people that are often left behind. So, Social Development is no longer stationary, but it travels. It reaches people where they live, work and we listen to their needs where they are.

Gender-Based Violence remains one of the greatest threats to peace and stability in our communities. That is why we are so proud of our Gender-Based Violence Ambassador Programme. Across 21 areas, we have 860 ambassadors

with Linda Smit or those from this part of the world, Linda Branders. She is an example of how men and women stand up and live this Whole-of-Society approach and make sure that we fight this scourge together.

What we need is that the words of the President get transformed into action. We actually get the funding to help fight this scourge in this province and not just a declaration.

Another thing that I am incredibly proud of, hon Speaker, is the Independent Living Pilot Programme that we have launched recently. There are young adults that come out of care after we have invested thousands into their care, providing a safe space. Just that extra safety net. I am blessed to state that my parents are living. Even at my young age of 41, I still phone my dad and I say, †'Pappa, wat is die ideë oor hierdie of hoe kan ek gehelp word?' [Papa, what are the ideas about this or how can I be helped?]

These kids do not have that safety net and together with four amazing NGOs, we stepped in and we provided that safety net for them to just take a little bit of a breather before they hit adult life.

Hon Speaker, the achievements I have outlined are not isolated accomplishments. They are evidence of a department that is responsive, proactive and centred on service delivery that transforms lives. We not only take action, but we get things done with kindness, together with ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Chief Whip of the Official Opposition, hon Bans. ...[Applause.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Let me start by greeting the community of George and the entire Southern Cape, especially the leadership of the African National Congress.

Hon Speaker, we have been listening just right now to our last hon speaker here, clearly demonstrating the White supremacy tendencies, but his side of the House was complaining about, at the starting of the debate. That is what we, as women, of this Parliament are facing. Imagine what it would do to the ordinary person?

Now, the hon MEC comes and speaks about SASSA that has collapsed. He is defeated even just facing the old age homes. How will he be running a SASSA

when he cannot even run old age homes? Old age homes are collapsed in the Western Cape. Older citizens are alleged to be dying and with no explanations, and there is nothing he says about it. Instead, he comes and grandstands. Let us join the grandstanding.

The hon Premier, we have listened to him very much attentively yesterday. The hon Premier was speaking only one thing when he spoke of crime: he spoke of a hotline. Who must call and report to a hotline extortionist? Why are you setting our people up to be making calls and reporting whatever is happening? It cannot be happening. Is that the least that can be happening from the side of the hon Premier? What hotline is it if you do not recall you had a hotline today as a contributor.

Now, hon Speaker, there is a matter of Bitou. We have visited the southern Cape as the Western Cape caucus, ANC in particular. We said we do not want to waste the taxpayers' money and not go to the people. Let us take Parliament to the people and we went to the people.

The back dwellers there in Bitou, they are complaining. They are crying. They are saying this Government is not giving them houses. Fine, if you cannot give them houses. The hon MEC, by the way, is from Bitou. †Dit is 'n skande! Dit is 'n skande as jy nie kan vir jou eie mense kan net huise gee nie [Tussenwerpsels.] [It is a disgrace if you cannot give houses to your own people [Interjections.]] There are no houses in Bitou. What they are saying to us ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...please extend the message of saying. It is fine.
Under this DA-run Government ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...we are happy. We are happy and we are accepting
not getting houses. [Interjections.] We are rather opting to get just self-service
sites. You are even defeated to give service sites. [Interjections.]

Hon MEC, sorry, hon Speaker, Knysna ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...today, there is a grandstanding.

The SPEAKER: ...Chief Whip of the Opposition. Please take your seat.
...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): In that the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. I would like to know if my counterpart is prepared to take a question.

An HON MEMBER: No!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, are you prepared to take a question?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): When I push, finishing my speech in time, I will definitely.

The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question at this point. Hon Bans, please continue.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I was hoping to be educated.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We are now sitting in a crisis of Knysna that is not having water and we are in solidarity, feeling for our people. [Interjections.] Our children are staying in Knysna. They are suffering. [Interjections.] History has no blank pages. Knysna has been governed by the DA. Today, we are saying that the ANC is collapsing Knysna. Historically, Knysna has been governed by the DA ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...as we are all aware where that infrastructure takes years to run out. What has the DA done? What have they put in place? [Interjections.] Because it is not run by DA, now it becomes a disaster.

Right next to Knysna, there is Bitou. Again, the home of some hon MECs here. Bitou, there is now a Day Zero that is about to be declared. Same problem that Knysna is having. Why is the DA not speaking about the DA that is having problems? [Interjections.] Stop the propaganda and deal ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...with our problems. Our problems want to be, our people want to be dealt with. Our people need solutions from us. They do not need the propaganda. You are losing anyway, this Bitou. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The hon Premier misled the House also again yesterday and I think that was deliberate, when he was speaking of the capacity of police being 12 000. That is factually incorrect. For the record, the capacity of police is 16 317 verified. [Interjections.] Verified! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The hon Premier must apologise. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He must apologise to the House and the people of this province. By the way, the hon Premier must withdraw.

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members on both sides of the House, the hon member is trying to deliver her input. This running commentary we need to ...[Interjections.] No, it is actually on both side, hon member. [Interjections.] Order! Can you allow the hon member an opportunity? Do not drown out the hon speaker on the podium. Hon Chief Whip, you may continue.

†Die HOOFSWEEP (ANC): Die waarheid maak mos maar seer. [The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The truth is hurting.] Now, the hon Premier again, while he was dealing with crime yesterday, I heard him speaking of causative factors and root causes. As the ANC, we have spoken, saying that let us focus on root causes. For the past Administration, the hon Premier never listened. But I heard him when he was fumbling because he could not address what are causative factors. Let me teach you for free, hon Premier, what are causative factors. [Interjections.]

Causative factors are those unplaced learners that are nowhere going to school. We are training them to become the next gangsters. ...[Applause.] In the absence of those sports facilities, we are training people to become gangsters.

That is for free. It does not even need verification.

Now, hon Speaker, again, the DA must get its house in order. Two days ago, we visited the JOC centre in Mossel Bay run by the DA anyway. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: What did you learn?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): What we have learned there are the inconsistencies of the same DA. [Interjections.] The government of the DA in Mossel Bay from the JOCs are saying that the budgets are not the same. Why are they not the same? If the DA is saying internally that speak about the issue of what you are doing there in Cape Town, you are messing up that city. You want to build walls, yet you cannot even fix cameras. Cameras are off and we all know. Now, you want to build a big wall. A wall for what?

We told you, you spent a billion. We told you then already, look at the causative factors. Now you own, you must listen to when they say, with the little that we have in that JOC centre. We are operating very well with the little bit of budget because your focus has been Cape Town. So, you must start getting your house also in order. [Interjections.]

There is an allergy of the DA when it comes to human settlements. They even go to an extent of spending money on litigation because they do not want people to integrate. Dividing people by race and colour is the thing of the DA.

[Interjections.] So, they take people to court making sure that they do not come and integrate and stay with other races. That has been proven. We have seen how much money has been spent on litigation in the past seven years: R200 million. †Nogals, so 'n klomp geld om in die hof te staan. Wanneer gaan ons mense huise kry? ...[Applous.] [Such a lot of money *nogals* to stand in the court. When are our people going to get houses? ...[Applause.]]

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

†Die HOOFSWEEP (ANC): Julle gaan dankie sê ek het nie klaar gekry nie. ...[Applous.] [Tussenwerpsels.] [The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You're going to say thank you that I did not finish. ...[Applause.] [Interjections.]]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Settle down. I now recognise the hon Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, hon Minister Mackenzie. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members of this House, colleagues and citizens of the Western Cape and the people of beautiful George.

Before I speak, I want us to recognise and honour the late Dr Diana Ferrus. She was not only a poet. She was the restorer of dignity. When she wrote the poem that helped bring Saartjie Baartman home, she changed history. She reminded the world that Saartjie was not an object or spectacle, but a daughter,

a woman and a human being. Through words she restored humanity where it had been stripped away. Her words were about humanity, but she reminded us that we are first kind, second kind, third kind, [a child's child, child,] shaped before those who came before us, responsible for those who come after us.

As the hon Premier has said, what the world needs now is more kindness, and that is exactly what we need. Thank you, hon Premier, for having the kindness and understanding for the needs of this community and of the province.

I am very privileged to live in this province. I am very privileged to live in a province that is governed by a group of men and women who understand the challenges that the people face, and who constantly work every single day to change the lives of people.

So, we welcome any intervention to assist us on matters that we have raised and the matters that we have raised consistently over many years. If I can just say via you, hon Speaker, hon Sayed, a simple Google search will tell you that the President spoke about decisive action for at least four SONAs. The SONA of 2020, 2023 and even again during his 2023 reshuffling. So, when you say the President called for decisive action, it is not new. It is repetitive. It is the reason we are sitting with this safety crisis.

So, I am happy the ANC came on a jamboree before the SOPA, the past few days, coming to listen to problems in Bitou now and in Beaufort West, problems that are not new to us. It is surprising that it took seven hon members to come

and post about things that we have been talking about for the last 11 years.

So, we welcome the deployment of ...[Interjections.] eight hon members, eight hon members, thank you. Eight hon members. So, we welcome the deployment of the army, but the deployment of the army, as honourable, via you, hon Speaker, hon Benedicta Van Minnen said, it is a matter that we, by the way hon Stephens, welcome to Parliament. We have raised that for 11 years already. It is a matter that we have been raising for many years.

The reason SAPS is deployed is because of the dismal failure of the South African Police Service. Matters that we have raised for decades. So, be warned, hon Sayed, via you, hon Speaker, about the collapse of SAPS.

We have warned about the collapse of crime intelligence. We raised the concerns about the collapse of the justice system. We raised the alarms about the collapse of police infrastructure. We have visited the police forensic services when they collapse, when they could not even buy equipment to do crime scene analysis. Hon members of this House were part of the Standing Committee when we visited that building. We raised it when broken telephone number 10111 collapsed. So, these matters of 11 years at least, of destruction of SAPS, are not new to us.

It is sad that it seems to be new to the other hon members of Parliament. So, when the army is being deployed to stabilise it and we welcome it, it is not something to completely celebrate. We should cry that the South African Police

Service has collapsed to such a point that the army has to be deployed and they are matters that this side of the House has raised consistently over the last 11 years.

So, when the opportunity arises, hon Brett Herron, welcome. Thank you very much for joining us. Via you, hon Speaker, when the opportunity arises to make a difference, hon Premier Alan Winde had the vision to say, 'let us start a Western Cape Safety Plan,' while the system was completely collapsed by the ANC. Another gentleman in this province said, 'let us try something different' and he started the Western Cape Safety Plan to pick up where the ANC Government has failed.

That is what leaders do. They do not sit †handjie gevou [hands folded] and say there is no solution. They develop a plan to try and fix the problem the ANC had created ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: So, when hon member Bans, via you, hon Speaker, ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...talked about the root cause, the root cause is the ANC.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Nkondlo, this constant ...[Interjections.] Hon Nkondlo, I am on the floor! Hon Nkondlo, this running commentary with the hon Minister at the podium is not allowed. [Interjections.] Hon members, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): It is not Nkondlo, it is Nkondlo. Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. [Interjections.] Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon member. Maybe, I must †skreeu harder [shout louder] so the hon member can understand what the collapse of a system means. The collapse of system of crime intelligence, the collapse of a system of departments of justice, the collapse of system of 10111, the collapse of system of police not having vehicles, the collapse of a collapsing system called the 'police' has resulted in men like us doing something about it. That is certainly something that you will never achieve.

Hon Cassiem, you raised a matter of culture and I do appreciate it. But if I can please remind hon members and on the next oversight visit, hon Chief Whip, can you please ask the Standing Committee to visit the New World Heritage Site in Mossel Bay, if they have not. [Interjections.] You did? Okay, you did.

Clearly, there is a gap of knowledge of some people. Because that is a World Heritage Site to develop, promote culture of the Khoi and the San in this province.

The site is so wonderful. It includes Sibudu Cave in KwaZulu-Natal and when I visited KwaZulu-Natal, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal gave me a traditional spear. So, I think I might be King Mackenzie somewhere. That is how we work in this province. That is a New World Heritage Site to promote culture and heritage.

And via you, hon Speaker, hon Cassiem, it was me that took a big corporate company to the Minstrels. It was me that tried to formalise and professionalise the Minstrels. It was me that took the whole Cape Malay Choir board to a corporate, where they got †R1 miljoen, agb Premier, kontant! R1 miljoen kontant! [R1 million, hon Premier, cash! R1 million cash!] That is how we promote and develop culture in the Western Cape. But again, it is perhaps just a gap in your knowledge, so we will have to share this information more. Hon Premier, I will do a statement in Parliament.

So, this Government loves culture and heritage, and that is how we promote it. And thank you to hon members of this House for attending our cultural event the other night here in George. We will continue to promote and develop culture.

Hon Michels of the ANC said, hon Premier, of the ANC said that of the 93 000

jobs, nothing was meant for Coloured people. In fact, of the 93 001 job, hon Premier, was at least created because he is now an hon member of this Parliament and he is a Coloured male. So, he got a job in this Parliament through this process. [Interjections.]

So, hon member ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...this was one job being created. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon member, via you ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: But it is a job for a Coloured male. [Interjections.] Whether he ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...got a job, the people

voted for him ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, are you finished with your dialogue? [Interjections.] Hon members, we have come to the end of this debate. This dialogue across the floor cannot continue. Hon Minister, I want to caution you to also not directly engage with the hon members on the floor and to speak to me.

Hon members, there are seven minutes and 17 seconds remaining for this debate. You have all been provided an opportunity to make your inputs and whilst this is a political debate and between myself and the hon Deputy Speaker, we have allowed a lot of latitude because it is a political debate.

There are also still Rules and the decorum of the House that need to be maintained. Can I please ask that the hon Chief Whips on both sides, please assist me with your hon members so that we can conclude this debate in the manner in which we started it, in the interest of the citizens that we are elected to represent here and not ourselves. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon Premier, can I also just say we are working very hard to fix hospitals and clinic challenges in the country. In this province, and hopefully, in the country in 2029. But it was the ANC MEC of Gauteng who said, and I quote her and I am quoting this verbatim:

"Some patients including women, prefers to sleep on the floors over beds."

That is what the ANC MEC of Gauteng said. [Interjections.] That is the difference between them and us. [Interjections.] We work to fix problems. Their MEC says women prefer to sleep on the floor. [Interjections.] That is the difference between them and us.

Hon Grant Marais, via you, hon Speaker, here hon Deidré Baartman, but let me just first tell the story before I respond to the hon member. Three days ago, I was in the beautiful town of Uniondale †en dit was wonderlik om te sien dat 'n *auntie* ses boeke ingebring het. Agb Premier, haar boek was 'n dag laat. Ek sê vir haar, '*auntie*, ons kan u vergewe want u lees ten minste'. Want agb Minister Meyer, toe vat sy weer ses boeke uit. Dit is die waarde van lees en ek dink ons moet dit belangrik maak dat ons almal 'n bietjie weer begin lees want dan sal ons: [and it was wonderful to see that an auntie brought in six books. Hon Premier, her book was a day late. I say to her, 'auntie, we can forgive you because at least you are reading.' Because hon Minister Meyer, then she took out six books again. That is the value of reading and I think we should make it important that we all read again because then we will:] readers are leaders, because sometimes.

You know, there is a term or a certain thing, hon Baartman via you, and I was trying to come up with the right word, and I thought I will call it 'listening

hypocrisy'. Listening hypocrisy and reading hypocrisy where people know what they heard, but they do not want to know what they heard. Where people know what they read, but they do not want to know what they read. I do not know where we have the powers to give and do land restitution completely because we know the National Minister of Land is responsible for District Six. Everything that has happened in the mess of District Six for the last 34 years, solely responsible and then, it is a constitutional right assigned to him.

So, we need to do, via you, hon Speaker, to hon Minister Baartman, some funding for reading so we do not have reading hypocrisy and listening hypocrisy ...[Interjections.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Christians, we agree with you ...[Interjection.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker?

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Yes, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it seems that the hon Minister did not listen to my speech today. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Completely off course.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor and I really do not need any assistance to chair this Sitting.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: So, I will make a ruling.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, in the interest of transparency, the hon Minister did not listen to the content of my speech, as if I laid the responsibility of restitution on ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon member, that is not a point of order. It is not the duty of the Chair to adjudicate the content of the inputs by hon members. So, that is a point of debate and not a point of order. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Marais, as I said: listening hypocrisy.

Hon Speaker, when we talk about one of the hon members, via you, hon Speaker, we talk about incremental changes. Hon member Lekker, via you, hon Speaker,

talked about incremental changes. I am actually going to start where she ended off. She said that the policing power will never be devolved, and that is the problem. That is the problem of understanding the challenges people in Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu face because all they want is a competent government that can deliver a police officer when they phone 10111.

They do not care about the ideological differences, whether a police officer is a communist, a feminist or a democrat, a liberal, they care whether the police officer who comes to their door has the ability to do their job. Now, hon Lekker, via you, hon Speaker, has said to the people of Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha and Gugulethu, that their crime problem will never be resolved because they will never get devolving of powers to a competent government ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: And that is quite sad.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Sayed, is that a point of order? [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, I ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is an hon member on the floor.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker, I rise on a

point of order. The hon Mackenzie is misleading the House. I did not hear, not unless we look at the Hansard. I did not hear the hon Lekker say anything in that regard about the people of Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha. I did not hear that at all. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So, he must stop misleading the House ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He must continue ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...with his speech. He was doing fairly well at the beginning ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Leader of the Opposition, there is no need for ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Now he is deteriorating ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...for justification to raise ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Now he is deteriorating.

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Honourable ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! There was a point of order by the hon Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed. That is, again, a point of debate, but in the interest of transparency, I will revert to Hansard, and I will come back to the House with the Ruling. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, via you, the hon members said and I see in my notes: policing will never be devolved. So, who are the beneficiaries of these devolving powers? The beneficiaries of the devolving powers, people in Mitchells Plain, people in Khayelitsha, people in Gugulethu, people in Beaufort West, people in ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: They are the beneficiaries of an efficient, functioning police station. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: So, when you say they

will never be devolved [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...you are removing that from those people and that is a statistical fact. Hon members, there was a claim that the George Regional Hospital is the only 24-hour facility in the Garden Route and that is simply false!

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order? [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is the hon MEC willing to take a question? I see he still has a bit of time left.

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, I do not have a lot of time left, so I will not take a question. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, the

claim that George Regional Hospital is the only regional 24-hour public facility is simply false. The platform of care by the Western Cape Government includes multiple 24/7 facilities across the region, including Mossel Bay Hospital, Knysna Hospital, Oudtshoorn, Beaufort West, Prince Albert, and Laingsburg.

So, hon members, lies do have short legs. Luckily, facts matter. Do you want me to sit, hon Speaker?

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Yes, it is.

The SPEAKER: Can you switch on your microphone? What is your point of order?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I rise on a request from yourself to rule on the fact that the hon MEC has said I indicated that George Hospital is the only 24-hour. And I want to help you, hon Speaker, so that you can make a ruling. This is what I said. In the Garden Route district, George ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, you do not need to repeat it for the record. That is why we have a system called 'Hansard' that captures all, that transcribes ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): May I ask you, hon Speaker, to rule on the fact that the hon MEC has deliberately misquoted me in the House.

The SPEAKER: I will revert to Hansard and I will make a ruling.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): He must not sleep when people are talking.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Luckily, we are alive when people are talking and that is why we are the best government in the country. [Interjections.]

So, hon members of this House, ...[Interjections.] hon Petrus and hon Stephens. You have raised very important matters, but I need to ask you to help us and help the children of this province. You see, at the moment emails go and die in Pretoria. The ANC used to do it, but now I see the PA do it as well. So, please ask your Leader. We have written him several letters on matters relating to sport for children in this province and in this country. Let me give you one of them, a practical example.

There is a thing called the 'Transversal Tender' where a soccer ball, at this moment, costs R500. So, if your leader devolved that power to provinces, we can go directly to Checkers, to Pick n Pay and buy a soccer ball for R30. But

emails at this moment die in Pretoria. So, it is important that you speak to your leader and help in resolving some of the challenges so that people from George, Thembalethu, Mitchells Plain, and Khayelitsha can get those soccer balls at R30 and many more children can benefit. It is an old ANC policy. It does not need to do ANC policies. It can implement out policies with him. We are welcome to walk with him, but you need to change that policy to help him. There are many other letters. We will give you copies of them. Help us in getting responses to those letters so emails do not go and die in Pretoria.

Hon members, it is a real privilege to live in this province ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you for the debate.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: And it is lovely to be in the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: All out.

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

The SPEAKER: Finished. Thank you very much. ...[Applause.] Hon members ...[Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the Premier's State of the Province. Business will now be suspended.

Hon members and guests are invited to enjoy some refreshments. The refreshments: I just want to make sure from the Table Staff if it is still at the... Refreshments will be served in the hall because of the weather conditions and the hon Premier's reply to the debate will commence at 1 PM. At 1 PM. The bells will be rung to indicate that hon members and guests should return to the hall and take up their seats, and then business will resume.

Then, just for the hon members before I suspend. No, I will do this at the end. The House is suspended.

[Business of the House resumed at 13:00.]

The Speaker took the Chair.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The SECRETARY: The reply by the Premier to the debate on the State of the

Province Address.

The SPEAKER: I will now afford the hon Premier an opportunity to reply to the debate. Hon Premier, I recognise you. ...[Applause.]

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Speaker. I am sorry, I did not hear what the hon Ngqentsu actually said, but maybe that ...[Interjections.] maybe that does not really matter, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, thank you very much. As I said yesterday, what an honour and a privilege to be able to open this year, this Parliament in our Parliament here in the Garden Route. I recognised a number of people in the audience, and I just wanted to see. One person I missed was the Children's Commissioner, Commissioner Roberts. I saw her here earlier, so I just wanted to mention her name as well.

But hon Speaker, it is an honour to be in the Garden Route, and it was an honour to be able to travel around this region because that is what democracy is about. It is about seeing what happens on the ground. It is about all of us as elected representatives of the citizens of this province, being able to interact with our citizens. To bring their issues to this very House because it is in this House where the Government is overseen by the Opposition parties. Where the Government is overseen by the committees and the committee work of this Parliament. Because in that way, we improve the lives of our citizens.

Hon Speaker, I want to also say, through you, thank you very much to each and every hon member of this Parliament who gave inputs. It is quite difficult to answer every single question and put an answer together in one hour between the end of that debate and the start. So, I will do my best to answer most of those questions. But we have made notes on everything and every input that was put into this debate, everything that was added to the mix by each and every person that spoke today.

I first would like to start with the hon Leader of the Opposition and obviously, in a democracy in the opening of a parliament, that is the first person you recognise: the hon Leader of the Opposition because in a democracy, it could have gone the other way. You could have been the Premier and I could have been the Leader of the Opposition, depending on the outcome of a vote. A vote that we could talk about, but I am not going to go down to that level today.

So, the hon Sayed, thank you very much for your inputs. I want to start off with your theme where you spoke about a tale of two provinces in one. I agree with you. This province has some very serious challenges. We have challenges that come with mass in-migration of people that come here to this province for job opportunities, for schooling opportunities and for healthcare. For social service delivery.

We also have the same problem because of that fast-growing province in delivering services to citizens that were born here and were waiting on a waiting list for a very long time for perhaps a housing opportunity. So,

absolutely. We have and we can narrow it down to the tale of two provinces. We can definitely do that.

But when I look at the indicators, when I look at the evidence and you must be able to base your policies, you must base your reactions, you must base your interactions and your outcomes, your five-year strategies, every single one of your plans on data and evidence.

So, I actually want to disagree with you there and say we do realise we have challenges. But I also believe that this is a tale of one in nine. One province in nine provinces because in actual fact, when you look at this province there is no doubt that the data and evidence show that this province stands out head and shoulders above eight other provinces.

If you look at those data points, look at the Gini coefficient. Now, the Gini coefficient is a measurement. It measures the gap between rich and poor. There is a province in South Africa that has the lowest Gini coefficient by far and that province is the Western Cape.

There is a first measurement. A lot of people talk about the gap between rich and poor and actually, I mean, we must also be totally honest. That Gini coefficient from global standards is way too high. We need to bring it down. But in this province, it is the lowest. If you have a look at and this is a report that I would suggest that the hon members and the Standing Committees draw, a Macro Review: South Africa's Quality of Life index. It has actually just come

out. In this one, if you read the summary, the leader page, it says that:

"The Western Cape continues..."

And, of course, this is a measurement across the whole of South Africa. It says:

"The Western Cape continued to dominate as the best performing province in eight of the ten Quality of Life indicators."

This is Quality of Life. It also says:

"Overall, the Western Cape was the best performing province."

And it also quotes the President, the national. The President in his State of the Nation Address, but it also, when referencing the President, makes me think about what the President has to say about this province and the municipalities ...[0:07:16 - Audio distorted.] He said it a number of times that even ANC-run municipalities should come and learn from what happens in this province. Of course, there is a lot of back-peddalling after he says it, but he said it.

I remember one day when I was standing with him, when our Parliament was burning down. I joined him and we met with the firefighters that were still fighting the fire. We looked at the start of the damage, we walked over to the media and the first thing the President said: well, if this Parliament burning down here in this City of Cape Town and this province, at least the City and

the province works. And within minutes, seven minutes, actually, the firefighters were on site to actually fight the fire in that very historic building that we call our Parliament.

If I have a look at other indicators, hon Speaker, I look at:

"The Western Cape excels in water delivery."

Here again, you know, this is a graph and if you have a look at the graph, the province that is the worst off. It has a 66,2-percentage count. The best performing at 5,6%, which is way lower than the closest province to us at 23% or the national average at 33%. So, we are by far and not just 'just', we are by far the province that excels in water delivery in South Africa.

If I look at the Municipal Financial Sustainability Index, the MFSI, here again, this measures all of our provinces and I mean, it is probably difficult for you to see. I can send it to you, or you can draw it, but you will see by far, that top line belongs to one specific province. Not like all the rest of the lines on this graph measuring from 2021 to 2024. And across all of those years, by far the best score goes to the Western Cape municipalities.

The Western Cape has the highest Human Development Index. Again, if you look at this graph and you look at which line is on the top, it is the Western Cape again. So, yes, we have our challenges. There might be the argument for a tale of two provinces, but in reality, if you are measuring across the board in

South Africa, it is this province that stands out.

Of course, we do understand and I spoke about the crunch that our households feel. In actual fact, the reality is that in the last 10 years or so, South Africans have actually gotten poorer. It is harder to make ends meet every single month with electricity costs, even when it was failing so dismally, the costs of electricity prices were way, way, way in excess of our inflation rate. So, most things were in excess of our inflation rate.

So, when you look at the Western Cape, it has the highest average household income. Again, which line is way at the top, and this graph actually does not even just show a kind of railway line, it shows a breakout growth which is, of course, what we always try and achieve through our economic development models and our strategies. So, it is the tale of two provinces, but the real story here is the tale of one province and eight others.

The key measurement there is who runs the one and who runs the other eight? Or, which province do so many South Africans move to, to find those opportunities. [Interjections.] Why are they rushing away and leaving ANC-run provinces? [Interjections.] It is because there is a difference in this province because this is where we get to work, we get it done to make that very difference.

Then, the hon Sayed mentioned the Government of National Unity. I am not sure if I actually understood him correctly because it is sad if I did. Because

he spoke about policies. He spoke about how our international policies might differ or he spoke about policy differences. This is a real issue that we have to grapple with as South Africa because we are going into a period of coalition governments. There is no doubt.

And in our country, we have a Government of National Unity and I mean, the budget speech of yesterday shows the difference that has happened in our country in the last year and half, two years of this Government of National Unity. We have seen a turn. I mentioned it: strengthening Rand, lowest inflation rate that we have seen in 21 years.

Now, the inflation rate is the driver of that problem that we have where people cannot put food on the table. When you have year after year after year because of bad policies, that the economy does not grow, that the inflation rate outstrips the economy by three- and fourfold. Of course we get poorer. But now we are starting to see that change, and we are starting to see those lines come together. That is great news for South Africans. It really is.

But I want to also say that I think together, what we have to do, we have called for it, and I believe there is a Private Members Bill tabled in Parliament. We cannot be expected to form coalition governments within 14 days of an election and have policy clarity. We cannot have that. I mean, we have two political parties that are the main two political parties in our coalition government at the GNU, with varying policy positions on a number of things. In 14 days, that conversation has not happened.

In fact, it still has not happened. We do not have a GNU list of policies. We have got some intent in driving the economy and creating growth, in enabling more jobs, but we do not have policy clarity. The NHI is one of those and it is very interesting to see that the President has now held back and said let us wait for the Constitutional Court to determine on the NHI.

Hon Minister Wenger, thank you very much. It is one of our cases at the Constitutional Court brought by this province that is actually causing this to be held in abeyance. That is why we need to have proper policy discussions, and I think between us, we need to push and put pressure on our national colleagues to say let us have those policy discussions so that as a GNU, we can be focused on clear areas where we agree. We might disagree on some of the other peripheries but let us get those cores moving so that we take it further than just the inflation rate getting better and Rand getting stronger. We take it much further to make exponential differences to citizens' lives in this province.

Hon Speaker, then I want to move onto something that was raised across the board by many people in the debate. People were asking questions around policing and safety. I think I must just reiterate some of the areas that I spoke about yesterday, but perhaps that we need to raise and speak a little bit further on.

In Safety, I want to say that I heard the comment that the Gang Observatory that we announced, is going to be a hotline. That is absolutely incorrect and I

will reiterate what I said. We have a presentation done regularly on ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, it is. I would like to rise on a point of order. I think the hon Premier is misleading us. When I spoke about the issue of and this is not the debate. He is responding now. I spoke about the issue of ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...policy.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is a fact that hon MEC Meyer undermined the One China policy. He must be honest.

The SPEAKER: Please ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and he must speak that. He is not responding to what I raised. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Just for the record: that is not a point of order. Hon members, you had an opportunity during the debate to make your inputs. This is now the opportunity for the hon Premier to reply to those inputs and as I indicated earlier on, when you were on the podium, hon members, the guests in the gallery and the citizens online wanted to hear your input and based on your inputs, the Hon Premier has now an opportunity to also reply to those inputs. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. So, we have a gang monitor that gets produced regularly, that really looks at geographic spatial gang activity. It looks at the infrastructure landscape. It looks at the various gangs, you know, which territories the Mongrels, the Inglourious Bastards, Only the Family, the Laughing Boys, the Ghettos, the Americans. It really goes in depth into gangs and gang activity. It shows where and how the gangs are moving and what their activities are about, and it is one of the tools that we use.

In conjunction with this kind of work and the problem that we have on sufficient intelligence to have intelligence-driven activity where police go in before the shootings happen, where police go in and raid those places that gangs operate in, so we can start getting the arrests that we need. It is in that context that we said, well, how do we bolster the intelligence that the police have? How do we give them more ammunition in which to go and find and diminish because gangs seem to be growing every single year. We are not getting a handle on gangs.

So, we thought well as an added extra would be and every one of you knows, when you are walking the streets in any area that has got gangs, you will know. The auntie tells you: that is the house. That is the gangster. I mean, we all hear that every single day, but it does not reflect in what the police do with that information because to say well, give me an affidavit or let us go and lay the charge at the police station. No ways will that granny do that. No ways will that mom do that because she knows, if her name is on that list where she has pointed out the gangster of this gang, her life is in danger.

So, we have now put together this idea, with some outside players, to say how do we build this Gang Observatory? It is a place, a repository where we will not use names. We will use the accumulation and heat maps of data. So, it is not about a person giving information, it is about 12 or 15 people saying the same thing over a period of time.

In actual fact, like the Gang Monitor, this document will be made public because that is the way that it gets or it enables the citizens to see that they are pointing out exactly what everybody knows. But at the same time, we will also be handing it to the police and to the intelligence services who have got to deal with bringing down, specifically, gang murders and bringing down the gang activity.

What I also want to say is while we are dealing with policing and gangs, this is where I wanted to talk about again, many hon members raised the deployment of the army. It is something that I raised nationally. I have raised it with the

hon Minister. I have raised it to the President in the National Assembly. We have to learn lessons from the deployment of the gangs in 2019. I said it yesterday as well.

We wrote, months ago, to the Minister of Defence and to the Minister of Police. That was before we had had the announcement of the gangs. We said many people across specifically the Cape Flats are saying please, we need the intervention. We would like the army. There were a lot of calls for the army. What we said is whether the army is deployed or not, what happened the last time the army was deployed? What is the report?

Well, I have not seen a report. I have not gotten a reply on the report from the military. We do not know if a report even exists from the 2019 deployment. One hopes that there is one, but we have not been able to get it and I have not heard of one, and no answer to say yes, there was a report.

The same thing from SAPS. I have not seen a report from SAPS on the 2019 deployment. All we can rely on is probably our own memory of what happened at that stage. But there is a report. There is a report on the deployment of the gangs and this report I have also sent, when we asked for those reports, I sent this report to the Minister and said here is a report and let us learn from this report as well.

This report was quite clear. This is a report done by the University of Cape Town and the Institute for Security Studies. It is called South African Crime

Quarterly. It is number 71 of 2023. It is fully available. Anybody can get it. It is called *Soldiers against Gangsters: evaluation of the impact of the army deployment against gang violence and homicide in the Cape Flats*.

I will just quote from the initial paragraph which basically gives a summary of the report, but it says:

"This paper assesses the impact on local homicides of the 2019 deployment of the South African Defence Force in police stations areas in Cape Town. A measure taken to stem gang violence. It uses the interim time series approach to estimate the effect by comparing murder counts in relevant precincts before and during the deployment, compared with precincts with similar murder rates and socioeconomic characteristics. Results show that there was an apparent initial reduction in the month in which the measure was taken, but the presence of the army was not associated with the significant decrease in homicides over the deployment period."

Now, this formed the core of the discussion that I had with Minister Cachalia and I said to him this report says one thing and that we cannot do the same thing as we did last time. My input would be if I remember from last time, the fight that I had and you must remember, when this deployment happened it was before the 2019 election, it was deployment of the army and the launch of the Anti-Gang Unit. Two measures made by the ANC at that stage, to say this is what we are going to do to fight crime. Here, we find ourselves today calling for the same thing.

I said that the City was not involved. We did not involve, we did not have LEAP officers then, but Law Enforcement and Metro Police were not involved. The City's own management JOCs were not involved. We did not have the involvement of the CPFs and the Neighbourhood Watches. In other words, input from the residents of the gang-infested areas. They were not brought in in an intelligence process for the deployment of the army. There was no joint operations command where all of the role players were brought together with the strategy of how we are going to lock down and where we are going to lock down.

Then, I added one other grouping, and I said we must also include the City and the Provincial Traffic Departments because when you are deploying the military, especially with the military, those extra boots on the ground can actually lock down an area. If you use them and Traffic, then you can zoom in with the boots and you can go and do the raids, and you can go and take the community intelligence. You can really start to go and root out these extortionists, drug dealers and gangsters that murder and kill our children and our families. That is what has got to change.

Now, I really hope and can I say to the Opposition, especially through the hon member Sayed. This is where we have got to work together between National Government, Provincial Government, Local Government and our citizens. I note that the other day that you were the spokesperson who opened an event of the visiting Police Minister. You made the opening speech. I hope that you

can use that influence again to say let us work together. I also hope that when the Minister of Police goes to Gauteng, that he also asks the Leader of the Opposition in Gauteng to do the opening speech. I am not sure whether he will, but I hope that he does. [Interjections.]

If I can then say ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, it is a point of order. I think the hon Premier should be focused here because I think he is missing the fact. [Interjections.] I did not give an opening speech. I did the vote of thanks at that particular point. There is a ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Ah!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: There is a difference between ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...the opening speech and but, I do accept his principle and I think it is good ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Leader of the Opposition ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Let us build a cooperation.

Thank you.

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

That, just for the record, that is not a point of order. Hon members, I also wish to caution you on rising on frivolous points of orders because that is against the Rules. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and although you have ruled it out as not a point of order, I take note of what the hon Leader of the Opposition says and I withdraw the opening remarks. I say thank you very much for making the closing remarks ...[Interjections.] and I sincerely hope that being on that platform added value and that the Minister does exactly the same thing in Gauteng and in KZN. And that the Leaders of the Opposition in those provinces get the opportunity to make the closing remarks on any of his platforms.

I also want to, while speaking about Safety, deployment, many hon members in the debate spoke about and referenced the Safety Plan. Here, I want to and I know I cannot ask a question of the hon members from the podium, but I want to put a challenge to all of you here who made those comments on the Safety Plan.

To say that to date, I have not seen any input, any input whatsoever on the Safety Plan 2.0 that was taken to the Standing Committee where you were asked as political parties and as representatives of the people of this province, to make comments on the Safety Plan because we then incorporate those comments into the Safety Plan. So, when it is made available, no one says anything about it. All you do is you use the platform to condemn it. [Interjections.] Now, that does not make any sense to me whatsoever.

In a democracy, you really enable democracies to get better is when those kinds of points are raised. When the opportunity is given ...[Interjections.] please make use of those opportunities to put proper inputs of substance into the Safety Plan. Because hon Minister Marais asked for that in the Standing Committee. The presentation was done in the Standing Committee ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: This is too much. He is misleading again. Nobody asked for that.

The PREMIER: ...and that is exactly the point that ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We ask for communities to give input for proper public participation. Do not mislead the House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Take us seriously, please!

An HON MEMBER: The hon Premier must listen now.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Take the public seriously.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, I will protect you. Can I please ask the hon Leader of the Opposition: if you want to raise a point of order to please rise and not directly engage the hon Premier on the podium. Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Premier, please take your seat. The hon Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, this is now becoming a pattern now where the hon Premier misleads. Nobody made such a statement. We asked for the, we asked for communities to be consulted through a proper process. The hon Premier was there in that particular committee when we made. Hon member Walters was there. He is the Chair of that committee. So please, let us not come and mislead the House here. He must listen and hon member Walters, before he puts up his hand ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...he must also listen. Thank

you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Leader of the Opposition, you have made your point and again, for the record, that is not a point of order. It is a point of debate. Hon members, can I please ask that you use the other parliamentary mechanisms at your disposal ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He is grandstanding.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He is grandstanding.

The SPEAKER: You can, if there is anything in the reply that you are disputing, there are other parliamentary mechanisms available to you that you can use going forward. But please allow the hon Premier to now make his reply to inputs made in order for us to move forward, and so that we can conclude the reply and provide the hon Premier the platform and the opportunity. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. So, I will continue in the replying to that specific point about the inputs in general across the board on the Safety Plan and say again, that it was taken to the Committee. Everyone was given the opportunity, and I have not seen one. Not one from any political party that has put it into the system. But then let us talk about the questions that the ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, I hope it is a point of order, but it is not correct that there is no input from the Committee. The Committee adopted resolutions and maybe the Chairperson of the Committee on Premier and Constitutional Affairs can tell us why the hon Premier has not received the detailed input from the Committee on that Safety Plan 2.0.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] In the interest of that first ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. I am not going to allow a dialogue across the floor. That, just for the record, hon Herron, that is not a point of order but I will, in the interest of moving forward, I will ensure that outside of this meeting, that we follow up with the Parliamentary processes and see, in fact, hon Premier, if those resolutions reached your office or not. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. And I will reiterate again and I look forward to reading the inputs of the political parties that are represented here and the individuals that represent the citizens of the province. Not the Committee report, I am talking about the challenge that I gave in the Standing Committee to the political parties represented there that said: bring your comments. Not the Standing Committee comment. Bring your comments and your inputs to this. [Interjections.]

But then ...[Interjections.] but then, let me go to the actual point that was raised and I am not sure whether the hon Leader of the Opposition making these points is obviously very, very disconnected from the citizens of this province because last week, the Safety Plan was taken to the public in Nyanga. A month and a half earlier. In actual fact, even before the Standing Committee meeting, it was taken to the community in Mitchells Plain and it has even gone further and there is a committee of community members that is part of the action plan in Mitchells Plain as well.

So, it is being taken to the public and of course, if you were more connected with the public and not just sat in offices all day, you would know that.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, the hon Premier should speak through you. ...[Laughter.] He is speaking to me directly because he is getting emotional. ...[Laughter.] He is not able to respond.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He is not able to respond to the critical points that we raise about the consultation ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Sayed, you do not need to motivate your point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...process. Hitting a group here and there is not public participation.

The SPEAKER: You do not need to motivate your point of order. Hon Premier, this is a reminder: can you please speak to me and not directly to any hon member in the House.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and hon Speaker, through you to the hon Sayed. Please connect with the citizens of this province and you will pick up the public consultation process.

Can I also then say and moving on to the question that was raised by a number of speakers about the living reality. The pressure that citizens feel, the cost of living and specifically, about food and food security in our province. Now, when it comes to food security, that report that I spoke to you about that I think all hon members should read, that also deals with various issues within the various provinces. It looks at spending patterns, how much money people have to spend, et cetera, which also tells a story about food security, but there is no doubt that people feel it.

If I look at the food security initiatives from this Government. I will first of all talk to the food security initiatives from the Department of Agriculture. Here, we have got a budget 2026 MTEF of R63,997 million. That budget goes to communities, vegetable gardens and households. So, that will put a further

2 750 household gardens in place, and we are also investing into school food gardens. There are a number of them already across the province.

But the number of school gardens supported will be 20. Oh sorry, it was 20 in 2024/2025. It was 60 in subsistence producer support and smallholder support. Somebody did ask about the smallholder farmers: 29 smallholder support which also, at the end of the day, ends up with giving us food security support.

If I look at Social Development ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are always lying.

An HON MEMBER: In the Cape 29?

The PREMIER: Yes. If I look at Social Development, food security there, there are R140 million spent in the Social Development Department with various food and nutritious interventions. There is a whole list of them and of course, the hon members can get that list.

Then, of course, I think the one that I did mention yesterday was the R1,771 billion that we spend over the Medium Term and that is the 550 000 meals every single day, every single school day that learners get in this province. That is a substantial effort in trying to alleviate. I think also the Social Development Department not only through their direct budget, but I think it is also through creating this platform where money can be raised to support NGOs because

there are so many NGOs. There are so many soup kitchens. There are so many foodbanks that are also working together in helping us make sure that we do have better food security in our province. Because there is no doubt, that many, many people do feel the pinch.

But at the same time, while feeling that pinch, it is also about your living reality in the town or the municipality that you live. That is where you really feel it and of course, you know, whether it is food security or water security, and a lot of people had a lot to say about various municipalities. I noticed when the hon Sayed rattled off a whole list of municipalities, he never actually mentioned the ones that he was directly involved in as governing.

Again, we go back to Knysna, and a number of people also raised ...[Laughter.]
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I am even now getting tired of rising on points of order ...[Interjections.] because the amount of ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...time the hon Premier is misleading ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon Premier has misled the House. I mentioned Knysna and I was not praising Knysna. I mentioned Knysna critically there, and we are governing Knysna. ...[Interjection.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We are honest when we critique. We are balanced.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Again, there are parliamentary rules and processes. If you want to bring a substantive ...[Interjections.] motion, then you must do so. There is a ...[Interjections.] Order, I am ruling. Hon Walters, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Sayed, there are rules that make provision for your dissatisfaction. What I am not going to tolerate and allow any further, is every time that there is an input that you disagree with, that you rise to correct the facts. Yes, you had ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Because it is not a fact, it is a lie.

The SPEAKER: You had an opportunity in the ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Even when he lies?

The SPEAKER: That is unparliamentary and I am going to ask you to withdraw that you are referring to an hon member, and in this case, the hon Premier as lying. That is unparliamentary.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, can I respond to you? I think you ought to listen to the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I think you ought to listen to the Hansard. I did not say the hon Speaker, the hon Premier is lying.

The SPEAKER: You said, "he is lying."

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I said even if. No, no, no, no. Listen to it. [Interjections.] Listen to it. I said even if he does. I did not say he is. So, let us just and you can listen to the Hansard because I am not withdrawing. You must listen to the Hansard.

The SPEAKER: I will ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I did not say he is lying.

The SPEAKER: I will listen to the Hansard and come back. But if you did, in fact, say so ...[Interjections.] then that is unparliamentary. [Interjections.] Hon members, we are all honourable here. We are all honourable members and can we treat each other ...[Laughter.] with the necessary respect.

An HON MEMBER: But why? Why here he said ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You had an opportunity to debate the hon Premier's input [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Where is your ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: You cannot on every fact ...[Interjections.] correct the speech or the input by the hon Premier now. Use other parliamentary processes to do so. [Interjections.] Hon Walters, I have not recognised you. [Interjections.] Hon Walters, is that a new point of order? What is your point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I think it is very, very apparent that there is a deliberate attempt to disrupt this particular session.

Hon MEMBERS: No! [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is undermining. Stop undermining democracy. We are under.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I believe the ...[Interjections.] I believe the coterie of noises that I am hearing proves it. Hon Speaker, can I ask that this is referred to investigation by the Rules Committee ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ha-ha, investigation!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...as to whether this behaviour is, in fact, acceptable. Thanks. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Walters. Hon members, points of order are allowed. They are a part of the process. They are part of the parliamentary Rules, and they are part of the privileges imparted to elected public representatives. Please, do not abuse those Rules and I am speaking to both sides of the House. Hon member, is that a new point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thanks, hon Speaker. Hon Walters has now developed a habit on your presence, as when hon Sayed stands up. He, too, stands up and you allow him to continue standing whilst hon Sayed is on the floor. And for that reason, that I had to insist on standing up as basis to ensure that you rule on what he has been doing. Unless it is [0:42:20] or else he has

some privileges given his background.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I am not going to get into a dialogue, but I will refer you to the Hansard where I have asked the hon member to please take his seat until I recognise him when hon Sayed was on the floor. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you, thank you very much. So, getting back to Knysna and a number of the speakers that referenced it, especially the speakers referenced when the Democratic Alliance ran that specific town. So, let me talk about the water issue and when the Democratic Alliance ran that town.

At that stage in 2010/2011, there was the building of a desalination plant. The interesting thing now is that desalination plant was built at the same time as the one in Bitou Municipality. Right now, that desalination plant: dololo! Nothing is going on. Why? Because when the ANC took over, they forgot to maintain it. They forgot to look after it. They let the infrastructure just go to rack and ruin. Why? Because they cannot manage their way out of a paper bag.

Then, of course, there was the Charlesford Pump Station that was upgraded. What happened? After that was put in place, the ANC and their coalition partners, the Patriot Alliance who actually had responsibility for infrastructure, by the way, let it go to rack and ruin because they cannot manage their way out of a paper bag.

The refuse system that was invested in went to rack and ruin. Go there now again. Now, I cannot tell you how many times the province has to take provincial money and go and fix the problem in Knysna because they cannot run anything. The piles of rubbish just pile up and up and up, and then we go and help remove it. Everybody gets happy, but the maintenance and the continued work do not happen. It piles up again.

Let us not talk about sewerage running into the lifeblood of that town which is called the lagoon. It gets worse and worse and worse. Now what is happening is the bad management in that town is causing the economy to really fall. So, if we talk about living reality and the ability to put food on your plate to earn a living, what is happening in that town is event after event are being cancelled. The water polo events are cancelled because of E. coli levels in the water.

And you see the risk now for the uphill climb is now being challenged because there are no management and investment into that infrastructure. So, what happens? Not only the services to the citizens of that town disappear because of the inability of that coalition to manage the problem, it now affects the economy. People will start leaving and what will happen in Knysna is what happens in the Eastern Cape. People then eventually get to a stage where they say well, we have got to go and find opportunities somewhere else. That is what happens when you cannot manage a thing.

And now let us juxtapose that with another municipality just down the road.

[Interjections.] I was in Kwanonqaba the other day and you know, every time I drive into Mossel Bay and specifically ...[Interjections.] that suburb. It is amazing for me to see how in the last 10 to 15 years, that shacks have become brick and mortar, that businesses have expanded and grown. I mean, I went to go and visit a business that our Department's investor fund, the Booster Fund, how it enabled a business to grow. This is in a township that has evolved over time.

Now, if you go and say to yourself, how does this happen and why is it happening? Then, you go and have a look at the indicators again that I referred to you at the beginning of this reply. The indicators in that town show year after year, services are delivered and top-quality services are delivered, and the economic growth is higher and higher. In last 10 years, in most of that time you would have found that that municipality would have had the highest economic growth out of all municipalities in the region. What happens? People's lives change.

That is what happened and that is what I was talking about when we opened the Parliament. It was about a difference that a job makes. It was what happens when you get investment into a region: you lift the tide and people's lives change. So, you just have to measure not two provinces, not one out of nine provinces, just two municipalities 60 kilometres each side of where we are right now. Go and have a look at who runs the one and go and have a look at who tries to run the other.

I then want to say a little bit about housing because a number of hon members raised the housing issue. I do not know if hon members were listening or not, but we spoke about again, a little bit further than Knysna, another municipality: the Ebenhaezer housing project. It is not the first time that I have spoken about this project to the House. I spoke about it when I first went, when the project was first launched. Hon Minister Simmers and I went, and we went to the first house. Here was a house. This house sells at R430 000. It is a two-bedroomed home. It has got a view of the sea and it is in Plettenberg Bay.

I mean, when I saw this house, I thought jeppers, can I put my name down and they said I could not qualify. But that is dignity. That is making a difference and for how many years have we heard how difficult it is when a policeman gets transferred to one of our coastal municipalities from Beaufort West. He and his family live in a 3-bedroomed house in Beaufort West. They sell that house and they get to Plett, and for the value that they have sold their house in Beaufort West they cannot even buy an apartment.

This is where a difference gets made and this is how opportunities are grown. And that house became 204 and this year, there are going to be another 1 433 real opportunities for teachers, for nurses, for policemen and women. This is how you make a difference in people's lives.

But it is not only there, and we have spoken about the pricing of housing, especially in the City of Cape Town, and you obviously are not listening. Founders Garden and Leeuloop are going to add the supply and demand balance.

It is going to change things, and it is going to create housing opportunities for affordable houses in the inner city.

District Six, I welcomed. For years and years and years we have seen nothing happening and I welcomed the National Minister of Land Reform and Home Affairs, Land Reform and what is it? Land Reform and Rural Development. There we go. Thank you very much. Land Reform and Rural Development, and I welcomed his visit last week because he is now committed. I did not mention the number, but he has committed a budget and he has committed to go to the next phase. But we want to not be just one phase. We actually need to speed up these phases and that was the whole reason why the Conradie site development was done.

I remember way back then, sitting in the Cabinet saying how do we create something that is going to change the way houses are delivered. We cannot carry on delivering housing in the same way that it has been happening for 30 years. We have got to create new ways. We have got to innovate and that is the great news about what is happening at Conradie. The private schools that are coming in. They are already now building office blocks, and you have got shopping centres, and you really are creating a work/lived/play place. Imagine if we can replicate that in District Six. That will be such a significant redress. Redress where exactly it should be happening.

But again, when it comes to housing, the same thing. You know, let us look at the data and the evidence. So, the data says here: metro housing leaderboard.

So, we have a look at which municipality is the leader out of Buffalo City, Mangaung, Nelson Mandela, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Johannesburg and Cape Town. Which municipality delivers the most houses in South Africa and delivers the most houses by far[Interjection.] It is the City of Cape Town with 202 070 housing opportunities. ...[Applause.] It is about data and evidence. [Interjections.] That is what you have got to based it on. Not a thumb-suck, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, I want to talk about two more things, and I know that people are concerned about the time because some people might have plane tickets that they need to honour. [Interjections.] But yesterday, I spoke about the George building collapse. I heard it mentioned a few times again, and I think that I do need to repeat it one more time. [Interjections.] We cannot talk about infrastructure here in George without acknowledging the horrific 2024 building collapse.

I can now confirm that SAPS have completed their investigation into all aspects of the disaster, including the peer review report that we handed to SAPS in early 2025. The case docket is now with the National Prosecuting Authority for a decision on prosecution. I then said it is time for justice to be seen.

This is where we have got to show leadership because what I heard today and what I heard yesterday, no leadership is being shown. This is not a place where we have got to table interim reports in the middle of a criminal justice process. We have got to honour that process. We are not a party that believes you can

influence the outcome in a criminal justice process. So, there are no ways that you are going to get some of the documents in your committees or wherever, while we are waiting for the NPA to make their decision.

Once they have made that charge, well then, of course, the Standing Committee can go to town. Of course, our document will be made available to anybody and everybody. But we have to honour what we call the Rule of Law. That is what we do in this province. We are a constitutional democracy with a Government that believes in the rule of law.

I want to make one last point because if you remember, last year there was a press statement put out by the victims. By the victims, the families who lost loved ones. In that report, they said do not damage this court case. Do not put stuff in the public domain that is going to influence a negative outcome for us. We want justice to be seen. [Interjections.] Go and have a look. It is item 6 in their report that they put on the table. It is a critical report, and we must honour the victims by giving them ...[Interjections.] the justice that this whole case deserves.

Then, in ending. In conclusion, hon Speaker. I started speaking about this place. This place at the tip of Africa. This place that is a special place. A place that I think we are all honoured to be able to call home and its first people, and where our first nations began. In actual fact, this is where modern civilization began on the planet of this world. That is why it is recognised as a National Heritage Site. Hon Minister Mackenzie spoke about it. He actually

went to go and fetch the honour of being called the Cradle of Human Culture.

We are honoured to also have in this part of the world, Mrs Ples. Three million years ago, Mrs Ples in the caves up in Gauteng. That is 3 million years ago, the development of human beings. But we move on to 125 000 years ago where man modernised. That happened in the caves of Mossel Bay, down into the caves called the Klipdrift Caves, down near the De Hoop or at the De Hoop Nature Reserve.

I challenge any of you to go there, to go and have a look at the museum that is being built. Go and have a look at the installations that are put in place to tell our story, the story of Humankind. That is why I love saying to people who come from around the world: welcome home. Because this is where it all began. This is where modernisation happened. This is the Cradle of Human Culture.

This is where language, song developed. This is where innovation developed, where we learnt how to make tools, where we hunter-gathered, where we built our brains and knowledge with the mixture of ocean foraging and land foraging, and we became smarter. We then moved up and that is why, moved up through Africa and across the world. That is why you can do DNA testing of people in every single corner of this planet, and you will find some DNA that traces you back here to this very place, to this tip of Africa where it all began. This is where it began.

So, with the opening of Parliament this year I do need to reiterate: we have got to get it done. We owe it to the residents and the citizens of this province to as Government: get it done. To as Parliament: get it done. To as representatives of the people: get it done. Help them too. That is why we were elected. Help them to get it done. That is our job. But let us also do it with humility. Let us also do it with kindness. Let us also do it with respect and values because that is actually how we continue our culture, how we continue this melting pot of people here at the tip of Africa.

Hon Speaker, hon members, I thank you. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address for the year 2026. Before I adjourn, I would like to make some announcements, but I see the hand of hon Herron. Is that a point of order?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, may I just address you on the point of order I raised earlier in your ruling? I think it would be unfair to finish this process without clarifying your ruling to investigate what happened to the Committee's inputs needed to be investigated. In fact, the input went to the hon Minister of Community Safety and Police Oversight, and she did respond in great detail to the 14 points raised by all the members of the Committee in her letter on 7 November. So, there is no need to investigate, but the hon Premier is also incorrect in saying that people have not engaged with the Safety Plan 2.0. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Herron. I take note of your comment. I have ruled and I will continue with that ruling, and I will provide the House with feedback at the next Sitting.

Hon members, before we adjourn, I would like to remind hon members that you have to please board the busses as soon as possible after adjournment. So, hon members, I appeal to you to please make sure that you get to the busses immediately after adjournment.

Hon members and guests are requested to remain standing in their places while the procession leaves the Chamber. Guests must please remain seated while the hon members leave the Chamber. Before I adjourn, I would like to take this opportunity to just thank the community of George and the Garden Route district for welcoming the Western Cape Provincial Parliament ...[Applause.] to this beautiful part of the Western Cape.

†So, namens die agb lede, baie, baie, baie dankie. [So, on behalf of the hon members, thank you very, very much.]

With that being said, hon members, that concludes the business for the day and the House is adjourned.

House adjourned at 14:20.