
FRIDAY, 26 MARCH 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the seat and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be seated. Good morning, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, guests, on this sitting. Order! Before we proceed, I would like to remind members about the logistical arrangements. Today we will be using the hybrid model for this sitting of the House. We have hon members both present here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officers and Table staff, as well as those hon members participating in the sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams. I trust that everybody has been connected to participate.

Our sitting today will be conducted in terms of the Standing Rules and Directives issued by the Speaker on 17 April 2020, but allow me to highlight some of those important directives in this regard.

Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will take place by members present and entitled to vote, to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020. Members who are present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. In instances where these directives do not cover a particular eventuality the Standing Rules must apply. In instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Members, all microphones have been muted. For those hon members who are participating in the sitting via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to please use the raise-your-hand functionality of the system, while those members in the Chamber who wish to raise a point of order must please address the Presiding Officer as normal, but please mute your microphones after you have spoken.

Hon members participating in the sitting of the House via Teams are also please requested not to sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device as it does interfere with the sound.

If an individual, who is not an hon member of this House, activates his or her microphone or video camera – that includes the press – that individual will

be exited from the sitting immediately. For the purpose of this sitting via the hybrid model, language translation services are available, both in the Chamber, as per normal, as well as via a second device.

Finally, as ruled by the Presiding Officer in the sitting of the House on 23 April 2020 via Microsoft Teams, no interjections shall be permitted during these debates. In this regard I also wish to draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules, and finally, hon members, I would like to announce that we will break for lunch at 1 pm. That is 13:00, and return at 13:45. Thank you. I now recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall move:

That, notwithstanding Rule 163, the House considers the principle and finalisation of the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 3 – 2021] today, Friday, 26 March 2021; that, notwithstanding the provision of Rule 18, the hours of sitting on Monday, 29 March, and Tuesday, 30 March 2021 shall be 10:00 to adjournment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objections? No objections? Agreed to.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I put both motions.

The SPEAKER: Apologies. Thank you very much. Any objections to both? No objections? Agreed to.

Thank you. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Principle of the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill, (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 3–2021].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I now recognise the hon Minister David Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill, which we tabled last week in the Provincial Parliament, enables an additional allocation of R150 million to the Human Settlements Development Grant to accelerate housing delivery in the Western Cape, and an additional allocation of R70,8 million to the Provincial Emergency Housing Grant to support the victims of the terrible fire in Masiphumelele, which broke out on 17 December 2020.

The Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill also enables an

additional allocation of R116 million for the response to the second wave of the pandemic, and to jumpstart the rollout of vaccinations in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, we have from the start followed an evidence-based and data-led approach in the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape, and so, when we started to see indications in early December that we were entering a second wave, we responded immediately and with urgency. We were prepared. We had a plan and we executed that plan, and thanks to the outstanding efforts of our Health Department we had enough beds. We had enough healthcare workers and we had enough oxygen to respond. We added 685 beds to the healthcare system, 336 beds at the Brackengate Hospital of Hope, 200 beds at the Mitchells Plain Hospital of Hope, 60 beds at the Freesia Ward at the Lentegeur Hospital and 30 beds in Ward 99 at the Lentegeur Hospital, and of course, 59 beds at the Sonstraal Hospital. An additional 72 acute beds were added in our rural hospitals in Vredendal, in Hermanus and of course in George. To increase health-worker capacity we extended our bursary programme, commenced an early intake of community service, renewed the contracts of staff members, during the first wave, and, of course, opened up a new short-term contract and filled as many vacancies as possible, recruiting 1 128 healthcare workers. By focusing on expanding existing healthcare facilities in our response to the second wave, we maximised the use of existing equipment and resources on site, while also remaining closer to our communities, and we invest in our existing healthcare infrastructure, which will provide long-term benefits to the people of the

Western Cape.

Of course, the second wave was significantly more severe than the first wave and so I am pleased to confirm that we were able to allocate this additional R116 million for the response to the second wave in the Western Cape.

The funding also allowed, as I have mentioned, the Health Department to jumpstart the rollout of the vaccination strategy in the current financial year, which means that we have continued to protect our frontline services and put shots in arms as quickly as they are received, vaccinating 38 699 healthcare workers to date.

Deputy Speaker, you will also recall that in the additional Adjusted Budget of 2019/20, R98,5 million of additional funds was received to accelerate housing delivery in the Western Cape, because the funds could not be spent by the Free State, by Gauteng, by Limpopo, and by the Northern Cape, and this has happened again with an additional allocation of R150 million to the Human Settlements Development Grant, again to accelerate housing development in the Western Cape, because the funds could not again be spent by the Eastern Cape, the Free State, Limpopo and the North West. We should all recognise the Human Settlements Department for their continued excellence in housing delivery, which means that there is more hope for people in the Western Cape.

In the end, Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Third Adjustments

Appropriation Bill supports housing, supports the victims of the terrible fire in Masiphumelele, and supports our commitment to the Health Department, which of course is on the frontline of the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Now I recognise hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Greetings to hon Premier and the members in the House, the MEC.

Deputy Speaker, to come to this House with an Adjustment Budget, when, as of today, we have more than 6 000 learners not placed in our schools, and for the MEC and for this particular Adjustment Budget to be absolutely silent on any additional funds or emergency plan to actually deal with the accommodation crisis in our schools, is an indication of how bankrupt this Third Adjustment and the approach of this Provincial Government is. It is simply unacceptable, when one looks at the performance of a province like Gauteng, who at this stage dealing with close to only 400 learners left, and they openly acknowledge the assistance they have given to learners coming from Limpopo and other provinces as well as foreign nationals, yet, here we have an adjustment and let us look back at the Second and the First Adjustment, when this crisis could have been anticipated.

It is very clear that this Provincial Government is not actually focusing on the apex priority of education, and the reality is, these children are black children, Coloured, African and Indian, rural children and working-class children. It is simply a disgrace and a shame that there is not recognition from the Treasury, from the Premier about funds to actually deal with this problem, and we as the ANC simply cannot support this Third Adjustment Budget.

As I listened to hon Maynier about two weeks ago deliver the Main Budget and the Third Adjustments, I could not help to think of the words of Hamlet, “Words, words, words!” Throughout the hon Maynier’s address to the House he repeatedly used the words “we will, we will”. Instead, what would have been much better was, if he repeatedly used the words “we have, we have, we have!”

The reality is this Provincial Government has not provided the resources in the First, Second or Third Adjustments, to deal with the education crisis in this province. Nine months from the first case of COVID-19 in the Western Cape, the hon Premier rose after the President had spoken in October 2020 and outlined this Government’s so called “recipe for real change ingredients for hope.” A month later the hon MEC stood up and tabled the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, but gave absolutely no effect to the details of the plans or the programmes, especially the so-called Emergency Economic Relief and Recovery Programme as mentioned and set out by the Premier a month before he spoke. So again, it is a question of words, but not the actual

practical detail, and that is why these plans, like the Provincial Safety Plan, without clear timeframes and tasks – not just a statement that this MEC should do this or that – are doomed to fail.

The Medium Term Budget Policy Statement for example gave no indication of how and where the 20 000 jobs to be created through the rapid interventions, as promised by the Premier a mere month before, were actually going to be achieved. Again, the Premier went on to talk about 26 private sector investments which will create 20 000 jobs. It will pump more than R30 billion into the economy. He went on to state that these included investments in property, construction, logistics, health and investments in Saldanha Bay IDZ and the IDZ in Atlantis. Once again, words, words, words, for the people of the Western Cape are still waiting five months later and the Adjustment Budget of this Government, which the hon Maynier also happens to lead, spoke to none of these initiatives. Four months after the October speech by the Premier, we were in Genadendal where the hon Premier delivered the State of the Province Address. What we heard there was the reality rather than mere words he spoke in October. In Genadendal we heard only 7 000 jobs were created, not 20 000. Only R4 billion was secured in the entire financial year and not the R30 billion promised. Creating decent jobs has now turned into earning opportunities.

The Premier spoke about infrastructure investment in his SOPA and the hon Maynier completely omitted the sector in the Medium Term Statement in November. At least by now he has tried to catch up with the Premier. In his

SOPA the Premier spoke about the green economy and creating 1 000 green jobs through the rehabilitation of 15 000 hectares of agricultural land. We see no money for agriculture in this Third Adjustment. The hon Maynier mentioned the word “green” only once in his speech last week and that was in reference to someone whose surname was Green. The reality is that the hon Premier and his MEC simply speak past each other and all of this simply becomes a case of words and more words and more promises and more commitment, more spin. The reality is that this Third Adjustment Budget does not speak to the plans of this Provincial Government and there still remains no detailed programme with simple timeframes, who is responsible, when, and importantly, geographically where these will be implemented. We just are subjected to continual wish lists and a wish list from his MEC but when we actually get to the details we see that hardly any of these items on the wish list appear in these adjustments.

We must continuously hear from the Provincial Government how evidence-based it is, yet we are still waiting for a reasonable explanation as to why the second wave was not prepared for and why it hit us here in the Western Cape as hard as it did.

We are still waiting for accountability on how some of the utterances and actions of leaders in this Provincial Government could have led to the onslaught of the second wave and definitely the pressure on our hospitals and trauma units. Instead, the people of our province must sit helplessly while their Provincial Government does hardly anything in practice to avoid the

third wave. What hope is this for the people of the Western Cape?

If this Provincial Government was in fact led by science, they would know that even with the third rollout of vaccines a third wave remains inevitable as we have seen in Europe, but in practical terms we do not hear the programme to deal with this third wave, and we have a reluctance to actually indicate what are the expectations of this particular third wave, so it is a case of spin. It is not applying the words and the commitments to detailed plans that can hit the ground and actually impact our people, and every moment this DA-led Government has sought to vilify the National Government and, sadly, and this is not what we had hoped for from Premier Winde, a return to the adversarial days of Helen Zille, and through this adversarial pro-federal approach this DA Government thinks that they will be bringing the people of the Western Cape hope.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC does not support this Third Adjustment Budget because it simply is about playing to the gallery and therefore a lot of words and words, and in this most important crisis, neither of the three adjustments talked and anticipated the education crisis, and we sit with a blatant violation of human rights that over 6 000 of our learners remain out of school, and these adjustments, this Adjustment Budget is silent about the resources and it is silent about the actual plan to deal with this particular crisis. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. Before I continue, can I

please make sure that everybody is muted and that only the speaker is able to speak? Thank you very much. I now recognise hon America.

Mr D AMERICA: [Audio distorted.] Thank you, Deputy Speaker, I hear you now. Allow me to express, Deputy Speaker, our heartfelt condolences to the family of Cecyl Esau, [Inaudible] struggle hero of the Western Cape. May his family find comfort and strength in the knowledge that he contributed significantly to the freedoms we enjoy today.

Many of the members in this House never really knew Cecyl. Minister Fritz and I were working alongside him and others in establishing youth and community organisations in the 1980s, in opposition to the Tricameral Parliament under the apartheid regime.

Deputy Speaker, turning to the Third Adjustment made to this Budget. The extent of adjustments is not only an indication of the immense turbulence that has been brought upon the country, but also testament to the ability demonstrated by this Government in combating COVID-19 and its impact upon our communities. Even though these efforts required us to divert our attention to cushion the fiscal blow, our municipalities were still able to deliver services with minimal interruption. This is specifically seen in all DA-run local governments in the Western Cape, which maintained their status of financial good standing with Eskom and other service providers.

In contrast, Deputy Speaker, to good, clean governance, it comes as no

surprise that the municipalities which find themselves in arrears with Eskom, are run by the ANC. In total the four municipalities run by the ANC owe a collective debt of nearly R90 million. Nevertheless, Deputy Speaker, over the last month of this financial year we have seen the Western Cape continue to live up to its promise in order to save lives and safeguard the economy, one that has been hit by both the pandemic and the often irrational local lockdown regulations from the National Government.

Despite the failings of the ANC Government, the Western Cape Government has continued to rely on its reserves and good planning to enable a versatile and effective pandemic response.

In support of Health this Adjustment sees a combined increase of just over R160 million for District and Provincial Health Services and R1 million increase for the funding support of non-profit organisations. We never ran out of hospital beds and we delivered field hospitals on time with the available funds. We also note that nearly R228 million increase for housing developments so that we can continue to support residents with provision of dignified housing.

Deputy Speaker, when the ANC wants to actually spend its money in the right areas, there is simply no money left. After being under financial administration since 2018, the Kannaland Municipality with an ANC-ICOSA Coalition was willing to spend R735 million on the question of the electricity outsourcing deal, which was red-flagged by this Legislature.

Thankfully the speedy action by Minister Bredell, through court action, was able to overturn this highly problematic scheme of the ANC-ICOSA Alliance. They would have plunged the municipality in total... [Interjection.] [Inaudible - speaking simultaneously.]

Mr A LILI: That is a lie! That is a lie! That is a lie!

Mr D AMERICA: ...and have brought endless ructions to the people of Kannaland.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr D AMERICA: Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

Mr A LILI: That is not correct.

Mr D AMERICA: If it is not clear for anyone to see, one only has to look at the SIU investigations into PPE contracts. Yet again, based on the reports concluded thus far, the DA stands as a pillar of excellence where no irregularities can be found. The same cannot be said for the ANC-led Matzikama.

In closing, Deputy Speaker, our country finds itself in a tunnel of darkness. Where others are casting shade and despair, it is only the DA's blue light that shines brightly at the end of it. I appeal to all municipalities to ascribe to its

due process and good governance, which gives hope and benefits to all; not the politically connected few cadres.

I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, may I please remind you about the Rules about interjections? It is very difficult to control when it is coming off Microsoft Teams. I am moving on. I recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, tucked away in the Western Cape Government's Adjustment Budget is the shocking surrender by the Department of Education of a whopping R350 million. Earlier this week the MEC said that she was unable to place 6 000 children in schools, two months into the academic year, because of funding cuts by National Government.

In Forest Village, which is a housing project built by this Government; children are learning under trees in a makeshift classroom. It looks like a scene from a deeply rural part of our country – not in a modern urban place like the City of Cape Town. All they want is to be taught in their mother tongue isiXhosa, but the MEC says she is unable to find the budget to provide mother-tongue education to families who have relocated to Forest Village for their housing opportunity.

Today she is asking this Parliament to approve the surrender of R350 million that could employ the teachers to educate those denied access to a school and those who need mother-tongue education. This Parliament should not support this shocking proposal. It is reckless, it is uncaring and it is a disgrace. Thank you. [Interjection.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Good day, Deputy Speaker, and well done to the Department of Human Settlements for receiving an additional R150 million, due to the incapable Free State, Limpopo, North West for not spending their allocation. Deputy Speaker, what is concerning is exactly what hon Herron has just mentioned, that at the Old Faure Road in Forest Village, pupils are still having a classroom under a tree, 400 of them. 400 of our pupils are still receiving education under a tree, and that is worrisome.

I also mentioned it in the Education Standing Committee that our learners are not placed – more than 6 000 of them. Although the ACDP supports the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill we want the Premier and the Minister of Finance to attend to these learners urgently, to address these learners that are not placed in our schools. I thank you.

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

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The hon Dugmore quotes that Gauteng only has 400 unplaced learners. Maybe, Deputy Speaker, the reason for this is that the Gauteng learners are in the Western Cape. The Third Adjustment Budget this year is before us less than a week before the financial year-end... [Interjection.]

Mr A LILI: That is impossible.

Ms L J BOTHA: ...and whilst much of this budget has to do with... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member. Can you just take your seat, virtually? Can I just ask the Table staff, did that look like hon Lili, is that hon Lili? Hon Lili, can I have your attention? That is the second time that you have interjected, and I would just remind generally that you are violating Rule 40. Please, that is now twice that I am asking you to please stop interjections. Thank you. You may proceed, hon Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Deputy Speaker, whilst this budget has to do with fighting the impact of COVID-19 over the last year, we dare not forget the inability of the ANC to manage the public purse well before this pandemic. Let us review this backdrop. South Africa has a 1,2 million-large public service human resource base. Amongst others, this base includes teachers, doctors and police officers. Therefore, a large portion of the wage bill, which currently stands at R629 billion, supports our frontline service workers. This

wage bill is expected to reach close to R700 billion during the 2022/23 financial year.

Economists argued the wage bill would grow to where it stands today to satisfy ANC-allied unions of the past 12 years, while it grows at 40%. This is a clear demonstration of placing party-interests above residents and laying a solid basis for financial collapse in the name of ANC cadre deployment. Given the longstanding and notorious South African fiscal crisis under the ANC-led National Government and in an effort to mitigate complete collapse of our national fiscus, in principle we must agree to cut costs where we can.

Deputy Speaker, the Third Adjustment Budget brought a cut of R350 million to the Provincial Education Department, which is a direct impact of National Government failure. These funds had to be surrendered to the management of COVID-19, but, Deputy Speaker, the key point is had the Provincial Government received what it was promised from National Government during the first appropriation, the Western Cape Government would not find itself between a rock and a hard place. Though we support the cut to the public wage bill, we must buffer frontline departments such as Education, Health and Community Safety.

For years now the Provincial Government has been pleading for additional police officers and during 2018 private health authorities pleaded for National Government to address the shortage of 50 000 nurses under its training rules.

A growing number of learners seek places in the Western Cape schools every year because we provide quality education in this province, but because National Government could not for the past, for the last 12 years, act firmly and put the needs of residents first, it allowed the wage bill to explode without supporting frontline departments, so I present the direct result of ANC governance. As much as the members in opposition in this House would use budget cuts to taint the Provincial Government as uncaring, it is their national counterparts who are to blame for the real state of finances in the country and the surrendering of funds to reduce the ANC's curated cost-of-employment crisis and how it uses COVID-19 as a scapegoat. Had they cared enough they would lobby with us for funds to follow learners and call out the National Government for infrastructure cuts during the Second Appropriation. Without this mismanagement, we could build and staff more schools, expand our healthcare base and add more safety boots on the ground.

Deputy Speaker, I commend Provincial Treasury for performing miraculous work to mitigate the impact on the Provincial Budget, whilst navigating and appropriating funds to manage the effects of the pandemic in the province as we close this financial year, a province where we saw the first world-class field hospital in the whole of Africa, the only province to timeously support the sports and agriculture sector equally, to feed learners throughout the lockdown and offer small business support as we maintain the lowest unemployment rate in the country, and to ensure residents in crime hotspots receive greater protection amidst the silence of the ANC. Deputy Speaker, this is DA governance and we support this appropriation.

I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Can I just check, is hon Peter Marais online; I do not see him? No. I am going to then move on. Hon Brinkhuis, are you ready to take your seat to do your speech?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: 100%, I am ready, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, thank you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Al Jama-ah believes that any budget requires economic foresight, in-depth understanding of economic complexes and, above all, that the budget should address the needs of the people, more so the needs of the poorest of the poor, whilst also in alignment with Government policy. R2 billion for improving safety in the whole Western Cape, how is the Department going to create a safe environment where people can start businesses? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Speaker and Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, fellow Cabinet colleagues, hon members on both sides of the House, honoured guests, be it physically or virtual, and the media. During recent visits to two of our social housing projects, namely the

Anchorage Project in Glenhaven, which is in Bellville, and the ReGen Village Project in Weltevreden Valley, which is in Mitchells Plain, beneficiaries made it abundantly clear that their lives have improved significantly, even more so during the relevant alert level of lockdown. At the Anchorage Social Housing Project one of the residents that moved in is 23-year-old Ms Badroeniesah Jobert and she said: “I chose Anchorage to practice being sustainable. The dream is to own my own home one day. This place is really comfortable and suited to my needs. We are ecstatic to live here in the Anchorage community.”

Another resident, who is 70-year-old Mr Rodney Johnson, said: “When this opportunity came along, it suited me perfectly. I am incredibly happy as over the last while I have had some personal challenges, but this has improved my life significantly. I am pleased that I have a place to call home.”

At the ReGen Villas Social Housing Project 57-year old Ms Tanya Collins said: “I am very happy, and I feel free as this is the first time I have a space of my own. The 24-hour security makes me feel safe and the kids can also play in the park because of the secure environment that is being provided.”

Deputy Speaker, these three examples clearly show how the Western Cape Government is ensuring people’s safety and wellbeing even during the relevant alert lockdown levels. Further to this it is also important to point out that the Western Cape has the highest number of social housing projects

in the country, as was confirmed by the National Minister during a visit with me to one of these sites, yet another area where the Western Cape Government has and continues to take the lead, even more so during COVID-19. We make affordable housing opportunities available throughout the province, as not everyone that is currently on the Housing Demand Database would qualify for a BNG opportunity, Deputy Speaker.

†Ons verstaan die lewensveranderende rol wat ons te speel het, en dit is juis waarom begunstigdes, wie ek so pas aangehaal het, so ook kan getuig, maar so ook, weereens, die derde allokasie van R220 800 000 aan hierdie Provinsie, omdat die Nasionale Departement besef ons lewensveranderende rol wat ons te speel het in ons breër gemeenskap in die Wes-Kaap.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[We understand the life-changing role we have to play, and that is exactly why beneficiaries, whom I have just quoted, can testify as such, but so also, again, the third allocation of R220 800 000 to this Province, because the National Department realises the life-changing role we have to play in our broader community in the Western Cape.]

Deputy Speaker, we also need to put focus on safety, which we have picked up during some of our Opposition members' inputs, and I should say that our designs, our planned layouts and typologies aim to provide further safety and cohesive communities and that is undoubtedly taking shape, as we speak,

across a lot of our projects.

Deputy Speaker, there are various other instances which I can highlight to this House, which clearly form part of our plans, as we move forward into the new financial year, but what we can all agree on is that this Provincial Department and this Provincial Government then put its money where its mouth is. We do not have time for thrills, for politicking or blowing hot air that is full of emptiness.

†Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ons inwoners se vandag moet beter as hul gister wees, maar hul môre beter as vandag. Dit is waarvoor en waarnatoe ons Wes-Kaapse Regering werk, en die Aansuiweringsbegroting reflekteer dit weens die sewe geskikte areas wat die Nasionale Departement glo ons gaan hierdie geld optimaal in kan benut.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, our citizens' today should be better than their yesterday, but their tomorrow better than today. That is for what and whereto our Western Cape is working towards, and the Adjustment Budget reflects it due to the seven appropriate areas in which the National Department believes we can utilise this money optimally.]

The difference, Deputy Speaker, once again, by the faith that the National Department of Human Settlements has shown in this Provincial Government

and Department, shows the difference between a DA-led Provincial Government and, sadly, its ANC counterparts. The difference here is that our money will actually be spent on infrastructure and not for instance deadbeat SoEs that are continuing to work to the detriment of our people, and here I am talking about SAA. Furthermore, that continues to work towards making our people suffer, which is an example of Eskom, and we are happy today that at least the lights are still on for the sitting, Deputy Speaker, and furthermore it continues to show disregard for our people, which I here refer to budget cuts along key strategic departments, including myself and Education, as very good examples. Last, but not least, that our budget or adjustment is aligned to empower our people, not to disempower our people, as we saw with various other cuts within specific line items within my Department.

†Agbare Ondervoorsitter, met ons is dit die teenoorgestelde in die Wes-Kaap. Ons is daarop ingestel om ons mense se lewens te verbeter en dit geld veral vir ons bejaardes, ons medies-gesertifiseerde gestremdes, persone wat nou al 15 jaar en langer op ons waglyste is, maar ook so ons agterplaasbewoners. Ons lewer dienste vir almal, selfs deur hierdie begrotingsperiode waarop ons nou reflekteer.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Deputy Chair, with us it is the opposite in the Western Cape. We are focused on improving our people's lives and it applies especially to our aged,

our medically certified disabled, people who now for 15 years have been on our waiting lists, but so also our backyard dwellers. We deliver services to all, even through this budget period on which we we are reflecting now.]

†Ter afsluiting, Ondervoorsitter. [To finish off, Deputy Chair.] As the DA-led Western Cape Government we lead with and for our citizens, as they are the most crucial component in our aspect of service delivery. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. To recap, we have introduced the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill to enable the spending of further conditional grants to allocate additional funds to the Health Department for the fight against COVID-19, and of course to provide departments with the opportunity to voluntarily surrender unspent funds to the Provincial Revenue Fund. And we do this, of course, to ensure that funds, which would not be spent in most cases through no fault of the departments, who have been constrained by lockdown restrictions, are reallocated and actually spent before the end of the 2020/21 Financial Year.

Now on the whole question of education, which has been raised by several members. The Department of Education are of course working hard to provide alternatives to learners at the Forest Village School, and of course

we would want every learner to be placed. We have and indeed we will be leaning in to support the Education Department and have allocated an additional R4,3 billion over the medium term, to protect the Education Department, to protect the Education Department against budget cuts, drastic budget cuts imposed by National Government.

Now the hon Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore, on this question is the opposite of Hamlet. No words – no words – no words to condemn National Government who have imposed such drastic budget cuts on Education, which is compromising education outcomes in the Western Cape.

On the question of the third wave, of course a third wave could have been averted or at least significantly contained if National Government was effectively rolling out mass vaccinations, but of course the opposite is true, because National Government have botched vaccine procurement, and the hon member asks what we are doing. Well, we are attempting – as a Province – to procure vaccines, and again the hon Leader of the Opposition is the opposite of Hamlet, no words – no words – no words to condemn National Government who have botched the Vaccination Rollout Programme in South Africa, which has cost lives and has cost livelihoods across South Africa.

We have, Deputy Speaker, in the end, caused additional funds to be allocated where they are required, and to where they could immediately... [audio connection lost.] ...to defeat the second wave and indeed we have sufficient funds to jumpstart the vaccine rollout in the Western Cape, which in the end

is saving lives and saving livelihoods in the Western Cape. Not to have done so would have been – to use the words of the hon Brett Herron – reckless, uncaring and a disgrace, because it would have cost lives and cost livelihoods in the Western Cape. I thank you. [Interjection.] [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That brings us to the end of list of speakers. That concludes the debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the approval of the Principle of the Bill?

HON MEMBERS: No.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections? Agreed to.

An HON MEMBER: Objection. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, alright, if objection, we will

proceed. Give me a second. I am going to call those in favour of the question being adopted, please say “yes.”

HON MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the Bill being approved, please say “no.”

HON MEMBERS: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The ayes have it. The question is approved. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill, (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 3–2021].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. The Secretary will now read the second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Votes and Schedule – Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 3–2021]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. As we consider the votes, parties are entitled to make declarations for no longer than three minutes per vote. I now put the Vote 1, Premier. Are there any declarations?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The African National Congress rejects the Adjustment Budget for Vote 1. The Adjustment Budget cuts nearly R4,5 million from the budget of the Department of the Premier. While the ANC is appreciative that the majority of this amount comes from goods and services and only a smaller amount comes from compensation of employees, we do believe that much more could have been cut from this Department and allocated to more frontline departments such as Education and Social Development.

We are currently dealing with the worst global pandemic in a generation and must be able to prioritise services such as education and social development.

By the way, Deputy Speaker, this province has received a much greater share from the National in terms of the provincial equitable share, but its failure has been to reprioritise that equitable share to Education and Health in particular.

This Provincial Government therefore rather chooses to cut on Education and Social Development than on its fancy Centre for e-Innovation. A mere R700 000 is cut from the Centre for e-Innovation and we believe that that is not enough. We remain unconvinced that the people of our province are

getting true value for money from the centre, at this particular stage of the pandemic.

Again, while we are appreciative that no cost-of-employee cuts have gone to the People Management Programme, but we do state that the cuts could have been made to Programme 1, which is administration, and Programme 4, which is the Centre for e-Innovation. Therefore, Deputy Speaker, the ANC does not support this Adjustment Budget for Vote 1. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise, and we note the objection from the ANC. I now recognise the DA.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: [Audio distorted.] Thank you, hon, Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the Democratic Alliance we welcome the Third Adjustment Budget of the Department of the Premier. This Department, like governments and departments across the board, had to make some tough decisions due to the hard lockdown imposed by National Government and to ensure the Department is operating effectively and efficiently, as always. Throughout this lockdown the Department of the Premier provided transversal services, operated an effective Call Centre and demonstrated why they are the best Department of the Premier in the country, without a doubt.

The Department of the Premier led the way in Government communication [Inaudible.] and they have done extremely well, hon Deputy Speaker. Today we all know #MaskUpWesternCape, #WearAMask, #StaySafe, #StayHealthy

and #StopTheSpread, and all this is due to the effective communication from the Department of the Premier and its partners [Inaudible.] In this way the Department of the Premier supported our efforts, all of us, members, to effectively and clear factual information to all our millions of residents to make well informed decisions.

Deputy Speaker, throughout this period our Children's Commissioner has worked extensively [Inaudible.] in the province to promote the wellbeing for our next generation. Our office is now almost completely capacitated and fully functioning and the funds have been reprioritised to further bolster our office in the next financial year. We are grateful to the Department of the Premier that allocated more bodies to assist the Children's Commissioner forthwith. This is good governance, hon Deputy Speaker.

Despite the global pandemic this Department is entirely capable and innovative so that we all can get the job done. We want to thank the Premier, the Head of Department, Dr Malila, the top management and all the staff and the Department of the Premier to ensure that we all stay safe. As the Democratic Alliance we welcome and support this Adjustment Budget. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I do not see the EFF. Any declarations from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: No, Deputy Speaker. [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Freedom Front Plus, I do not see. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any objections to Vote 1?
[Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, thank you and, as I mentioned, we will note the objections from the ANC. I now put Vote 3, Provincial Treasury. I am going to start with the ANC and I will end with the DA, so please be patient. ANC, any declarations from you?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Yes, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise you.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ANC declines support

for this Adjustment Budget Vote 3. While we acknowledge the over R70 million cuts made to the Provincial Treasury and over R10 million thereof [inaudible – connection lost.] ...as budget to the Department. The Provincial Treasury has surrendered R17,3 million to the PRF due to COVID-19 impacts and tightened expenditure control.

In an environment of the global pandemic that has been scientifically proven and the failed economies of South Africa and the Western Cape, we are alive as ANC to the reality of budget cuts compared to the DA that always uses this as an excuse to peddle lies and actually do a very foolish competition with National Government. What is our concern with the budget cuts will always be what are the justifiable reasons behind the cuts and also where have the cuts been made? So in that regard what we are calling for in this particular budget is the delayed procurement of technical support, the panel for municipalities, in a period where municipalities are a lifeline [Inaudible – connection lost.] ... and pressures of the effect of the pandemic. Are these cuts justifiable, we ask, and we remain with the ailing capacity that will contribute to further fiscal leakages? Again, what are the savings due to efficiencies in the production of MERO and PERO as surely we have seen how this report is exposing glaring inequalities in the regional and local economies that discussions at these levels are sometimes hiding? We would hope that these cuts are not going to weaken the work of the MERO and PERO. Whilst we appreciate the announcement on work on the fiscal future, we remain concerned. That should include current fiscal [Inaudible – connection lost.] underspending on conditional grants and also in a limited

financial resource environment, if the budget cuts impact on the cost of delivering services to the vulnerable. We are also encouraged by what the Fiscal Commission has advised all governments, creating a sustainable fiscal path, it should not [Inaudible – connection lost.] progression of the socio-economic conditions of South African citizens and for that reason we do not support this vote. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I note the objection from the ANC. GOOD, any declarations?

Mr B N HERRON: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No? ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and Al Jama-ah? No?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the DA.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Are you able to hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you clearly. You may proceed.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I would like to commence with welcoming the work of Provincial Treasury. In an unprecedented manner this past year the Minister of Finance has due to the global impact of COVID-19 tabled five budgets before us as well as the PERO and the MERO. There is a R17,3 million reduction in this Vote to the Provincial Treasury, of which almost R11 million includes savings on items such as travel and subsistence and efficiencies when producing the MERO and PERO. More than R2 million was also saved by consolidation during the grant review process.

Deputy Speaker, if you budget R5,00 for apples and the market says actually the apples cost R4,00, you then have R1,00 savings. Also, Deputy Speaker, if previously you needed apples, but now because of digital transformation you can have online digital apples, then you are also going to have savings in your budget.

Deputy Speaker, there was also a Financial Recovery Services Grant of almost R3 million which could not be transferred to Kannaland Local Municipality – the only eligible municipality – because they were disputing the validity of the provincial intervention and in a recent Court judgment between the Province and Kannaland Municipality the Court found that the

municipality had “committed itself to a path of unlawfulness”, by seeking to accept the 25-year R735 million in Inovasure... [Connection lost.]
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, can I ask you to just switch your video off and speak, so that we do not lose you.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: R735 million Inovasure... [Inaudible – connection lost.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, can I ask, can you hear us? Can I ask that you speak without your video so that we can try and get a better sound? If you can just finish that, where you have just ended now?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: [No audible reply.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have lost you, hon Baartman, I seem to have lost you – are you there?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: ...a problem, Deputy Speaker. Well, where did you lose me and then I will start from there?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes please.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I am here, Deputy Speaker. I am leaving my video

off.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Deputy Speaker, are you able to hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you, you may proceed.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I will then continue at the Financial Recovery Services Grant. Deputy Speaker, this particular grant of almost R3 million which could not be transferred to Kannaland local municipality, the only eligible municipality, because they were disputing the validity of the provincial intervention... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Baartman?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Yes, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just hold on please. I see there has been a hand up. Hon Smith, do you have a point of order?

Mr D SMITH: Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you.

Mr D SMITH: You know, my hand has been up for a while now, Deputy Speaker. I just wanted to call a point of order because I lost this member at the R5,00 example of the apples and so on, so if we – I could not really hear what she was saying after that, so can she go back? I am raising it as a point of order, Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Shall we let her proceed to? My apologies, hon Smith, but I will ask hon Baartman to start again from when I asked her to switch her video off. If we can, just stop the clock, please. Over to hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. With pleasure, I will repeat myself. When I have R5,00 for apples and the market says actually the apples cost R4,00 then naturally you are going to save R1,00.

Also, if previously you needed actual apples but now because of digital transformation you can have online digital apples, then you are also going to have savings. Further, Deputy Speaker, there was a Financial Recovery Services Grant of almost R3 million which could not be transferred to Kannaland local municipality, the only eligible municipality, because they are disputing the validity of the provincial intervention. In a recent Court judgment between the Province and the municipality the Court found that the municipality had “committed itself to a path of unlawfulness” by seeking to accept the 25-year R735 million Inovasure unsolicited bid while under administration by the Province. Kannaland has now been ordered to desist

from signing the deal and from appointing six new political staff. In totality the Judge described the Council's action as "a recipe for chaos".

Deputy Speaker, we thus need to congratulate Provincial Treasury for consistently ensuring the grants of local governments are only disbursed once the respective conditions of such grants have been signed. The Western Cape is not a government of bailouts. No conditions, no grant! The DA supports this vote. Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Hon members, before we proceed, may I remind you, it is your responsibility to make sure you have adequate sound quality. If you feel at any time you are at risk, please switch off your videos so that we are not compromised in terms of time to try and get our members to be able to hear you. So, I note the objections from the ANC; any further objections to Vote 3?

HON MEMBERS: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No? Thank you very much. We now move on. I now put Vote 5, Education. I recognise the ANC. Are there any declarations? Yes, there are, coming from the Chambers. Thank you very much, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

As the ANC we want to say that frontline services departments are usually protected at the Provincial Government level from budget cuts. This is because departments such as Health and Education are citizen-centric parts of delivering public services daily to our people. Whilst we most certainly sympathise with Provincial Government around the broader budget cuts and we raised our issues inside, where we have the forum to do so, but we need to also ensure that there is responsibility taken at the provincial level.

In the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill for the year 2020/21 the DA's backward and regressive approach to Education is exposed. The reduction of R350 million from the budget of Education which has been surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund needs to be rejected and condemned with the contempt that it deserves. 400 pupils under Forest Village learning under a tree, close on to 900 pupils in Rosenthal College, a Department of Higher Education facility, still waiting to be recognised as learners – that is unacceptable. The budget cuts come at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the need for us to address the glaring and widespread inequalities in education. Many schools in poor and working-class communities are overcrowded and experiencing high levels of teacher shortages. Instead of spending money on building new schools, additional classrooms and employing additional teachers as a way to address the persistent challenge of over 6 000 unplaced learners in the province, the MEC has opted to surrender R350 million to the Provincial Revenue Fund. This is treated as political petty cash that is used to advance the DA's federalism by funding parallel projects aimed at undermining National Government, such as

the failed so-called Safety Plan and the Western Cape COVID-19 vaccine procurement. No details to date have been presented to this House on these projects.

We should not forget that while the Education MEC surrendered R350 million there is no clarity on whether her Department will continue with the project to build security fences in the 30 schools each year for five years, as was promised by the hon Premier in 2020 in his State of the Province Address, a promise which we welcomed and which we commended the Premier on, and we hope that the Premier picks up on that and reminds the MEC that he made that promise and that she must not make it difficult for him to actually execute that, and the ANC therefore unequivocally rejects the Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill for Education.

I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now recognise, any declarations from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: Yes, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, we cannot support this Vote. We cannot support the surrender of R350 million while children are denied access to schools and some children are denied access to being taught in their mother tongue. Thank you.

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

the ACDP. Any declarations from you?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Democratic Alliance?

Ms L J BOTHA: Yes, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you, you may proceed.

Ms L J BOTHA: The decrease of the R350 million in Vote 5 is hard to digest. It is a direct impact of the ANC Government failure. Although we support the cut to the public wage bill, we must buffer a frontline department such as Education. Had National Government upheld its basic right and promise of education equality, we would not be stuck between this rock and a hard place. Deputy Speaker, Vote 5 endured a huge cut to our infrastructure grant in the Second Adjustments Budget. I want to commend Provincial Treasury for mitigating the impact that this cut in this budget has had with the Third Adjusted Appropriation. Our cuts could have been much higher.

Deputy Speaker, I am stressing that the National Government is placing

strain on the Western Cape Education's mission of quality education to every learner in every classroom in every school in this province. We have unplaced learners as we speak in this province, Deputy Speaker. This is because learners are migrating to this province for a better chance at their education.

We would love to build more schools, increase staff and equip classrooms like only the Provincial Education Department can. The R350 million cut under the Third Adjustment is accommodating national failures.

In their favouritism to party allies over good and responsible governance, Provincial Treasury had to come up with a fix, as I have contributed earlier today.

Provincial Treasury has done their best and accordingly, hon Deputy Speaker, the DA supports the Third Adjusted Appropriation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I note the objections of the ANC and the GOOD party. We will move over to the next Vote, thank you very much. One minute. Hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, can I just suggest? We have been getting quite a few messages from our members ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... that they are experiencing technical problems. Can we just suggest that maybe if we could just break for a few short minutes just to make sure that some of those problems are sorted out so that all members can participate and listen properly? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I ask – would you want a few minutes? Okay, we can proceed. We will proceed and the technical staff will deal with the technical problems specifically with those members, thank you very much to our technical staff.

I will move over to Vote 6: Health. Are there any declarations from the ANC?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, there is a fine distinction between utopia and dystopia. The DA regime in the Western Cape qualifies as one of the many examples of dystopias.

This Government spent over R116 million on Health in the Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill, yet none of this has gone towards the

improvement of the state of our public healthcare systems. The funds are earmarked for transfers to NPOs for self-isolation, quarantine sites in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as funds required for spending on COVID-19 activities related to staff and facilities.

Many hospitals, especially in rural areas, are suffering serious staff shortages. Instead of addressing these challenges, millions are spent on employing temporary agency personnel at exorbitant rates, when this could have been spent on employing permanent healthcare personnel to address service pressure in clinics and district hospitals. This is the reason why the ANC is not in support of the Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill.

The Western Cape testing strategy remains a problem as many people under 55 years are not allowed to test, which means they may not use isolation and quarantine facilities.

In a reply to my question on 5 March 2020 the MEC disclosed that her Department did not know the number of agri workers that have been infected by the virus. The Department also does not have a record of the details of farms where COVID-19 cases occurred. How then is this budget used to contain the spread of COVID-19 in farms?

In another reply the MEC disclosed that due to emergency medical service shortcomings the Department was forced to spend R28,9 million from its COVID-19-related budget to transport 21,500 patients. The MEC further

confirmed that this expenditure negatively impacted upon the existing operational budget.

The ANC demands that the Provincial Government stop wasting money on quick fixes and invest in long-lasting solutions to improve the public healthcare. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. GOOD, are you doing any declarations?

Mr B N HERRON: No, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Nothing, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The Democratic Alliance?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, during the deliberations on the Third Adjusted Estimates to Provincial Revenue and Expenditure 2020, Budget Vote 6, the unprecedented times were once again evident as we conclude the Third Adjustment Appropriation just two weeks before a financial year end. We nonetheless welcome upward adjustment of R160 million to spend.

Hon Deputy Speaker, during this unusual time the Western Cape Health Department managed to maintain a comprehensive and extensive healthcare service and their response to healthcare was indeed praiseworthy. During an extremely unsettling period the Western Cape Health Department still managed to obtain a clean audit report and that is commendable.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Third Adjusted Amount of R160 million were allocated as follows:

- Under Programme 2 – District Health Services received an amount of R104 million. These facilities truly felt the burden of the second wave of infections.
- Along with R12 million under Programme 4 allocated to Provincial Hospitals.

Hon Deputy Speaker, economic classification and current payments were

as follows:

- We are acutely aware of staff pressures and the fear they share as patient numbers increase and though no amount would suffice to this battle, we welcome additions to staff compensation and mental health wellbeing, especially during December and January.

Hon Deputy Speaker, during these trying times the Western Cape Health Department kept afloat in ensuring that the necessary healthcare services as well as COVID-19 response are structured and maintained. Foresight, responsiveness, agility and excellence have become the adjectives for the Provincial Department of Health.

Hon Deputy Speaker, nowhere in South Africa did we see the world-class response like in the Western Cape. This speaks to a committed and a dedicated team that could adjust and execute a world-class response in an unusual year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports the Vote without hesitation, and I call upon this House to support Vote 6. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I note the objections from the ANC. Are there any further objections to Vote 6?

Mr P J MARAIS: No.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Okay, noted, thank you very much. I now put Vote 7: Social Development. Are there any declarations from the ANC?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. It is both shocking and disappointing that the Provincial Government reduced the budget for Social Development. This means the Provincial Government has failed to protect the frontline service departments from budget cuts. For this reason the ANC is not in support of the Third Adjustment Appropriation Bill.

Over R3,2 million to provide integrated development, social crime prevention and anti-substance abuse services to the most vulnerable.

The decreased budget comes against the backdrop of increased demands for service that have been presented by increased household hunger. That has been heightened by job losses and unemployment growth. The Province needed to address the looming crisis of food insecurity in the province as more and more families are unable to provide for themselves. Providing hot meals and food parcels will not provide a sustainable solution to the challenge.

Moreover, the rapid population growth, unemployment and increased numbers of non-searching unemployment youth add to the pressure of social pathologies, such as gangsterism, drug and substance abuse.

The Department should have availed more funds for the provision of skills, training and personal development. Instead, what we have seen is millions been surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund.

During a time when cases of GBV and femicide and children murders are on the increase in the Western Cape as shown by increased GBV statistics during the hard lockdown, the Government chose to cut the budget for the Department. Over 10 months have passed since the National Government handed over six shelters to the Western Cape, yet none of them are operational to this day. Yet the Department is cutting down its expenditure for Social Development. Which sensible government would choose to take money away from Social Development to fund a DA federalism project, while underfunding service delivery to the people? Why not take money from the Provincial Revenue Fund to address all these challenges? I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, I know there has been quite a lot of concerns and complaints about sound. Please let me remind you, if you choose to be virtually present in this sitting, then it is your responsibility to make sure you have good sound. We have not had unnecessary sound problems from the

Chamber, so our video systems are working well. I am attributing the problems to your own connectivity. So please be mindful of that. Thank you very much.

I now move over to GOOD, are there any declarations from you?

Mr B N HERRON: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted. The Democratic Alliance?

MR G BOSMAN: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, you may proceed.

MR G BOSMAN:: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Democratic Alliance supports this Vote.

As the lead Department in the humanitarian response to COVID-19, the Western Cape Provincial Department of Social Development has the legislative mandate to protect the well-being of citizens in this province, but they have also taken on responsibilities from other Government departments and spheres nationally, but true to form this Department has worked hard to plug the massive gaping holes in the National social security net, a giant hole left by the incompetence and sheer lack of compassion shown by the political elite in Pretoria.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as we adjust budgets for the third time during this dark year, we are completely gobsmacked that the South African Social Security Agency allowed more than 200,000 temporary disability grants to lapse countrywide, the highest number being in the Western Cape. It is an utter disgrace that when help was offered by the City of Cape Town, SASSA decided to blame the City for lack of venues when SASSA failed to use those venues due to their lack of systems, lack of consequence management and the general lack of planning by the CEO and the National Minister.

This agency tasked with helping the most vulnerable could not even respond to our Standing Committee on time, or with a clear and implementable plan for how they are going to be progressing in processing the more than 31,000 outstanding temporary disability grants by 31 March.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as this Adjustment Budget can testify, the Western

Cape Government, through the Department of Social Development, has stepped in to provide relief and continuity of services. Through good planning, innovation and the will to help the most vulnerable this Adjustment Budget outlines two changes: funds that had to be adjusted to follow restorative services, and due to the COVID regulations, some funds have to be surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund because the Department could not complete the arduous Human Resource Recruitment Programme as set out in Public Service Regulations.

The budget makes provisions for R6,5 million towards empowering victims of abuse and violence; six new shelters are being opened across the province and more R103 million has been added towards dealing with the growing substance abuse problem. It focuses on prevention and rehabilitation.

A massive increase in the amount for food relief is also given. There are shadows on the Opposition benches attempting to deflect from the humanitarian crisis we face as a result of the SASSA backlog in grants. It must be borne in mind that SASSA, under National Government, is the lead agency charged with providing social support to the most vulnerable, but the Minister is more preoccupied with grandstanding and standing by whilst the most vulnerable residents are being water-bombed in Bellville.

In terms of gender-based violence shelters, these shadows are trying to mislead the public when they conveniently forget to mention that when the Provincial Government fulfilled its side of the contract, it was the National

Department of Public Works and Infrastructure that delayed the opening of shelters and it is that Department's responsibility to finalise refurbishments, but yet the Western Cape Government now has the most shelters in the province, 26, and our Minister is opening one this week.

The Province is focusing on homelessness and food insecurity and this budget details that so clearly. The Western Cape Department of Social Development has continued to fund food security initiatives in this province and has given NGOs more money to support food kitchens at a community level, while SASSA stands by.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

MR G BOSMAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports this vote. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Just to be clear, I cannot recall if the ANC stated that they are objecting. Can I have any objections?

Mr C M DUGMORE: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, coming from the Chamber that there is an objection from the ANC. Any further objections on Social Development Vote 7? No? Thank you ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... your objection is noted. I now put Vote 8: Human Settlements. I recognise – any declarations from the ANC? No? Alright, moving on. Any declarations from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Democratic Alliance?

MS M MASEKO: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, you may proceed.

MS M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. As the DA in the Western Cape, we welcome the increase in the budget of the Department

of Human Settlements of more than R220 million by the National Government. This is testament to the admission by National Human Settlements Minister, Lindiwe Sisulu, who acknowledges that this province performs best with the highest number of social housing projects in the country.

The Western Cape is serious about addressing the needs and the dignity of our residents and this money goes a long way in restoring dignity to residents affected by the recent fires in Masiphumelele, which destroyed more than 1,000 structures.

Of this increase, R150 million comes directly from the Human Settlements Development Grant surrendered to National Government by other provinces that have not been able to spend all the money allocated to them. The Western Cape has proven time and time again that it has the commitment and the capacity to leverage every cent for the most vulnerable residents of the Western Cape with the Provincial Department spending nearly all of its budget consistently.

We are grateful that all three spheres of government have come together to support the victims of the fires in Masiphumelele, which have affected more than 6,000 residents and the recent reports of arson attacks which have destroyed temporary housing opportunities are shocking. Every cent now spent on rebuilding these structures is another cent that is diverted away from other communities which desperately need homes. The community of

Masiphumelele must stand up to such thuggery and criminal activities. These are their homes, their community and they should be partnering with the Government in protecting them.

The DA supports the Third Adjusted Appropriation Bill. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Any objection to Vote 7, seeing we did not have any declarations?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Inaudible.] ANC, I recognise your objection. Any further? No? That is noted, thank you. Sorry, to Vote 8, may I please correct that for the record. It was Vote 8. I recognise the objections from the ANC.

I now move to put Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. Any declarations from the ANC?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, you may proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, members, I rise on behalf of the Congress Movement to express whether to support or not to support

this Vote.

Compared to an audited amount, over R624 million for this Department's total budget in the 2019/2020 financial year, this Third Adjustment Budget cuts only R1,8 million of the Department's budget. More should have been cut in order to help out Education and Social Development. Only R900,000 has been cut in goods and services in this Department. Much more could have been cut.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, over R4 million has been spent by this Department on advertising; a million on communication; half a million on catering for departmental activities and over R9 million was spent on consultants. Yet, of the mere R1,8 million to be cut, 38% will be cut to compensation of employees. If only more was cut on goods and services.

A failure of the DA to prioritise and refrain from cutting their budgets of frontline departments is evident of their inability to appreciate the moment. Frontline departments which include those at the coalface of service delivery, as well as those which must champion economic recovery.

A department such as this one, budgeted by Vote 9, plays an indirect role and therefore should not be considered frontline. In other words, this Department could do with a little more cuts.

Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC cannot support this Third

Adjustment Budget of Vote 9. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Any declarations from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: No thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take that as a no. The DA?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, there is a fast-growing ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, one minute. Hon member, one minute.

Apologies. Over to you, you may start again, please, thank you very much.

MR A VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon members, there is a fast-growing recognition that humankind must not only look at the present, but that we need to increasingly consider the effects of our actions on the future.

We have a responsibility towards our children's children and unlike the views of the ANC, we believe that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has a mammoth task in guiding our conduct in this regard.

We all know the important role that IT equipment plays in staff productivity. We also know that with the right equipment many public employees were able to work from home despite COVID-19 regulations. Questions were therefore raised in the Standing Committee about an amount of R200,000 for IT equipment that has been cut from this budget. The Standing Committee was informed that in terms of the State Information and Technology Act, departments are required to procure IT equipment via contract of the State Information and Technology Agency, also known as SITA.

SITA entered into a transversal contract for IT equipment in 2016. That contract was to expire long ago, but was extended from February 2020 till January 2021, and now it has been re-extended from February 2021 until end of April this year.

It is clear that SITA, which has a terrible history of instability and poor service delivery since its establishment in 1999, is dragging its feet to procure new service providers for IT equipment. Hon members, can you imagine any other entity having to procure IT equipment in terms of a tender dating back as far as 2016?

The Adjustment of Vote 9 in the Third Adjustment Budget is supported, I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I note the objections from the ANC. Any further objections? No? Right, agreed to, thank you very much.

I now put Vote 10: Transport and Public Works. Any declarations from the ANC?

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, you may proceed.

MR L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress.

While this Department has attempted to do its part fighting COVID-19 by providing venues for isolation and organising some taxis as part of the Blue

Dot and the Red Dot programme, the reality is that in essence it looks like it has just been business as usual in the Department.

The programme the Department has engaged in since the outbreak of COVID-19 has simply been cosmetic and therefore the ANC rejects the adjustment to this Budget Vote. The cut should have been deeper so as to allocate more money to Education and Social Development.

After an audited amount of a total budget of over R8 billion in 2019/2020, the R16 million cut to the Department is a small portion in comparison. In fact, R16 million is cut solely from goods and services, which means that the Department could have probably done without these in the first place.

It is also intriguing that the entire R16 million will simply come from Transport Infrastructure and no cuts from Public Works, but even in the quarantine and isolation facilities budget cuts are being made because the funds were in all likelihood not going to be spent in any case.

There is an increase in allocation of COVID-19 transport and we welcome this, but we must question whether this Adjustment Vote realises that there is a third wave coming. It is as if the Department is not planning for a third wave. Cutting budget to COVID-19 facilities instead of cutting budget in other areas such as payments of consultants and professional services, as well as business and advisory services.

This Budget Vote displays the head in the sand approach this Third Adjustment Budget has. The ANC rejects the Adjustment Budget Vote 10. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Declaration from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: No thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take that as a no. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: [No audible response.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, and DA?

MR D MITCHELL: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

MR D MITCHELL: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, Members of Parliament. Hon Deputy Speaker, today I rise in support of the Third Adjustment Estimates for 2020/21 for Vote 10 on behalf

of the Democratic Alliance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Transport and Public Works aims to tirelessly pursue the delivery of infrastructure and transport services that is inclusive, safe and technologically relevant. In doing so it seeks to yield, skill, integrate, connect, link and empower every citizen in the Western Cape. This service delivery is driven by passion and steadfast ethical commitment to the environment, which places people as the cornerstone.

Hon Deputy Speaker, with that being said, one would hope that leaders and governments would step up to the plate during a crisis and do what is right for the people whom they serve. Government should lead by example and can only do so by making decisions which are ultimately to benefit the citizens and so during the period of this adjustment, we saw this Department stepping in to fill the gaps left by National Government. It does so by supplementing PRASA and the restoration of train services to the province. The Department leads the way beyond its mandate by getting all role-players together to continuously resolve transport concerns of which National Government is in fact the lead agency. We do, however, need national counterparts to join us at the table and give real meaning when it comes to getting trains back on track.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when looking at the adjustment estimate it is clear that the Department of Transport and Public Works did exactly that. R16,54 million was surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund to be reallocated to Vote 6: Health in order to support the Red Dot initiative. The

purpose of this initiative is to support the movement of nurses between the Brackengate facility and their homes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when one speaks about inspiring hope, you have to deliver on your promises and find innovative solutions, particularly in a time of pandemic. This is absolutely crucial as so many who selflessly and dutifully work to provide for their families require us, as public representatives, to fulfil our mandate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion a special word of thanks is owed to the Department under the leadership of Minister Madikizela and HOD Gooch. Their actions have inspired hope to the citizens of this province. The Democratic Alliance supports Vote 10 in the Third Adjustment Estimates 2020/21. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I note the objections from the ANC. Any further objections to this vote? No? Noted, thank you.

We now put Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism, for the ANC, any declarations from you? I see there is no declaration. GOOD party?

Mr B N HERRON: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there an objection?

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, who am I speaking to?

An HON MEMBER: I have just lost you at some stage, hon Deputy Speaker.
Which Vote are we dealing now with?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are doing Vote 12: Economic Development and
Tourism.

An HON MEMBER: Okay, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, I see the ACDP, any declarations?

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: No, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, noted, thank you. Al Jama-ah?

An HON MEMBER: Are we on Vote 12, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The Democratic Alliance? Who – yes, one minute ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: It is member Nkondlo.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... hon member [Inaudible.] is that hon member Nkondlo? Hon member Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that you?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you not hear your ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: No, when I was listening I thought you were concluding on Transport.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I will give you the opportunity before hon member Baartman [Inaudible.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: I cannot hear, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you the opportunity before hon member Baartman proceeds for you to do your declaration.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Are you giving me now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am. I am worried about your sound, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Okay, thank you, thank you. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can, you may proceed.

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

†Mnr F C CHRISTIANS: Patrick, maar hoekom het jy my nie teruggebel, ek sê jy moet die vergadering verlaat nie?

[Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Patrick, but why did you not phone me back, I said you must leave the meeting?]

†n AGB LID: Huh?

[An HON MEMBER: Huh?]

†Mnr F C CHRISTIANS: O, jy het agterna gesien.

[Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Oh, you saw afterwards.]

†n AGB LID: [Lag.]

[An HON MEMBER: [Laughs.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please, please, please, put your mics on mute. I do not want to listen to any telephone conversations we are not supposed to hear.

An HON MEMBER: It seems like ACDP's.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, you may proceed.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ANC does not support this Adjustment Budget Vote to Vote 12.

In the face of a global pandemic that has given a serious blow to the global economy and which has left our own national economy reeling, it makes no sense that a cut to this budget targets programmes which support SMME developing initiatives which form part of the emerging themes and job creation stimulus.

The same could be said for the cut in transfer to Clotex given that our clothing and textile industry is one of the most critical ones here in the

Western Cape.

To call this budget a budget for hope is hoax and a complete blue lie. In this provincial economy informal traders and hawkers have been subjected to DA blue draconian and inhumane treatment known by many working class and poor, such as homeless people, landless communities and farmworkers. Law enforcement under the DA Safety Plan is used to forcefully remove and displace informal traders in spaces the municipalities, such as the DA blue-eyed City of Cape Town, decides unilaterally.

Mr Khamar, whose family has run for about 43 years a fruit and vegetable stall in front of Goodwood Mall, is being forcefully removed and threatened for his stock to be impounded to an area where his business may be left to die. Informal traders' rights are human rights. This is true of the situation of informal traders in Parow that were moved out of trading from Parow Mall to the back in the station road, where there are no proper ablution facilities, worse for women, let alone poor and debilitating physical infrastructure of markets in the Cape Flats. Go to Bishop Lavis, go to Nonqubela in Site C to see a DA-segregated economic development and infrastructure programme versus the renowned markets in the City. †Nijongiwe [You are being watched.] who your infrastructure growth is for and those not in your plans. This is typical DA double-talk and as the ANC we cannot support this vote. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you, hon member Nkondlo. Now over

to hon member Baartman. Declaration for the DA.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Jô, hon Deputy Speaker, I am a little bit shook up because in Committee both the Economic Development and the Budget Committee the ANC supported this particular vote. The only party that did not support it was the EFF, but I will speak on the DA's front on this particular vote.

In the Green Economy sub-programme there was a savings of R2 million due to the estimating of a value of a bid higher than expected and thus realising a savings on this front.

Further in the sector development sub-programme, R3,3 million savings was declared as the process for the economic recovery strategy and immediate interventions were coming to an end, and these funds were also budgeted for a higher amount than expected.

On the tourism front there were savings due to the decrease in receiving international tourists to the province and in total this amount aggregated savings in the 2020/2021 financial year of R7,7 million. In these trying times, hon Deputy Speaker, we must ensure that we stretch every rand as far as possible and realise as much savings as operationally possible in order to replenish the provincial reserves over the next few years. In particular we had to use R2,7 billion in the 2021 financial year in order to bolster the deficit to the total budget and, hon Deputy Speaker, the DA supports this

vote.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. So, I note the objections from the ANC. Any further objections for noting? I take that as no, thank you very much.

We will move now over to Vote 13: Cultural Affairs and Sport. Any declarations from the ANC?

Ms A BANS: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Ms A BANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC will not support the Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill as it fails to respond to the plight of artists and athletes who suffered a great loss during their livelihoods in this pandemic. The R19,6 million that has been cut from the budget could have gone a long way to assist these athletes and artists. Our appeal to the Department is to consider the plight of these people. There remains a greater need for continued support for them. There remain many challenges facing our libraries especially in the rural areas, yet the budget for library and archives is reduced.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the R10,9 million budget cut to the Sport and Recreation programme is totally unacceptable. The problem is it is already

underfunded and cannot afford more budget cuts. While it is understandable that during the hard lockdown there were no sporting activities, we feel like these funds could have been rolled out or reallocated to upgrade more stadiums in the Cape Flats and rural regions to be SASREA compliant.

The Department has spent millions on the case study for sport. It is concerning that the Government is slow in addressing findings and implementing its resolution. This Department should play a central role promoting social cohesion and national unity. It should play a key role in promoting and enhancing our cultural diversity in the province. The arts and culture organisations are instrumental in achieving this, yet millions from budget of Cultural Affairs programmes has been cut, including earmarked allocations to sport and culture organisations.

It is incorrect for the DA regime to continue surrendering millions to the Provincial Revenue Fund which it only uses in pursuit of the DA favouritism. The millions surrendered could have gone a long way in addressing the abovementioned challenges. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I trust the ICT will just look at what is on the screen there. Any declarations from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: No thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I hear someone's microphone is on, please check that. Any declarations from the Democratic Alliance?

Mr R ALLEN: Good afternoon, good morning, yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you, you may proceed, hon member.

Mr R ALLEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, during the deliberations on the Third Adjusted Estimates Budget Vote 13, Minister Anroux Marais reflected on a comment made during the introduction of the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook 2020, and I quote:

“The year 2020 will be remembered as the ‘Great Lockdown’.”

This brought about a standstill; it was devastating for the arts, culture and sport sector and still is, but as we navigate to and through what is deemed as the “new normal”, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport remains committed to working with all partners and stakeholders to ensure that the

impact of COVID-19 pandemic on affected events and programmes are minimised to create sustainability across the sector.

Whilst considering Budget Vote 13 it is clear that the Department has its aims towards excellence and inclusivity in sport and culture by creating the conditions for access and mass participation, talent identification and skills development. The Department strives to bring people together, hon Deputy Speaker, that foster social cohesion and inclusion. However, the pandemic kept us physically apart. Sectors within the arts, sports and culture space were brought to a grinding standstill since the beginning of lockdown and it continues throughout the current period, which has impacted the Department on spending its budget, with specific reference to the Third Adjustment.

The Department surrendered an amount of R19,62 million of which, hon Deputy Speaker, R13,504 million was approved for reallocation in the 2021/2022 financial year. The remaining difference of the full amount surrendered relates to R3,4 million on compensation of employees as posts could not be filled due to the pandemic. Also, over R2 million on goods and services as events were either postponed or completely cancelled, and the cost were earmarked for advertising, venue hire and catering.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the R13,504 million approved for reallocation in the coming financial year relates to the Broadband Library Connection as the installation was impacted by the lockdown. Furthermore, R4 million going toward the Philippi Stadium, which was also halted by the lockdown, as well

as the Minstrel event which has also been affected due to the lockdown, but, hon Deputy Speaker, the Department, despite the many challenges created by the diminished budgets and continued due to lockdown restrictions, found ways to support the sector during an extremely difficult time.

The Department provided COVID-19 relief funding valued to R4,7 million to 715 arts, cultural and heritage application, and R1 million to 46 sports federations; 39 coaches; 11 technical officials and 24 athletes who successfully applied, and the National Government would do well if they follow in the footsteps of the Western Cape Government by assisting the sector.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, I call upon this House to support Vote 13.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I note the objections from the ANC. Are there any further objections to this Vote? No? I take it as not. Thank you.

I now put Vote 14: Local Government. Any declarations from the African National Congress?

MR D SMITH: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

MR D SMITH: Hon Deputy, the ANC does not support the Adjustment Budget of Vote 14. Again, while we regret the cuts to budgets, we do not believe that enough was cut from this budget and even the way the cuts were made, it left much to be desired and concern.

R13 million is a drop in the ocean for a department that had an audited figure of over R313 million in the last financial year, but even so R10 million of the R13 million in cuts will be cuts to Goods and Services. In other words, cutting away some of the unnecessary fat in the Department. Only R1,8 million of Goods and Services in the administration of the Department was cut. More should have been cut in this programme.

While the ANC is concerned about the R1 million in both, the over R1 million in both Programmes 2 and 3 in respect of cuts, the cost of employees – again this is a very small figure compared to the R172 million spent on cost of employees in the last financial year. However, we also hope that the Goods and Services cuts to Programmes 2 and 3 will also see a cut in consultants and professional services, business and advisory services. The ANC therefore cannot support the Adjustments Budget of Vote 14. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Any declarations from GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: No thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The Democratic Alliance?

Mr D AMERICA: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr D AMERICA: Hon Deputy Speaker, this Third Adjustment Budget required the Department to surrender R13,581 million and this was largely offset by savings in various programmes, but despite this reduction of its budget, the Department continues to achieve, and in some instances exceeded its targets. The only target it was unable to achieve was the number of Thusong Centre visits. This was mainly due to the continued lockdown regulations.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Department has played a pivotal role in supporting the Western Cape's response to the COVID pandemic. This was done with distinction. So therefore, my heartfelt thanks goes out to the Minister for his

decisive leadership and ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Votes and Schedule – Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 3–2021]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Finalisation of the Western Cape Third Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2020/21 Financial Year) [B 3–2021]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the fourth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of principle of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 4–2021] (Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Ten days ago we tabled a Budget for Hope, which is a budget that provides hope because it supports job creation, because it builds safer communities, because it delivers well-being in the Western Cape. In the end the budget provides hope because it supports our plans to defeat Covid-19, which is destroying lives

and destroying livelihoods in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, when the Minister of Finance, Mr Tito Mboweni, tabled the Main Budget he warned that because National Government owes a lot of money to a lot of people, our public finances are dangerously overstretched. We have a staggering national debt which is expected to increase in the medium term from R4,3 trillion in 2021/22 to R5,2 trillion in 2023/24, and we have staggering, staggering debts service costs which are expected to increase over the medium term from R269,7 billion in 2021/22 to R338,6 billion in 2023/24.

To make matters worse, we must not forget that national debt does not include the R692,9 billion in debt owed by State-owned Enterprises or the R66,94 billion in debt owed by municipalities across South Africa. We will be spending R338,6 billion on debt service costs in three years' time, which is R66,25 billion more than we will spend on basic education this year in South Africa.

Deputy Speaker, stop and think about this for a moment. We will be spending R338,6 billion on debt service costs in three years' time which is R66,25 billion more than we will spend on basic education this year in South Africa. The fact is that because of National Government's mismanagement of our economy, mismanagement of our public finances, and mismanagement of our State-owned Enterprises, we are drowning in red ink in South Africa, which means that to balance the books, significant spending cuts have been

imposed by National Government. Spending on basic education over the medium term will increase by 1,6%, which of course amounts to a real decrease in spending, given that prices are increasing in the education sector at about 7,5%.

Spending on health over the medium term will decrease by 0,3% and spending on social protection over the medium term will decrease by 2,1% in South Africa. The fact is that National Government – listen carefully, National Government, not Provincial Government - have imposed cuts of 3,2% to the child support grant, 0,1% to the disability grant, and 10,9% to the foster care grant in South Africa.

The cost pressures continue to rise with an additional R4,3 billion required for higher education, and additional R7 billion required to bail out the Land Bank, and lurking in the deep, circling our public finances in search of a further R3,5 billion bailout is of course South African Airways. Which, Deputy Speaker, from time to time sneaks after business rescue to carry out irregular, unsafe and costly vanity flights because National Government will simply not let go of South African Airways.

We of course have not been spared, and so, to balance the books, National Government has imposed significant budget cuts on the provinces with the spending on the Provincial Equitable Share over the medium term, having been cut by R205 billion, and spending on conditional grants over the medium term having been cut by R10,9 billion in South Africa.

We know how Provincial Equitable Share has been cut to R20,7 billion over the medium term, and our conditional grant has been cut by R1,56 billion over the medium term in the Western Cape. Yes, yes, we have been allocated an additional R1,67 billion over the medium term as a result of data updates to the provincial equitable share, but the budget cuts of R20,7 to the Provincial Equitable Share far exceeds, far exceeds the R1,76 billion increase as a result of the data update to the Provincial Equitable Share. Which of course means a net decrease of about R19 billion to the Provincial Equitable Share over the medium term in the Western Cape.

And so we have been forced, we have been forced, leaning in to protect provincial departments from budget cuts imposed by National Government, allocating R125 million over the medium term to protect the baseline of Human Settlements, allocating an additional R5,05 million over the medium term to protect the baseline of Health; allocating an additional R4,33 billion over the medium term to protect the baseline of Education in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, we have despite these significant budget cuts imposed by National Government supported the Recovery Plan in the Western Cape. We will spend R17,08 billion over the medium term to boost economic growth and create jobs because people with jobs have hope. We will spend R2,35 billion over the medium term on improving safety, because people who are safe have hope. We will spend R115,96 billion on well-being over the medium term because people who feel empowered and who have a sense of

belonging, have hope. We will spend R29,09 billion on infrastructure which will boost economic growth and job creation, and we will spend R48,8 million over the medium term on municipal energy reserves and provide a further R20 million in the provincial reserves, which will enable municipalities to beat load shedding in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, we are of course concerned about people who have lost jobs, people who cannot make ends meet and people who are going hungry, and so we have allocated an additional R100 million for public employment programmes and for immediate food relief in the Western Cape. We will also of course attempt to access the R11 billion provisional allocation to the presidential Youth Employment Initiative to provide employment for young people in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, to balance the books we have been forced to draw down on our provincial reserves but we have made provision for unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure to the amount of R250 million in 2021/22, R350 million in 2022/23 and R432,8 million in 2023/24 in the Western Cape. We may not know the time, the location, the magnitude of the potential third wave in the Western Cape, but it may be, may be more severe than the second wave which itself consumed nearly a R1 billion, and for that reason we have ring-fenced R800 million in the provincial reserves to fight Covid-19.

We have done the responsible thing, ensured that we have the fiscal firepower necessary to save lives and save livelihoods in the Western Cape.

We have in the end tabled the Budget for Hope which supports our plan to defeat Covid-19, which I have said is destroying livelihoods in the Western Cape. We have mobilised; there is a R2,17 billion 'war chest' to defeat Covid-19 in the Western Cape. We have allocated R75 million for the procurement of vaccines.

I think we should pause here, because we have to face the fact that National Government have botched vaccine procurement. The Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, himself has conceded that National Government may not reach its target of vaccinating 40 million people by the end of 2021. So, the case for a provincial vaccine procurement is stronger than ever in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, we have also allocated R325,6 million for the rollout of vaccinations; R20 million for communication on vaccines; R832 million to respond to the possible third wave and we have ring-fenced as I have said, R800 million in the provincial reserves to defeat Covid-19 in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, despite the supply crunch, we have made a good start with the vaccine rollout:

38,669 health care workers have been vaccinated; 4,419 vaccinators have been registered and 2,303 vaccinators have completed their training.

12,760 single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses arrived on the weekend

and an additional vaccination site was opened this week at the Caledon Hospital, bringing the total vaccination sites to nine in the Western Cape.

However, in the end, we must vaccinate as many people as fast as possible, because in the end, with more jabs there will be more jobs in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, when the hon Maynier presented his Budget last week, he titled it 'A Budget of Hope'. I have quoted Václav Havel in this House before and I would like to use a quote of his again. Václav Havel said: "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

Hon Deputy Speaker, I use this quote by Havel on hope again precisely because it is very easy for us as leaders to try and mislead each other and give our people false hope. What is important in Havel's quote and the operative word is sense. It makes sense. Hope is making sense regardless of how things turn out and making sense is therefore what the ANC is interested in.

When we look at our conditions of our people today, conditions we had anticipated would direct the budget we are debating, then we need to make sense of these actual conditions. Yet when the DA tries to erase the past – and what I think we are facing in our province at the moment presents a major crisis – we are facing a denial of the past, a denial of race and these are in fact imbedded in the Constitution of our Republic that we need redress measures to particularly advance and in effect redress for those historically.

But you will never hear, in a speech of MEC Maynier, in a speech of the Premier, any reference to the injustices of the past or the issue of race. So, we are facing the formulation of budgets in the absence of any acknowledgement of the fact that race has impacted on the lives of our people, of gender and of class and also the fact that there is no acknowledgement. So, when you have this race denialism, when you have a denialism about the injustices of the past living on in particular communities, it no doubt does not make sense because it is not informed by a narrative which actually acknowledges these divisions in our province.

When the ANC in this Provincial Legislature tries to make sense of the budget and all the preceding plans, the programmes and adjustments, then what becomes clear to us is the DA thinking, in attempting to actually eradicate our history and therefore the lived reality of our people permeates through their governance and through this budget. The narrow philosophy of equal opportunities which denies that the playing fields are unequal and determined by race, gender and class, because of our history, speaks through

this budget.

When we look at a simple issue about those that have completed matric and their attempts to find jobs, the reality is that those matrics who have been classified as white, almost over 90% of those young people are finding work and then lesser figures for learners that have been classified previously as Coloured and as African. And when you then simply talk about a presidential Youth Programme but you do not acknowledge where the target actually needs to be in terms of that redress, race denialism actually deepens inequality and that is, I think, the crisis that we face because the Provincial Government, in its orientation and in its narrative, is actually denying the fundamental premise of the preamble to our Constitution which talks about the need to redress those because of past racial discriminatory practices.

So, race denialism, class denialism and gender denialism, all of these are the very antithesis of making sense, because we deny them, and that does not make sense of the conditions of the majority of people. How does one give hope to the majority of people of this province when you deny the fact, that for the majority, where they are born, where they live, how they live, where they go to school, in fact they cannot get into school, they will probably drop out or not find a job, that substance abuse is part of their family's life? Amongst so many other factors, all are determined by the history of this country, a history based on racism, classism and sexism.

So, the problem that we face as the Western Cape is that this DA-led

Provincial Government attempts to make sense of the land question and attempting to address it without wanting to go into issues of race, class and gender. Leave aside the issue of agricultural land in this province, where this very DA MEC Dr Ivan Meyer, said that they have no figures about land ownership of agricultural land in the province. He said 'If you want that, go to the Deeds Office'. So here we have an MEC who should be advancing agricultural land ownership for those that have not been allowed previously to actually own farms, saying we do not keep stats on that. And I think that this permeation of race denialism actually now impacts on the fact that the MEC who is supposed to oversee the transformation of the agricultural sector says 'We do not keep figures of that'. That is the most direct admission of race denialism and that is going to impact obviously on the budget priorities.

When we look at urban land, the reality of our Western Cape, in terms of urban land ownership, is that historically classified White South Africans own 70% of such urban land; Coloured South Africans own only 10,7%; Indians 8% and Africans 3,5% This is stark contrast to the demographics of our province as per Census 2011 which are that the Coloured community constituted 48,8%; African community 32%; Indian 1% and White 15%.

So, when you have urban land ownership as skewed as this, but you have a refusal by the MEC or the Premier to talk about these things, clearly then the budgets that we are discussing in this House are not going to address those fundamental issues. We, as the ANC, are a non-racial organisation, we believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white but if

we are going to deny the impact that lives with us today, of this history, it is clearly going to mean that we have budgets which do not address these issues. When the ANC insists that the law must be obeyed and that the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Act must be implemented, even here in the Western Cape, senior leaders of the DA scoff at this idea while others are quickly instructed to submit their departmental reports to the Commission.

The reality is, Deputy Speaker, to the Premier, that this Provincial Government was not up to date with its reports. It is only when member Nkondlo wrote to the BEE Commission and they then said that yes, Western Cape departments have not complied, that the Western Cape then did comply, but for a number of years there was no compliance, and no amount of spin will remove the fact that there has not been a serious commitment to a piece of law specifically aimed at empowering the broad black majority in terms of economic opportunities and ownership.

The ANC welcomes the acknowledgement that the Provincial Equitable Share was increased, and I think the failure of this budget, because all other provinces have faced the budget cuts, and as the ANC we acknowledge the fiscal challenge that our country faces and we need to deal with it, but most of those cuts relate to the public service. Now when you have an increase in your Provincial Equitable Share, but you do not see the direction of that towards where the population growth pressures are most, in our schools, in our health clinics, that is the problem because that R1,7 billion that the MEC refers to, has not been then reprioritised within this Provincial Appropriation.

So that for us does not make sense and as Havel's definition of hope demands, despite the reallocation of funds, education still suffers as some schools are closed, more than 6,000 children sit outside the education system, having not been placed. This is a crisis; it is scandalous that this happens, and we had an equitable share which we could have allocated and reprioritised within this budget and we have not done that.

The fiscal ill-discipline makes no sense when you cut budgets so as to procure vaccines yourself, simply we would argue to score political points against National Government, who like many other developing countries are facing challenges in regard to the rollout of the vaccine programme. While there is much fanfare on the procurement of vaccines which this Provincial Government envisaged it will cost R75 million for now, we have yet to see a detailed programme and I would like to ask the MEC to directly respond to that. This R70 million for municipalities, how many megawatts will it buy, or is all of this money around the energy going to be allocated to consultants. Will it ensure any megawatts are actually delivered? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise Hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise to today to debate the Western Cape [Audio connection lost.]. Deputy Speaker, I think ... [Inaudible.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I will go ahead. It is expected that in 2020 the Western Cape economy will contract by 6,4% and that we will recover at 4,6% in 2021 compared to South Africa which is expected to contract at 7% in 2020 and recover at 3,3% in 2021. But Deputy Speaker, I just want to address two matters that the previous speaker has indicated. I will not be able to address everything.

Firstly, hon member Dugmore, Deputy Speaker, speaks about coloured and black students not getting into tertiary education. This past month I had to help nine students from Laingsburg who recently matriculated, find a lawyer pro-bono, so that the lawyer can write a legal letter to Northlink College which is under the National Government administration and they did not get in because Northlink College simply did not look at their applications and now the classes are full. Not even an answer to their application. To date they have neither replied to my letter, nor the lawyer's letter and we are not going to let it go.

So, Deputy Speaker, member Dugmore †*moet voor sy eie stoep gaan vee* [has to go and sweep in front of his own door.] In terms of the Provincial Equitable Share— for the 2020/2021 year we expected R59,2 billion during the 2020 MTEF, we are getting R54,4 billion during the 2021 MTEF and that is for this new financial year. So again yes, the actual money amount increased, but we got R4,8 billion less than what we were supposed to get,

and this was indicated in the Budget Committee by the presentation in the Excel sheet on page 21.

Deputy Speaker, the growth in the province is expected to be led by the trade and finance sectors accompanied with a rebound in the tourism sector, the impact of the drought recovery and the implementation of the vaccination programme on economic activity, all areas where the Provincial Government has stepped in which will make a difference to economic recovery and growth of the Western Cape. As a province and as indicated previously, we were expecting a total budget of R76 billion in this year. Based on the 2020 estimates, we are now getting R71 billion.

We were expecting R81 billion in the 2022/2023 year, we are now going to receive R71 billion. We were expecting R84 billion in 2023/2024, we are now going to get R72 billion. In total those budget cuts to the 2021 MTEF period now amount to approximately R26 billion, comprising of a R24 billion cut from the Provincial Equitable Share and an almost R2 billion cut from our conditional grants. All of this information on that same slide 21.

The biggest conditional grant cuts ironically will be to the Health budget, totalling over R400 million in the 2021/2022 financial year. We had to bolster the 2021/2022 budget with almost R2,7 billion of our own money from the Provincial Revenue Fund and Asset Financing Reserve in order to ensure that we do not have a budget deficit in this new financial year.

Deputy Speaker, despite these national budget cuts, we will continue to experience, as a province, load shedding and the Premier and the Western Cape Minister of Finance have committed for the Western Cape to become the first province to beat load shedding. The Western Cape Government will spend R48,8 million over the medium term to beat load shedding and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is already in a process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding between the Provincial Government and the candidate municipalities and has already appointed experts in order to support them in providing energy security for the people as revealed in a written question that I received an answer for this past week. The Atlantis Special Economic Zone is supposed to take advantage of the green economy which is on the precipice of becoming one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world.

You cannot want bail out after bail out when it comes to entities such as SAA and Eskom but the people of South Africa are eating cold food in the dark. We are using now candles to study for matric as we did in 2007 and 2008 and we are walking in the dark streets on the way home after closing up shop. We need energy security, we need power to the people, Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. I recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is

said that budgets are moral documents. If you want to see a government's morals or their priorities, just look at their budget. And budgeting involves making choices. Our Provincial Government has chosen to allocate R750 million over the next two financial years for the employment of another 500 learner law enforcement officers, their LEAP project.

Their choices to create an illusion of safety in crime fighting is a false illusion and a dangerous one. It is dangerous because you are telling people living in extremely violent conditions that they will be safer, but they are not. The LEAP officers are not making these communities safer nor can they. The investment in an ill-conceived, unresearched and rapidly implemented Safety Plan is disproportionate to the urgent need to address the lived conditions that give rise to gangsterism and crime.

The MEC for Education has a standard response to questions about inadequate schooling that National Government has cut her budget, but the Western Cape Cabinet could have chosen to invest in schools rather than LEAP. The Mayor of Cape Town was confronted last weekend about the Dido Valley Housing Project, and he told the resident to shut up. That project was delayed because the Provincial Government reduced the City's HSDG funding. The Western Cape Government could have chosen to invest in more housing, rather than LEAP.

While children are unable to access schools, while children are learning under trees, while families are stuck in backyards or informal settlements,

homeless for decades and while millions of people are unemployed, this Government has made the choice to invest R1,3 billion in an illusion of policing. It does not take much to imagine the impact and investment of an additional R1,3 billion in schools, housing or infrastructure or social services would have made. We will not eliminate rampant crime until we address the lived conditions of those communities. The choice of this Government to step outside its mandate and fund an inadequate form of policing instead of investing in schools or housing or jobs is immoral. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Herron. Can I just check, has anybody got their hand up here? We seem to have a little bit of a glitch with no hand being showed to the person, although there is a hand showing on my screen. It sounds a bit strange but if there is, I apologise, we are just trying to fix that up. And I will recognise you when I know who that is. I now move over to hon Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. In times of crisis, particularly in a dismal, national climate, funds must be reprioritised in the best interests of those we serve, not only to save lives but livelihoods as well.

As the Western Cape is committed to doing its part to restore our nation's fiscal sustainability and spend our resources wisely, extremely difficult decisions had to be taken to reprioritise funds to support immediate financing requirements for the Western Cape Recovery Plan, focusing on jobs, safety

and dignified well-being.

The lack of promised funds from a National Government indeed placed the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport programmes and services at the short end of the proverbial stick, as many events were cancelled, and projects could not continue due to the national lockdown regulations.

However, when we are challenged to this extreme, time and again, the Western Cape Government, and particularly the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport team rises to the occasion and becomes more innovative in our business to continue to serve, for all who call the Western Cape home, through cultural affairs and sport. Despite the sad state of affairs, as we safely move forward in the Western Cape, cultural and sport activities are slowly resuming in the new norm of the sectors but are struggling to survive following the blow executed by national lockdown regulations as well as the National Government's nonchalance to the needs of our cultural affairs and sporting communities.

The question then arises, what did the Western Cape Government, as a Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport do to support the sectors we serve? To comprehensively respond to this, would take us days, but to name only a few proactive measures to show in real terms, what can be done with a severely limited budget, if the political will is there to effectively assist our artists, NGOs, cultural organisations and sports people in need.

These include, in addition to the Department of Cultural Affairs Relief Funding, we allocated R500 000 from the Ministerial Cultural Outreach Funding to support another 13 culture institutions while the DCAS managed to transfer funding to several NGOs so that their much-needed projects could continue, despite the devastation caused by the lockdown regulations. While the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture cut their contribution to major events like the KKNK, the International Jazz Festival, Suidoosterfees and others, we managed to innovatively support Suidoosterfees and KKNK to continue producing events inclusive of our local talent to also serve as an economic injection in the respective regions in which these festivals are situated, fully complying to the compulsory protocols in place. For the first time, we also supported the [Inaudible.] Fund which assists artists.

Deputy Speaker, it is no secret that due to the national lockdown regulations and lack of support from the national institutions who ought to protect and serve them, several private theatres closed of which the Fugard is the most notable. The Western Cape Government is saddened that the Fugard Theatre has closed its doors permanently. It is a devastating sign of just how badly the arts industry has been hit by the Covid-19 pandemic over the last year and a clear indication that more needs to be done to keep it afloat over the year ahead.

The national lockdown regulations closed theatres on alert levels, 5, 4, 3 and 2 and when allowed to open on alert level 1, imposed guidelines limiting audience numbers and stage presence. This has essentially reduced ticket

sales, further restricting revenue for theatres to operate but also adversely affected the artists performing on these stages, as for many of them, their sole stream of income is generated by these performances. This has been further exacerbated in delays in providing relief funding to artists promised by the National Government, firstly by President Ramaphosa in the form of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme and secondly, by the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the National Arts Council in the form of relief funding.

An urgent conversation is needed with the National Government and other stakeholders in order to find ways to ensure that this sector can remain sustainable in South Africa and so that we can save the thousands of livelihoods that this sector supports.

We have to plot a new, safe and sustainable way forward for this sector as a matter of priority. To this end I have tried to request an urgent meeting with Minister Nathi Mthethwa to initiate this pivotal conversation as a date for the next Ministers and Members of Executive Council meeting in the MINMEC has not been scheduled for this year as yet.

Deputy Speaker, today I stand in solidarity with our artists, cultural organisations and events industry and support their call for the President to intervene as agreed with so many enquiring stakeholders, including our opera singer Sibongile Mngoma. As she stated, and I quote:

“What we need right now is the intervention of the President because the Minister must go, the NAC must go.”

That is the National Arts Council.

“This place needs a revamp’.

The Western Cape Government has despite the major challenges created by diminished budgets and continued restrictions, found ways to support the sector during this unprecedented time. We provided Covid-19 relief funding valued at R4,47 million and R1 million to sport federations, coaches, technical officials and athletes who successfully applied to the affiliated federations. While the provision appears minute in proportion to the demand, it indeed served as a lifeline and assisted our artists and athletes who were allowed to return to their business, a great deal in retaining their dignity to provide for their family’s well-being.

But, Deputy Speaker, we know this is not enough and that we urgently need to find a new and safe normal for this vital sector. It is soul-crushing that some applicants are still awaiting their promised financial support from the National Government almost a year on, particularly as a direct result of procedural inadequacies and maladministration, as is evident in both the suspension of both the CEO and CFO of the National Arts Council. As we now contain, adopt and recover in the Western Cape we are exploring different avenues of support to the arts industry. This amongst others,

includes strengthening our partnership with stakeholders across the province to ensure the impact of the ... [Audio connection lost.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister? You have disappeared in terms of your audio. Can you just check?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Can you hear me now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you now.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I just will repeat. As we now contain, adapt and recover in the Western Cape, we are exploring different avenues of support to the arts industry. This amongst others includes strengthening our partnerships with stakeholders across the province to ensure the impact of the pandemic on our portfolio affected events and programmes will be minimised to increase sustainability of the sector.

Local content showcasing has also moved up on our list of priorities and in early February this year, the DCAS invited registered arts and culture organisations and institutions, artists groups, individuals involved in artistic expressions and arts and culture events companies to submit their online applications for project funding for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Deputy Speaker, the consistent national funding of State-owned Enterprises in the form of bail outs is a smack in the face of our hard-working artists ...

[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, can you finish off?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you. The cultural affairs and sports sectors have been and continue to be devastated by lockdown regulations and COVID- 19 concerns. The Western Cape Government understands the immense pressure they are under to sustain their livelihoods, that of the families and all those reliant on them. I thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Education Department under the DA Government does not have enough money to place more than six thousand vulnerable learners to date, but yet they have the audacity to foist down a policy that will lead to gender identification confusion.

The ACDP wants to know what these draft guidelines on sexual orientation and gender identity policy will cost this Government? What will it cost this Government? The ACDP strongly objects against this policy implemented by this DA Government in our Western Cape public schools. This is a ludicrous policy, and we understand, the DA seeks to illuminate discrimination against

the LGBTQ community, but the ACDP does not support an ideology forced down the throats of our learners and our schools.

This policy will give the parents no rights, because now teachers and principals are there to guide learners that are so to say, confused about their gender and this is unacceptable because it is taking away the guidance of our parents. Some of the ludicrous guidelines that are recommended in this absurd policy are about the Uniform Code. Learners cannot dress according to their gender identity. It also recommends that learners bring partners of their choice to school functions and also regardless of orientation.

Schools can also now decide on unisex bathrooms and facilities where possible. Now we see that this is a disaster in the UK because girls are skipping school to avoid transgender bathrooms. Girls are skipping school because they avoid sharing gender neutral toilets. Now these absurd policies that is not working in the UK is now going to be implemented by this Western Cape Government. The ACDP rejects this policy very, very strongly and we want to ask the Government, the DA Government, the Western Cape Education Department, to reconsider this policy and look at religious beliefs and speak to those religious leaders and get a policy that represents most of the community and not a small bit of our community. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I note the Freedom Front Plus not being here, I then move over to hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. A Budget for Hope and we ask for hope hon MEC. Is this a budget of inclusive economic growth and development to stabilise public finances for economic recovery? We are not convinced. We, as the Al Jama-ah, are not convinced it is protecting the immediate needs of the poor in this province and that of the front-line workers in the public service. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To achieve herd immunity by 2022, 210 000 shots need to be administered in South Africa every day. Currently, Deputy Speaker, only 6,000 shots are administered a day, a blatant shame and disregard for life. This is purely because National Government has not provided provinces with a sufficient, steady supply of Covid-19 vaccines. That, Deputy Speaker, is because there is no SAHPRA approved vaccine in this country which is not part of a limited trial study.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC attempts to twist the facts as usual when they claim that the Western Cape Government is wasting resources. The facts are, however, firstly South Africa does not have enough vaccines in the pipeline to reach population immunity this year or the next. The current forecast is a whopping 18 plus years. That, thanks to an incompetent ANC National Government.

Secondly, a reminder to all, that the first duty of a government is to protect

the lives of residents. For that reason, the Western Cape Government absolutely must take every possible measure to support its residents against Covid-19. This includes vaccine supplies which are initially budgeted for at R75 million.

Thirdly, Deputy Speaker, R800 million has been set aside by the Province as part of ring-fenced funds for the Covid-19 rollout and if necessary, additional procurement.

Deputy Speaker, by deliberately misconstruing the facts, the ANC drives a reckless narrative which if left unchecked stands to cost lives, cripple the economy further and tarnish livelihoods. As the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape, we thus welcome the announcement by the Provincial Minister of Finance, David Maynier to avail R75 million to procure an additional 500,000 single shot vaccines to support National Government efforts.

We further welcome the Province's foresight and excellence in governance to escalate its rollout strategy to 30,000 jabs per day in order to achieve population immunity in line with national targets. If only the ANC National Government can deliver the vaccines, we will do the rest. What we need now, hon Deputy Speaker, is a proper well-funded and resourced vaccination programme. We need help Speaker, as the budget of the Western Cape Government provides us with.

Failing to plan is to plan to fail. The DA in the Western Cape has no

intention of failing its millions of citizens waiting in anticipation for a failed ANC National Government. Though National Government has reiterated that it will not be necessary for the Province to explore avenues for procurement, the pace at which we set out to achieve immunity is crucial to the well-being of our future. Vaccinations prevent and limit mortality, protect the healthcare system in the very likelihood of subsequent waves of unknown intensities and prevent our economy from further regulatory burnout.

Deputy Speaker, the reality is that vaccines support jobs, dignity and safety and Covid-19 is the enemy of those goals but one which we as the DA continues to fight. We support this Budget of Hope because it will see us weather an unparalleled humanitarian crisis. While SASSA can barely carry out its mandate, the Western Cape Government will oversee support to six new gender-based violence shelters leading the province to hold the highest number of shelters in this country.

We have further set aside R50 million for homeless persons, increasing bed space for those who need a place of safety and Deputy Speaker, this budget enables us to continue to provide support to all vulnerable persons in the province through ongoing assistance to NGOs and charitable organisations.

We must Deputy Speaker, recognise that donor fatigue is setting in. The entire country's social support infrastructure has been let down by National Government and the only way out of this downward spiral of increasing poverty is the steady supply of vaccines. That is why the availing of funds to

procure additional vaccines, despite fiscal difficulties, speaks to a hopeful Western Cape. A budget that speaks to the commitment of one of the core values of a caring Provincial Government and the pledges made in the Premier's State of the Province Address. Deputy Speaker, I have hope. Hope in the budget presented for the 2021/22, hope in the planning, foresight, the people-centred approach and hope in the exceptional diligence with which this DA-run Western Cape serves to the people of the Western Cape. The DA thus supports this budget, Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon member. I recognise hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. This year South Africans commemorated the 61st anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre under the theme, 'The Year of Charlotte Maxeke', promoting human rights in the age of COVID-19. The theme is to celebrate and pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of the birth of the liberation struggle heroine and human rights campaigner Mama Charlotte Maxeke.

As has been previously stated by member America, we are also commemorating the death of Cecyl Esau, an anti-apartheid activist who fought for our liberation in this province and we want to thank the Province and the Premier for according him with the dignity that he deserves and we want to thank all involved in ensuring that that has happened.

The ANC drawing on that tradition remains committed to fighting any forms of injustice perpetuated against the majority of our people. Professor Sampie Terreblanche captured the root cause of many of the problems that we are faced with today, wherein the Professor stated, and I quote:

‘The democratic government that assumed power in 1994 inherited a rather contradictory legacy. On the one hand it inherited the most developed economy on the African continent with a modern, physical and institutional infrastructure. On the other, it inherited major socio-economic problems including high levels of unemployment, the abject poverty of 50% of the population, sharp inequalities in the distribution of income, property and opportunities and high levels of crime and violence.’

Sadly, Deputy Speaker, the successive DA administrations in the Western Cape have been in denial of this historical fact and have opted for the easier route of masking over problems whilst avoiding fixing them by pursuing what they call the ‘open opportunity society’, a liberal concept, and this is now getting worse because those even within the Democratic Alliance that have sought to move away from that narrative and speak about redress are then isolated.

They then have to form their own political parties. They move out of the Democratic Alliance, life is made very difficult for them. Any notion of redress, any talk about redressing the past imbalances means that you are not

considered to be liberal enough; it is not part of the value offering that the DA says it wants to offer.

Anything that moves away from the Institute of Race Relations narrative is seen as a negative. In fact, Deputy Speaker, the DA even now is not ashamed to go and side with the right wing in this country, Deputy Speaker, and jumps up on anything that speaks about redress, land reform is one example.

We even found MEC Schäfer taking issue with the University of Cape Town when there was no issue at all, when the University clarified that a learner was not denied entrance because of the colour of his skin, he was actually given an opportunity, but because there was something of race and to make sure that you can show that white South Africans are being discriminated against, the MEC jumped on that issue.

I think the DA have regressed in this regard. Deputy Speaker, through this approach, I want to say, the Government of the DA has ignored the deeply entrenched, structural challenges that were inherited from the apartheid regime. In his so-called 'Budget for Hope', MEC Maynier claimed that he would support job creation, build safer communities and deliver well-being for communities, what he has termed the three 'north stars'. The three north stars will throw R17,8 billion to boost private sector investment but no real details as to whom in the private sector.

The struggles that hon Shadow MEC Nomi Nkondlo has raised and she even

spoke of today, the struggles for small and medium sized business owners in our townships, continue to persist. We are deeply concerned that this R17 billion will not benefit them. There will be so much red tape preventing them from benefiting. We know who that R17 billion is going to benefit because the DA believes fundamentally in a trickle-down effect, support big business so that big business can be trusted to support those on the ground and that does not happen.

Deputy Speaker, for safety; R2,3 billion over the MTEF will be spent on the failing Safety Plan and other programmes that have failed to address the root causes of crime in our province. It is not surprising that all the crime and murder hotspots are in the previously disadvantaged communities. Imagine a Budget for Hope, Deputy Speaker, that only allocates R25 million for food relief in the midst of a pandemic that has led to increased levels of poverty, unemployment and high numbers of families that can no longer provide for themselves.

Not only is this not enough to address the challenges, but food parcels and hot meals are not sustainable methods to address rising levels of food insecurity in the province. The DA Government needs to embark on rigorous programmes to address food security. Programmes from the Mayor of Cape Town, going around masquerading as Government programmes, which are actually DA programmes to buy votes and dish out food parcels are not going to be enough. [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, take a seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I think it must have been about three times now that the hon Mackenzie has been interjecting and I think the problem is that when he is not called to order then a perception is raised that the neutrality of the Chair is not what it should be. I want to appeal to you to please call the hon member to order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member, please contain yourself in terms of Rule 40. Thank you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Sorry ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Can I continue Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, the Government of the Democratic Alliance needs to be more rigorous on programmes to address food security. The ANC indeed, as we have stated before, sympathises with this Government that cuts are not good in general but fiscal ill-discipline is also not good.

The DA has ignored all the deeply entrenched structural and historical challenges and prioritised its duplicate and failed provincial rollout for vaccinations for which over R325 million is budgeted for. Hon Philander has tried to explain it and to speak about 18 years. I do not know what those 18 years refer to, but still hon Philander has failed to give us details about this rollout, to tell us how exactly it will be supporting National Government. It is a parallel process because even at the onset when the Premier spoke about this parallel rollout. The Head of the Department of Health, Mr Keith Cloete, actually contradicted that in the Ad-Hoc Committee for Health, actually indicated that it is not very easy for private companies to provide such vaccines to provinces that deal with National Government. Have they also looked at some of the scientific developments around these vaccines? It is a waste of money, it is a parallel process, it is cheap political point scoring, Deputy Speaker.

As the possibility of a third wave is slowly becoming a reality there is no sense of urgency shown by the Provincial Government to minimise the risk and to prepare our public health care system. In fact, what we see is calls for us to move away from Level 1 as we start to approach the third wave. Hon Deputy Speaker ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, please.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): As I conclude let me just address my learned colleague hon Baartman and I want to commend hon Baartman for her

fight for learners who were not placed at Northlink College, but I also want to call upon the hon Baartman to engage her party colleague MEC Schäfer, to engage MEC Maynier, through the position she holds as the Chair of the Finance Committee, to ensure that Provincial Treasury sends back that money, the R350 million to the WCED, so it can place the over 6,000 learners. And I say over 6,000 because we do not have the exact figures because we have asked the Department and they committed to the Committee that every week we will get an update on the unplaced learners. To date they have not given the Standing Committee that updated figure. All we have is a rough figure of over 6,000. It is completely unacceptable. She should urge the MEC to send the money back so that it can be spent by the Department of Education in this particular province. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I recognise hon Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I hope colleagues can hear me loudly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can hear you loud and clear.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: I switched off my camera so that we do not have the problem of the signal. Deputy Speaker, in his speech last week, my colleague, the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Minister Maynier, shared that despite the ongoing failure of

the National Government to manage the economy, rampant corruption and a range of other potential crippling threats to the well-being of South Africa and its citizens, the Western Cape has been able to table a Budget for Hope; hope for jobs, hope for safer communities and increased well-being.

Now member Dugmore spoke about realism and whether this budget is realistic, and I can understand, Deputy Speaker and colleagues why member Dugmore is raising this issue, because if the National Government is failing to vaccinate the nation as we have seen and if the National Government is failing to ensure that there is energy security, then indeed this has the potential to cripple our plans, and therefore I can understand when you speak about realism and certainty, where is it coming from?

The ANC would like to remind us about history of this country and the past but the reality here is that we are in this situation because of the dismal failure of the ANC Government to really lift the country out of the quagmire that we find ourselves in. Now, Deputy Speaker, we all agree that apartheid was really a very, very bad government policy, particularly for the majority black South Africans. But even during the apartheid era, the worst unemployment that we saw was about 10%. Under this current ANC Government, which affects the majority of the poor black people, we have seen unemployment around 40%. Hon member Dugmore talks about land ownership in South Africa and our position as the Democratic Alliance but if you look at what the ANC has managed to do when it comes to land reform, it has actually made the situation worse for the very same poor people they

claim to be representing.

Recently we have seen the case of Ivan Cloete, who is one of many black farmers, who has fallen foul of ANC corruption because these black farmers are now being evicted by the ANC in favour of their comrades which is what has been the biggest challenge in South Africa. And if you look at the provinces by the way, the rural provinces that own a vast majority of land, like in KZN, this has not improved the well-being of black South Africans in those provinces, because the ANC Government has failed dismally to support those small black farmers financially and with skills. That is why you are so worried about the Democratic Alliance, with this kneejerk reaction of the amendment to Section 25 so that we can expropriate land without compensation, because it has nothing to do with improving the lives of poor South Africans, but it has the potential of crippling our economy and making the situation even worse.

Hon member Dugmore also talks about race and racism. If I was an ANC member I would shy away from that debate. While member Dugmore and his ANC fellow colleagues want to give the impression that the DA is a racist party, the most racist party in South Africa is the ANC. That is why you will never find any person who is white in their ANC top six. Even in the Western Cape, no matter how much member Dugmore really tries to leave this province, he will never be accepted because of the colour of his skin.

That is the calibre of the organisation that you are a member of, member

Dugmore, the most racist organisation in South Africa. Therefore, I find it puzzling that a person like you would really point a finger at the Democratic Alliance when your party has clearly demonstrated that it is the party that puts only one race first. Now member Baartman correctly sketched the picture that we are facing in South Africa compared to the Western Cape, which is a clear indication that this province, despite the soothsayers, is the province that is in a much better position to really attract investment, create jobs and really improve the situation of poor South Africans.

The reality of the situation if you look at South Africa, is that while many ANC leaders want to talk about race, the majority of poor people are in areas where the leadership is exclusively black. The provinces that are really struggling economically are the provinces where the leadership is exclusively black and therefore no one must come here and lecture us about race and history and tell us that this province is racist when the very same black leaders are actually oppressing the very same black South Africans as we have seen in other parts of the country.

Member Herron spoke about a moral document. That is really criticizing this Government for making an effort to make sure that our communities are safe. I mean I just find that really, really puzzling because the National Government has failed dismally to make sure that they keep up with their constitutional obligation to make sure that we have more police keeping our communities safe and I must also add, hon member Herron, that you are really misleading the people when you say that only R1,3 billion would have

made a massive difference in schools and housing. That money would have only built two schools.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: The biggest problem ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister ...

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... we have in the Western Cape ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister ...

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... is that because ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister ...

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... of the failures of the ANC in other provinces, we are seeing massive population growth due to immigration and we are also seeing a situation in South Africa ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister can you hear me?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, the MEC cannot hear you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, just give me a second, there is a point of order. My apologies for interrupting you. There is an objection in the House. Hon Sayed, what is your point?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, I do not want to belabour the point but the MEC ought to speak directly to you as Deputy Speaker, and not directly to member Herron, even though the point that member Herron raised, does actually touch a sore nerve, we know that, but I think he needs to speak to you directly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks hon Sayed. We will continue, thank you. Please address me, hon Madikizela, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Deputy Speaker, the biggest problem we have in South Africa is that because of the failures of the National Government we are seeing the economy growing far less than the population and we are seeing more and more people going to provinces where they have a better prospect of finding a job and improving their lives and that is what is happening in the Western Cape.

It is so unfortunate that we have these school children that have not been placed, but I want to put it on record, Deputy Speaker, that in Forest Village

for example, when that development was planned we knew very well the number of schools that were there and the schools that were planned but what was not foreseen was the number of people who did not register on time and the number of people who would come to the Western Cape because they are running away from bad governance where the ANC is governing. So, the reality is that we have 12 schools in that area, we have 12 schools within 2,5km radius and we also have two schools that are being planned.

So, let me make this point very clear; this Government will never have enough money to take care of all the needs of the citizens of the Western Cape as long as you have the National Government, under the ANC, that is discouraging investment through mad policies like expropriation of land without compensation and the lack of vaccination will result in a situation where tourists will not be coming to this country and will also be prevented from travelling. Everything that the ANC is doing is actually discouraging investment so that we can deal with the crisis that we are facing in South Africa.

Hon member Christians, you must understand, sir, that we are living in a constitutionally democratic country. Sexual orientation is a right that is enshrined in our Constitution. Whether you like it or not, it is what it is. Until the African Christian Democratic Party wins elections and changes the Constitution, you do not have the power to tell people to undermine the Constitution. No matter how you feel about it, those are the rights of individuals enshrined in the Constitution.

Hon member Brinkhuis, I want to make it very clear that indeed this is a Budget for Hope and that is why more and more people come to the Western Cape because they believe that this where they have better prospects of finding a job and improving their lives.

Hon member Philander, you are absolutely right, the fact that National Government has bungled this vaccination programme is a huge risk for our country and we will be in this situation for a very, very long time until the ANC Government is out of power because it is very clear that this Government has failed to really deal with the challenges that we are facing so that we can improve the situation in our country.

Now, hon member Sayed, again while all of us must acknowledge the history of our country, we are coming from a very painful past, I find it puzzling that the ANC Government wants to abdicate its responsibility as the governing party to deal with the current challenges and keep on blaming the past. In fact, if you look at what has happened in the last 27 years, the ANC Government has really been regressing, not progressing at all in terms of the key areas where we need to intervene.

So it is convenient for you to blame the apartheid government in the past, but the real reason why you are in this situation is because of the bad choices that were made, it is because of weak leadership, it is because of the mad ideas that are dissuading people from investing in our country. That is why you are seeing more and more people running away from investing in this

country. And as long as you continue on this path, the situation will get worse ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... and that is why the only way for us to save South Africa is to make sure that your party, sir, is out of government in South Africa because it is very clear from where I am sitting that if we do not stand up as the Western Cape Government and try to come up with a parallel process to vaccinate the nation, this will never happen. You are blaming us for taking a stance ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up, Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... but we are taking this stance because it is very clear that your Government will not do it, sir. So, I want to commend the Premier ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speak directly, point of order Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... and the Western Cape Government to make sure that we vaccinate ... [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: Time is up, time is up.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, I do not think the Minister can hear me, so I have given everybody past their times. I will call one more time. Hon Madikizela, can you finish your sentence off, please?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. We as a Democratic Alliance support this budget and we are very hopeful ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: ... that it will improve the lives of the people of Western Cape as we have been doing in the last twelve years. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I understand there has been some constraints around sound but before we continue to let Mr Maynier to finish off, I would like to ask out of respect, because we had asked our Muslim hon members whether we could finish at 1 o'clock. We are slightly over, would it be too much if we finished this part or would it be that you would like us to immediately adjourn for lunch and prayer? Hon member Sayed, if you could ... [Inaudible.].

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Deputy Speaker, it is member Brinkhuis speaking here. I am one of the Muslim members, I would appreciate it if we could stop the proceedings now and continue at the time we have said that we will continue

because I have to attend to a programme? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hear you and I am not recognising anybody else except Hon Sayed and hon Brinkhuis who are actually of the Muslim religion. Hon member Sayed did you want to comment?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Inaudible.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you happy? I think that I will out of respect and this was a pre-agreed time. My apologies, Minister, you will have to come back after lunch at quarter to, so 13:45 to finalise this part of today's proceedings. Thank you very much. The House is adjourned.

[Business of the House was suspended and resumed after lunch.]

The SPEAKER: In terms of the consideration of the principle of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill debate, the Minister will now respond to the debate. I now afford the opportunity to the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, hon Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:
[Inaudible – technical problem]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat. What is the point of order, hon member?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): My apologies, Mr Speaker, we cannot hear the hon Minister.

The SPEAKER: Oh, hon Minister, let us just deal with the glitch. Can you just say something, hon Minister, to establish whether the hon members can hear you?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. Can you and hon members, hear me now?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, confirm?

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, loud and clear. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is all yours, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. I will do a restart. I was saying that I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the themes and some of the remarks made during the debate, which of course have not been responded to by some of the

other members who participated on this debate on the Main Budget for 2021/22. I have to say, Speaker, that stepping back, what has been dished up today in this debate, has largely been a toxic brew of some fact, of much fiction and, of course, even from time to time, some science fiction.

I want to start with vaccines, which the hon Sayed dismisses as a waste of time. I want to start with vaccines. And I want to say that we have to face the fact that National Government, and I have said this before, have botched the procurement of vaccines and that the case of provincial vaccine procurement has never been stronger for the Western Cape, which is why we have established a team of officials which is led by the Department of Health, and which is supported by the Provincial Treasury, and who are working on the procurement of vaccines for the Western Cape.

We have issued a request for information and we are following up with all possible suppliers, and with National Government on the whole question of the procurement of vaccines for the Western Cape. And we believe that in time, particularly when there is excess supply in the market, that we will be able to procure vaccines for the Western Cape, which is why we have budgeted R75 million for the procurement of vaccines which ultimately will save lives and save livelihoods in the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And

Speaker, I have to say that to step back and just simply dismiss our vaccine strategy as a waste of time, as the hon Sayed did, I think is crass and I think it is disrespectful to the 11,000 people and their families who have died, and to the many more people whose lives will be at risk if we do not succeed in vaccinating, as I have said before, as many people as fast as possible in the Western Cape.

I want to also deal with the whole question of education. We have obviously worked hard to build new brick and mortar schools, build new mobile schools, build new classrooms and build new mobile classrooms. And of course, as I said earlier, we would want every learner to be placed in the Western Cape. I come back to a point that I made. The fact is that National Government has imposed budget cuts that have made this impossible, which is why we have been forced to lean in, as a province, to protect the baseline from budget cuts imposed by National Government, allocating R4,3 billion over the medium term, to protect the education in the Western Cape.

What we would have hoped, Speaker, is that those members who are concerned about the fact that there are learners who do not have places, that they would speak out against the National Government. Speak out against the reasons for the budget cuts which have been imposed by National Government and which include, of course, the mismanagement of our economy, the mismanagement of our public finances and the mismanagement of our State-owned Enterprises. And then finally, to step up and have the courage to oppose the division of revenue in South Africa. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear- hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: I also want to deal with Social Development, which was raised during the debate. The astounding comment that we, we as a Provincial Government, had cut the Social Development budget. It is just simply, Speaker, untrue. We are, of course, concerned about the cuts to Social Development in the Western Cape, however again, those budget cuts have been imposed by National Government. Spending on social protection, as I mentioned earlier, over the medium term will decrease – decrease by 2,1% over the medium term and astoundingly, spending on the child support grant will decrease by 3,2%, the disability grant by 0,1% and the foster care grant by a staggering 10,9% over the medium term in South Africa.

Indeed, if you dig into the budget, Speaker, the truth is that we have stepped up, that we have leaned in and actually increased the allocation of the Social Development budget, providing an additional R50 million for immediate food relief for the poor in the Western Cape. Again, we would have hoped that members who are concerned about cuts to Social Development, would speak out against cuts imposed by National Government; speak out against the reasons for those budget cuts and ultimately, step up. Step up and have the courage to oppose the division of revenue in South Africa.

Speaker, I also want to deal with the whole question of poverty. We are, of course, concerned about poverty and inequality which, in part, arises from

our past. Which, of course, is exactly why if you dig into this budget, you will see that we will be spending R2,1 billion over the next year to provide 14,596 housing opportunities and to register 7,000 title deeds for people in the Western Cape: assets in the hands of people in the Western Cape. But of course, it is also why municipalities across this province provide a package of free basic services. The City of Cape Town, for example, provides a package of free basic services, including water, including sanitation, including electricity and including refuse removal to thousands – thousands of households at a cost of about R1,7 billion this year, 2020/2021.

And of course, and I come back to this, that is why we have allocated, despite the budget cuts, R100 million to support public employment programmes and to provide immediate food relief in the Western Cape. On the whole question of small business. Speaker, had it not been for the debate this morning, I would have been at the opening of Milton Makaba's brand new Pick n Pay Market store in Paarl. We are partners, together with Pick n Pay in the Pick n Pay Township Economy Revitalisation Initiative, where we support entrepreneurs to own their own Pick n Pay Market stores, which creates new owners and creates new jobs in the Western Cape.

Speaker, I would also like to refer to some remarks made by members: the hon Leader of the Opposition. What does not make sense is his proposal that the R1,67 billion, which arises as a result of a data update to the Provincial Equitable Shares, should be allocated to Education. Because if, indeed, that is what we did, if we allocated the 1,67 billion over the medium term to

Education and at the same time, we did not lean in to support Education, well, Education over the medium term would receive R2,7 billion less to spend in the Western Cape.

What also seems to have evaded the hon Leader of the Opposition, is that Dr Ivan Meyer and his Department of Agriculture, which he seems to suggest are denying the past, will be spending R275 million next year supporting emerging and subsistence farmers in the Western Cape. The hon Leader of the Opposition also has my assurance that the Municipal Energy Resilience Project will result in, what he called, more megawatts which will, of course, help municipalities beat load shedding in the Western Cape.

The hon Brett Herron is critical and, indeed, appears to be opposed to additional spending on law enforcement and the deployment of 500 additional law enforcement officers to fight crime, especially violent crime, in hotspots across the Western Cape. He is opposed to that. But I want to assure him that we are committed to fighting crime, but also, of course, to preventing crime. Which is why we have allocated R23 million over the medium term to increase opportunities for at-risk youth, to attend the Chrysalis Academy. And if he looks at the distribution of spend on the Western Cape Economic Recovery Plan, we will be spending R2,35 billion on safety, but R115 billion on well-being, uplifting communities in the Western Cape.

The hon Brett Herron also makes the point that a budget, in many respects, is a moral document and I agree with him. But then surely the test of our

morals must be the R100 million that we have allocated to public employment programmes and to immediate food relief ...[Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... so that we can support people who are struggling, people who are not making ends meet and people who are going hungry in the Western Cape. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Speaker, I also wish to assure the hon Brinkhuis who is concerned that the budget does not meet the needs of the poor. Again, he needs to dig into the documents and a sign of our commitment, of course, is the R100 million which we have allocated for public employment programmes and immediate food relief in the Western Cape.

Speaker, I think when we step back and when we think about this debate, all of us who participated in the debate and all of you who witnessed the debate, must see that we have an Opposition who astoundingly opposes the procurement of more vaccines.

It is astounding, which means that more lives and more livelihoods would be

lost in the Western Cape. We also have an Opposition that opposes the deployment of more law enforcement officers, which means that more people will be victims of crime or indeed, victims of violent crime in the Western Cape. We have an Opposition that complains about budget cuts imposed by National Government and then, remains silent and, indeed, supports budget cuts to provincial conditional grants, to bail out South African Airways. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Unbelievable.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Unbelievable! We also have an Opposition that never loses an opportunity to lecture us on caring for the poor. But Speaker, let us not forget, and we must never forget, and we must never forgive, that at the height of the pandemic the Opposition opposed the opening of school feeding schemes which saved so many children from going hungry in the Western Cape. [Interjection.]

What we have, Speaker, in closing, is an Opposition which is simply not able to provide hope to the people of the Western Cape. I thank you. [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take a seat. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, no, no, it was not a point of order. I wanted to know whether the hon Maynier is able to take a question on his

knowledge of events in the build-up to ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you. Thank you very much, Mr Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... the calls that he said were made around the schools not being used for feeding? [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Sayed. [Interjection.] Order, hon members. Hon member, I recognise there is another question from the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much Speaker, I would be more than willing to take that question. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Your mic, please. That is not a question, hon Premier. Currently, we have got the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities on the floor. Hon Minister, will you take the question?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Speaker, I think that I have made my point and the hon member is clearly on the back foot ... [Interjection.] [Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And I will leave him alone for now. Thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Sayed, your question has been refused. Hon Minister, I presume you have concluded your contribution? Thank you very much. Hon members, that concludes the Debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill and of course, the question will be now are there any objections on the approval of the Bill, on the principle of the Bill? [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: If there are no objections ...[Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: No, no.

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, there are many.

An HON MEMBER: No!

The SPEAKER: Oh, objections. [Interjection,]

An HON MEMBER: No, there are no, there are no objections.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, your objection has been noted and it will appear in the Order Paper. Thank you very much, I presume that is the African National Congress. Is there any other political party that wishes to register an objection? No, alright. Thank you very much, hon members. The objection by the African National Congress has been noted and it will be recorded on the Order Paper. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. The House will deal with the separate votes, hon members, on 29 and 30 March 2021 and that is going to be again, 10 am, on those respective dates.

Hon members, now we move to the motion in terms of Rule 151(2). The next item on the Order Paper is the motion in the name of the hon R D Mackenzie. Hon Mackenzie, I recognise you, sir, in terms of the Speaker's List.

(Motion)

MR R D MACKENZIE: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House notes the report of the Public Protector (No 23 of 2020/21) on the allegations of a breach of the Executive Members Ethics Code by Minister A W Bredell; and further notes the finding and remedial action taken in terms of Section 182(1)(c), as follows: (1) That

the Premier of the Western Cape within a reasonable time, but not later than 14 days after receiving this report, submits a copy thereof and any comments thereon, together with a report on any action taken or to be taken in regard thereto, to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; 5 (2) that the Premier of the Western Cape informs the Public Protector within 30 days of the date of this report of the implementation of the remedial action mentioned in paragraph 7.1.1 of the report and of the action taken or to be taken against the Minister; and (3) that Honourable Member Dugmore and the African National Congress have placed this report and/or several parts of its contents in the public domain before the Premier has had an opportunity to provide comments to the House; therefore resolves that, mindful of its responsibility to oversee Executive action and to hold the Provincial Government to account, within a reasonable time, the Premier be requested to make an Executive Statement in accordance with Standing Rule 146, and further that each party represented in the House be provided an opportunity to comment thereafter in accordance with Standing Rule 146(4).

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker. On behalf of the Democratic Alliance, I hereby note the report of the Public Protector (No 23 of 2020/2021) on the allegations on the breach of the Executive Members Code by MEC A Bredell. In the interest of transparency and accountability, we put forward this motion to ask that Premier Winde deliver an Executive Statement to expand on his decision-making in respect of this report and the recommendations to allow parties represented, an opportunity to comment as

to the Standing Rules of this Parliament.

When I put forward this motion, hon members, the report's ink was still drying, and the Premier had not yet responded or tabled his response. The Premier has since responded and the DA is of the view that the steps taken by the hon Premier comply with the recommendations made by the Public Protector and these actions highlight the value that we, the DA, place in our Chapter 9 Institutions and the respect we hold for the separation between party and State.

This is the difference between the DA and the ANC led governments. We take good governance and accountability seriously, compared to the ANC-led National Government where accountability is taboo, this Government actually takes steps to protect our democracy and hold all members accountable. We have set ourselves a high standard when it comes to governance and consistently outperform the rest. The ANC, on the other hand, do not even set standards for themselves. This is directly evident in the fact that despite clear evidence of blatant corruption and absolute disregard for the rule of law, ANC Premiers and members of the Executive, including Members of National Parliament, are still in their positions.

Speaker, the poor and non-existent accountability from the ANC can be seen in, for example, the following. The President and the National Government inviting Director-Generals to attend an ANC lekgotla, a clear violation of the separation between party and State. Where is the Public Protector? Where is

the accountability?

Hon Gwede Mantashe who himself, was the other day in front of the Zondo Commission on the upgrades to his house, a claim that he says, and I quote: "He does not know". I mean, who upgrades your house and you do not know? Where is the Public Protector? Where is the accountability? Hon Mbalula himself, did not disclose a sponsored family trip. There was zero remedial action by the Public Protector and zero accountability. Minister Nathi Mthethwa, Geoff Doidge, Minister Thulas Nxesi and several others were issued a one-line reprimand, despite the fact that nearly R300 million was abused in the so-called upgrade on Nkandla, including the infamous fire pool. None of them had any disciplinary action against them. In fact, they were promoted and still in executive office in Parliament.

That is the difference between the DA and the ANC. Let me be clear. At no point should taxpayer's money be abused or used for political party objectives. A separation between the State and the party protects our democracy and all our people. To undermine this is the go-against the grain of the very foundation of our democracy.

In fact, Speaker, to showcase the zero accountability and the zero standards, the ANC has a business lobby, the ANC Progressive Business Forum. Being a member in good standing of the ANC, hon Dugmore therefore is a member in good standing of the ANC Progressive Business Forum. No sooner had the vaccines left India, no sooner had the vaccines been packed in a factory in

India, did the top six of the ANC – the ANC President, ANC Deputy President, Secretary General, the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson – met with the ANC Business Forum to discuss tenders, hon Speaker. That is zero accountability and zero standards, the difference between the party and State. The DA holds itself to a much higher standard than the ANC colleagues have set for themselves.

Hon Deputy Speaker, regarding the recently released report into PPE corruption, the Hon Dugmore and members of that side, did not issue a statement condemning an ANC-ran municipality, Matzikama, which is featured in the SIU report and that is the zero or literal accountability the ANC has set for themselves.

Hon Speaker, the DA notes that Premier Alan Winde was very clear about this matter. He has taken the appropriate measures and respected the crucial Chapter 9 Institution, despite a bizarre and questionable finding by the Public Protector who ANC members in the House, just last week, debated to remove. In fact, Hon Minister Maynier just mentioned it. 68 of them did not even have the gall to attend that sitting to decide on that matter. That is zero accountability, zero standards.

And we have to thank hon Winde for bringing and taking appropriate action, despite a bizarre report from an individual that the ANC, themselves, find questionable, despite all the above, and given the standards that we know of the ANC and its alliance, and the not so good partners, will never reach. We

welcome the action taken by Premier Alan Winde and we request that the House supports this motion in requesting that the Premier bring this Legislature more details on a decision in respect of the Public Protector's report through an Executive Statement. I so move, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mackenzie. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Leader of the Opposition, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, hon Mackenzie, I am not sure whether you are aware, Speaker, or others, but he actually worked in the office of Minister Mbalula. And he still needs to explain to this House what actually happened that he left the Minister's Office and now wants to come here and start raising concerns about Minister Mbalula. Maybe the story will still come out and he will share that information, hon Mackenzie.

It is, indeed, ironic that he talks about the separation of powers because with due respect, hon Speaker, even yourself as a Speaker of this House and a member of the DA, have gone into our schools ... [Interjection]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... With DA paraphernalia, which is actually against the South African Schools Act ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon ...[Interjection]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And it has been a clear demonstration ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Dugmore. There is a hand. Hon, the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Mr Speaker. [Audio distorted.] ... on Rule 59 which says that no member may impute improper motives on another member, which, from what I could hear, was what the hon Dugmore was attempting to do with respect to hon Mackenzie. Would you be able to rule on that, please?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Speaker, I also rise on a point of order. Just one ...
[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Your mic, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: This point of order is when the hon member is – probably two points of order. The one is according to the substance of the motion: he is deviating from the motion. And secondly, if he wants to take on the Speaker, he needs to do that in a substantive motion.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I also have the hand of hon Mitchell.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Speaker. The Premier covered me in his last point with substantive motion towards the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mitchell. Hon Dugmore, we are following the Rules. Will you please follow the Rules as you continue to address the House? You may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker, I will continue. And it was not an aspersion cast on hon Mackenzie if he or anyone interprets that, it was a matter of interest that I was simply asking for an explanation. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Laughter]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: What is interesting is that and in responding to this particular motion, you know, we need to point out very clearly when the hon member tries to cast aspersions on the ANC. We, as the ANC are busy with a very serious internal process of renewing ourselves, building unity and I believe that there is an understanding from voters that the ANC is going through this process, but that he is committed to come through. And that is why in by-elections, we have taken by-elections from the DA not only in the Western Cape, but also in other parts of the

country.

So, it is very clear that when the member attacks the ANC in this motion, I am simply responding through the Chair to the Premier. So, it is very clear that there is a recognition of the ANC's commitment to renewal and respecting of all public Chapter 9 Institutions, and it is very clear there is a process in responding to you in regard to the Public Protector in the National Assembly, and we should allow that process to see its course.

But we welcome this debate. We had called for it and it is important that this actually happens, but clearly, the Premier's very convoluted response to this whole issue, indicates that despite our previous calls to take action against MEC Bredell for bias, for actually using his position to fight internal DA factional battles, that this has now actually caught up to MEC Bredell when there is a clear finding here. Yet, the Premier literally has, with much, much difficulty in a very convoluted way, come to the point to say there is a slap on the wrist for MEC Bredell. Whereas in fact, when we look at the facts of this particular case, Speaker, what we should understand: this was not simply a breach of the Code of Ethics.

And for those members who are watching and the members of the public out there, we need to explain that what actually happened here was that MEC Bredell, on a DA letterhead, wrote a letter to the George caucus instructing them not to go ahead with a particular appointment at a director level. This was not a political post and it just so happens, and this is what the Premier

fails to address in his response at all, that the real facts here show the true nature and character of the DA. Because the director that had been identified was a well-qualified, black director who had actually been serving in this particular position. And the intervention by the DA and MEC Bredell, sought to undermine an open process, a competitive process of appointment and since we all know that there is labour legislation which talks very clearly.

So, this was not only unlawful, but what was actually happening here was DA racism exposed for the world to see because clearly, the DA had another candidate, a white official that they wanted in the post, even though some of their own councillors agreed with the ANC and the Opposition that the director nominated by the full council, was the most appropriate.

So, let us not pretend that there is anything else going on here. This is unlawful conduct, it is racist conduct, and it is about actually the †*baantjies vir boeties* [jobs for pals] which has come to characterise the DA.

Let us have a contrast with how the MEC, for instance, has turned a blind eye on the shenanigans of the DA run Langeberg Municipality, which has appointed a municipal manager with a questionable record. Someone who resigned under a dark cloud before his case was investigated for his alleged involvement in a ‘jobs for sale’ saga in the municipality. The Executive Mayor of the municipality in Langeberg, refused to provide the council with a comprehensive report, but the DA rode rough shod because it is one of their members that they have taken from Gauteng to come and work here, and they

have ignored that he left there under a cloud and refused to actually face the disciplinary committee in that process.

So, this is what we see. It is DA cronyism, nepotism, it is racism, and we want to ask hon Ivan Meyer when he responds: can he please tell this House in the Western Cape, how many other times did the DA and MEC Bredell attempt to – how many times in the City of Cape Town, how many times? Because if you do not want to tell us, we have made it very clear that we as the ANC, given that all that the Premier has done here is a slap on the wrist, that what we are going to do as the ANC first of all, number one, we are approaching the Employment Equity Commission to actually look and deal with the complaint from the ANC; that what happened here by the DA and its MEC, actually amounted to undermining of employment – an attempt to undermine employment equity in the George Municipality. That is what happened here. It was a clear attempt to do that.

And secondly, we are approaching the National Minister for COGTA to actually investigate each and every instance, not only in the Western Cape, but in other municipalities where the DA formally intervened. And I am not talking about political appointments to offices, I am talking about genuine interview processes for permanent officials of municipalities, where the DA has attempted to intervene. And clearly, what has been behind many of those interventions, is informed by the DA's policy where they at one level say race does not matter, but clearly, what they do in practice is try and advance the interests of mainly white officials. That is what is happening and that is

the reality of the DA that that is – they have decided to give up all hope on trying to recruit, as Mmusi Maimane was trying to do – one nation in South Africa. They have decided to focus on a specific privileged minority and that is why they are losing by-elections because people see through this that when you attempt to overlook clear acts of racism, when you attempt to undermine lawful processes which are going to advance employment equity, the voters are going to see that, and you will stand exposed.

So, I think it is very important that the Premier and your other Public Protector complaints that have been submitted by other colleagues: now, if those complaints are resolved and once again, MEC Bredell, for instance, in his conduct in Oudtshoorn, is found to have breached the Code of Conduct, what will then happen because the Public Protector did not say what sanction to apply, she said the Premier must decide on remedial action. All he has done is a very convoluted attempt to say that he is being reprimanded.

So, I would like to challenge the DA here today, if this MEC is found again by the Public Protector to have breached the Code of Ethics, will we then have an unequivocal commitment from the DA that he will actually be removed from the Cabinet? Through you, Speaker, the Premier of this Province promised when he made his first speech here, that he would deal with everyone without fear or favour and that he would take action against his MECs in regard to breaches of the Code. But the way that we have seen the Premier, that this was, as I said earlier, simply words because actually, when it had come to an MEC breaching the Ethics and actually, when one

looks at the underlying reasons for that breach, the clear racist intent and that all that is happening here is the issue of a reprimand. I think that shows that the Premier is not serious about making sure that he treats all his MECs without fear or favour. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And that is why we, as the ANC ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Think that this report is whitewash. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, thank you very much. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Finish and *klaar*.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Thank you, hon Dugmore. Hon members, I now recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the lengthy letter tabled with this Parliament by the Premier, attempts to justify the MEC's unlawful interference in the administration of the George Municipality, on the basis

that it is the same as the ANC's cadre deployment policy. The DA has basically been caught out implementing its own version of cadre deployment and the Premier is basically saying it is okay for DA leaders to dictate who should be appointed to positions in councils because the ANC also does it.

The Public Protector found Bredell's actions amounted to a conflict of interest, as he attempted to ensure the DA's preferred candidate was appointed, instead of the candidate selected through the selection process. The Premier is also unable to understand the concept of a conflict of interest. He suggests that the conduct is not subject to the Public Protector's oversight because MEC Bredell was acting in his capacity as a DA leader. This is the very essence of a conflict of interest.

Finally, Speaker, the Premier's so-called reprimand is nothing more than a begrudging act of compliance, exposing a disdainful and disgraceful ...
[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: ... disdain for the Constitution and the Office of the Public Protector.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Your time is up, hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now recognise hon Minister Schäfer.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Speaker. As much as we respect the Office of the Public Protector, it is rather ironic that we are here today debating a motion arising from a report of the first Public Protector in the history of democratic South Africa, to have received a vote of the majority of the National Assembly to commence proceedings for her removal. She is also the first to have the dubious distinction of personal cost orders being made against her, not only once, but several times.

The Public Protector – this Public Protector - is the one of whom Judge Tolmay of the Northern Gauteng High Court has said: “The failures and dereliction of duty by the Public Protector in the Estina matter, are manifold.” Her appeal against his finding has been dismissed by the Supreme Court of Appeal as having no reasonable prospect of success. According to an article in the *Daily Maverick*, she has now committed to continue investigating the Estina scandal, this time, including the roles of senior politicians, which she has been accused of ordering staff to exclude in the first report.

In a previous appeal against the finding against her, which includes a finding in that she is personally responsible for a portion of the legal costs, she reportedly argued that her resources are constrained, and she should have the discretion to investigate who she wants. So, she failed to investigate senior politicians in the Free State in a matter which involves the diversion – a very

euphemistic term, to say the least – of R220 million intended to support poor black families ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ... to a company associated with the Gupta family. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat? There is a point of order. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker, on a point of order, up until this point nothing that hon MEC Schäfer has said, actually relates to the content of the motion and the subject matter of the debate. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Hon Minister let us proceed in terms of relevance. I hope you will assist us in that regard.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I am about to get there, Mr Speaker, if I may. Yet, this matter was seemingly so high on her agenda, this particular matter we are discussing, that when Mr Dugmore complained that it was not getting the attention, he decided it deserved, it was prioritised above the many complaints still waiting for outcomes from her office.

It is in this context that we debate her finding in this report that Minister

Bredell breached the Executive Members' Ethics Code because he did what? Stole money? No. Used his position to advance himself? No. He wrote a letter to the DA Caucus, not the Council, in George in his capacity as Provincial Chairperson of the DA and asked them to remember to comply, not instructed them, with the decision of the DA at a federal level, designed to ensure good governance and that inappropriate people are not appointed in DA-run governments. Perhaps you should have ...[Interjection]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Get to the point.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: The Code applies to actions of Executive members in performing their official responsibilities. Minister Bredell made several compelling arguments as to why he believed his actions did not go against his official responsibilities. And that at the time of writing this letter, there was no conception on his behalf that this could or would be regarded as the fulfilment of an official act.

It is clear from the evidence that his actions were not in wilful disregard of the law. He obtained no personal benefit and the standard ANC allegations of racism were baseless. The Public Protector made no findings of racism or private gain, and all the arguments put up by member Dugmore to the contrary, are entirely without merit and [audio distortion]. Whilst he has noted a content of Minister Bredell's defences to the complaint, the Premier has accepted the finding in the absence of any review thereof and acted in accordance with the remedial action proposed therein. And when we look at

other similar situations such as those mentioned by hon Mackenzie, it is clear that this action is more than satisfactory.

But whilst member Dugmore may be very satisfied with this finding, this House needs to understand the full implications of this decision. The Public Protector's finding is based on a prior determination, which was conveyed in writing, that when someone is appointed to executive office, everything they do thereafter can only be done in that capacity. In a letter from her office, she says: "The only time you can cease to be a member of the Executive Council is when you have been dismissed by the Premier."

Clearly, the same applies also to members of the Executive in the national sphere and every other provincial government. And whilst it is sometimes difficult to draw a bright line between what is done in one's official capacity versus one's personal capacity, it cannot be that every single thing a person does when he or she is a member of the Executive, is thus done in that capacity.

If the Public Protector thought she had resource constraints before, this conclusion is certainly going to make for some very interesting additional challenges to that. But an additional issue on this particular matter is the unbridled hypocrisy of the Leader of the Opposition in this House who lays a complaint. In his letter he intimated that the actions of Minister Bredell amounted to an attempt to ensure cadre deployment, this coming from a party whose leader and the President of our country, so much for renewal, is about

to give evidence to the Zondo Commission about his role as Head of the ANC's Deployment Committee, the very committee the sole purpose of which is to ensure that only ANC members are appointed to key government positions, in order to further the national democratic revolution.

In contrast, the existence of the DA's process is not to dictate who is appointed, but it is to ensure that people who are not so capable and appropriate, are not appointed, in order to ensure that we deliver to the people of the relevant spheres of government.

Speaker, I propose that this remedial action is more than satisfactory and that this House adopt the motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, as the ACDP I concur with the Premier Winde and agree that a reprimand to Minister Anton Bredell is appropriate, fair and reasonable. What I need to highlight is that Minister Bredell did not write the letter in his capacity as Minister of Local Government and Development Planning, but as stated before, as Chairperson of the DA in the Province. If the letter was written on a ministerial letterhead, then I believe that would have been a breach of the Code and inappropriate, and I would have then said a harsher sentence would have been warranted. But as I stated before, the letter was written in his party-political capacity to the DA Caucus and therefore, the reprimand is appropriate. I

thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I am told hon Marais is not in the House. We will now move to the next speaker and I recognise hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Al Jama-ah supports the Public Protector. The Al Jama-ah party judges the Public Protector, Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane on her commitments sought over the past three years at grassroots level, to alleviate the plight of people living under inhumane conditions at Masiphumelele informal settlement. We believe there is a witch hunt against the Public Protector. She has investigated several corruption cases and has acted unbiased and with fairness in all investigations. Al Jama-ah is against the call for the Public Protector's removal from office. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Brinkhuis, your time is one minute, and it is already up ... [Interjection]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Yoh!

The SPEAKER: I would have called your attention to Rule 44 of the Standing Rules of relevance. The debate now was about the hon Minister and the reprimand by the Premier, but we take your point. Your time is now up. I now recognise hon members, the Minister of Agriculture, hon Minister Dr

Ivan Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate because I cannot sit back when a colleague of mine, with a good public record, is being treated unfairly. I do so not because he is a member of the Democratic Alliance, I rise because I have seen so often when people with integrity and dignity are often hung up to dry in South Africa.

But hon Speaker, there is another reason why I decided to take part in this debate. As a scholar of public administration, I simply cannot sit back and observe how the core and basic principles of public administration are so grossly misunderstood and wrongly applied by a person holding the office of the Public Protector. I want to turn this House's attention to Section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Section 181(1) refers that the institutions like the Public Protector, must strengthen constitutional democracy.

Speaker, for the record, there is case law that this Public Protector is not strengthening constitutional democracy. On the contrary, the current incumbent is weakening constitutional democracy. Hon Speaker, I refuse to give credibility to a report published by an institution who is weakening our constitutional democracy. Hon Speaker, her own lawyer as reported in the newspaper, resigned and said the Public Protector ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... does not understand the basics of the legal system. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat. There is a point of order. I recognise you, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes Speaker, mine is not a point of order, it is a request. Would hon Minister Meyer take a question around why the hon Premier then acted ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... on the report, if the Public Protector ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Do not go to the question, hon Sayed. Do not go to the question. You have asked the question whether he would, in fact, if he can. Hon Minister, will you please take a question from the hon member?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: No, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Before you proceed, hon Minister, before you proceed, I have got the hand of the hon Kama. Hon Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Speaker. My point of order, Speaker, is twofold. One was on the relevance of the debate, but the other one, Speaker, through you, I just want to check with you, Speaker, if it is allowed? Because what I am hearing now is an attack on a Chapter 9 Institution by the MEC in a political debate and I think there has been, and even to an extent of Constitutional Court rulings on the attitude of Parliament then and the President, on the Office of the Public Protector. Yes, the people can disagree with reports, but the reality is that this was a report that was never reviewed of the Public Protector, but what we are discussing is something else. I want to check if it is allowed to really attack the Office of a Chapter 9 Institution like this? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Kama. Hon Minister, do you have any view on the issue? There appears to have been an attack on the Institution. Is yours an attack on the individual or the Institution?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I am outlining the principles that have been violated by, not the Institution, but by the individual and I would like to continue to demonstrate these principles.

The SPEAKER: I would like to request the hon Minister to then indicate whenever you speak, that you are referring to the individual, but not the Institution.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker,

the principle of separation of party and State is a principle in our constitutional democracy. Minister Bredell was at the time the DA Western Cape Provincial leader, the Chairperson, and it was in his duty to engage with members of his party in that capacity. Leaders must lead and provide leadership to their structures like we all do in politics. The Public Protector alleges that Minister Bredell crossed the line when he wrote to the DA Caucus in George.

Firstly, hon Speaker, Mr Bredell did not write that letter on his ministerial letterhead, as hon Minister Schäfer has indicated because he respected the principle of the separation between party and State. He wrote the letter to his party structures on a DA letterhead and not on a ministerial letterhead. Hon Speaker, a further proof that he respected the principle of separation for party and State is the fact that he sent the letter on a DA letterhead from the DA's provincial office and not from his ministerial office.

Hon Speaker, the question is: did the Public Protector overlook the fact that Mr Bredell wrote a letter on a DA letterhead and did she overlook the fact that Minister Bredell sent the letter from the DA provincial head office? Hon Speaker, I will tell you what is going on here. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Okay, okay.

The SPEAKER: Hon Kama, what is your point of order? Alright, it seems the hon member inadvertently lifted his hand.

Mr M KAMA: Sorry. Sorry, sorry, Speaker, I was on mute, sorry. I thought I had unmuted myself. Hon Speaker, there is a report of the Office of the Public Protector. Now, to attack the finding ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Kama, the debate today is on the fact that there is a report and the reprimand, and that is what is being debated. The issue – because this is a political debate and let us allow the hon members to express themselves. What I have ruled on is that there must be no attack on the Chapter 9 Institution and the hon Minister of Agriculture has indicated that he would not and he has not done so at this stage, according to the Presiding Officer. I will not take any further points of order on this point. If the hon members want to raise anything else, we have got the Speakers List that we have exhausted on the matter. So, we are going to a vote soon after that, but I am going to request the hon Minister to proceed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. There is a deeper problem here. The Public Protector actually suggests or implies that no executive authority may hold a senior political party position. How absurd can this go? Now she suggests that President Ramaphosa is violating his executive Code of Ethics when he, as the President of the ANC, issues an instruction to an ANC structure on an ANC letterhead from Luthuli House. It is absolutely absurd. How can we, as executives of any political party,

divorce yourself from your political party? This is absurd. It is not only absurd: it is absolutely ridiculous.

Hon Speaker, no matter what hon Dugmore said here today, there is a national consensus emerging about the fitness of the Public Protector to hold public office. I want to thank the ANC in the National Assembly who defied the Secretary General of the ANC, Ace Magashule, and voted to support the DA motion to refer the issue of fitness to hold public office to a committee of Parliament. It seemed the ANC in the National Assembly has come to its senses and here, we pray, that the ANC in this House will also come to its senses. Put politics aside and let us save South Africa, and let good men like Mr Bredell, continue to build and strengthen our constitutional democracy and local governance in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, hon member Bredell has, in his official executive responsibility, approved the application for the post at George Municipality. He did so to uphold the rule of law and after considering all the evidence before him. He did not allow his political party position to interfere with the judgment on the executive responsibilities as the Minister of Local Government.

Hon Speaker, because we value good governance and the rule of law, we even, even if we disagree with the report, through the Premier acted and wrote to Minister Bredell. Because we value and respect institutions of constitutional democracy, the report, and the letter of the Premier to Minister

Bredell, is open for public scrutiny. That is why we are debating it here today.

Hon Speaker, while there were real breaches of the executive Code of Ethics, no actions were taken against MECs in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. There were no actions because factional battles and political fault lines in those provinces are more important to the ANC than our constitutional democracy. Premier Winde and hon member Bredell respect the Constitution. That is why we are having an open and frank discussion in this House today.

Hon Speaker, in this debate, I am asking myself three questions: did Minister Bredell intentionally violate it, the Code of Ethics or ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Conclude, Minister. We need to conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Let me ask the ANC to do the honourable thing, like your colleagues did in the National Assembly, support the motion before us here in Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the motion, and I would like to put the question before the House that the motion be adopted. That is the question is: are the hon members in favour of the motion being adopted by the House?

An HON MEMBERS: Yes, Chairperson.

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Those in favour of the motion being adopted, please say aye.

HON MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: I am going to put this question again properly. Those in favour of the motion being adopted, please say 'aye'.

HON MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Okay. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Aye.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Those not in favour of the motion begin approved, please say 'no'?

HON MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. I think the 'ayes' have it.
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ayes?

The SPEAKER: The question is thereby approved. [Interjection.]

HON MEMBERS: No! No!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. I just want to request the hon members to observe the following that on the 29th, as I indicated earlier, which is on Monday, and on Tuesday the 30th, the normal House sittings, which will continue with the programme, will be starting at 10:00 as we did this morning. So, I would like to request the hon members to really be ready and participate as you did today.

It was quite impressive; the attendance was very good. Thank you very much for the spirit in which you have engaged with the votes and, of course, with the debates. Hon members that concludes the session for the day.
[Interjection]

The House is adjourned. Have a great weekend. Thank you, *baie dankie*.

The House adjourned at 14:48.