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THURSDAY, 26 JUNE 2025

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Hon members, before we proceed I would like to remind the hon members of some of the logistical arrangements for the Sitting today. As has been our practise to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House; both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff, and by Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sitzings.

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

Hon members, if you are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer, you will have your microphones muted and called to order. Hon members, when a member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon members may address the Presiding Officer as expected, but must mute their microphones when they have completed speaking. Hon members, you are requested to please use the hand raise functionality for the members on the hybrid Sitting, if you wish to draw my attention to you raising a point of order.

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

Hon members for the Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings, and to this end I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules.

Hon members, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you to the House today, but also to the guests in the gallery. In particular I would like to welcome two interns that are interning at the Office of the Ministry, job shadowing the Minister of Social Development, so welcome to Bernalee Essex and Farushka Paulse. Welcome to the Sitting and I hope that you will enjoy the Sitting today; and then also to the rest of the guests in the gallery, welcome to WCPP.

Hon members, with that being said I wish to recognise the Chief Whip.

## **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

### **(Motion)**

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, good afternoon.

## **SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION**

Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 22, that precedence is given to the subject for discussion in the name of hon Bryant:

*“The state of Local Governments in the Western Cape governed by coalitions.”*

As well as:

## **ORDER OF THE DAY**

*The consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Marine Oil Pollution Bill. (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation)*

*[B 10D–2022] (NCOP).*

I so move.

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

Hon members, we will now proceed with the subject for discussion in the name of the hon DW Bryant as printed on the Order Paper and I recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, good afternoon to you, the Premier and all the colleagues present today in the House, especially those who will be participating in today's debate. Hon Speaker, thank you for affording me the opportunity to bring this incredibly important matter to the House today. It is high time that we debate the catastrophic impact that dysfunctional local coalition governments are having on service delivery across the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, it is the position of the DA in this House that the dysfunction that is being felt by residents, businesses and stakeholders in dysfunctional municipalities, such as Knysna, Theewaterskloof, Kannaland and others, has been caused directly and deliberately by politicians and political parties that act primarily in their own self-interest and not that of the people they are elected to serve.

Hon Speaker, the biggest threat to effective coalitions in this province is actually not ideology or personality, or even policy differences; the biggest threat is corruption, fraud and rampant maladministration, almost always from the ANC and the populist parties who orbit around them.

Hon Speaker, we have to be brutally honest, the ANC has spent the last three decades perfecting the politics of patronage, and using local governments, where they are in power, to benefit themselves and their connected friends. The ANC has hollowed out institutions from the inside, converted service delivery into a cash register for connected cadres, and turned Local Government into a personal piggy bank for the politically powerful.

Hon Speaker, it is easy to forget about the Zondo Commission and the litany of offences committed by the ANC over so many years, which are now a matter of public record. This is what happens when the ANC is given unfettered access to absolute power. Added to this, the Auditor General's annual reports are crystal clear, municipalities governed by the ANC consistently rank amongst the worst in South Africa in terms of financial mismanagement, irregular expenditure and failed infrastructure delivery; and while we have managed to maintain a coalition at a national level, with the best interests of the country at heart, at a local level, coalitions with the ANC and their populist partners are incredibly difficult to maintain, some might say "impossible."

One of the reasons is that after a Local Government election has finished, many of the same politicians and political parties that have helped to decimate Local Government structures, now arrive at the coalition negotiating table, demanding influence and key Government positions; and let us be frank, in many instances what they are really looking for is access to tenders, contracts and administrative leaders that they can abuse.

We have seen it time and time again, the moment an ANC aligned coalition partner is given oversight of finances, housing or infrastructure, things start to disintegrate. The procurement process has suddenly become opaque. Competent officials with decades of experience are fired and replaced by loyal comrades, and tenders go to friends, families and cronies, the collateral damage happens fast, and it is almost always irreversible in the short term.

Hon Speaker, I must be clear, the Democratic Alliance believes in working across party lines when it serves the public interest. In fact we have proven that coalitions can work, like in the GNU, where the partners are committed to clean governance and they share a fundamental respect for the rule of law, but coalition stability cannot exist in a vacuum, it requires trust. You simply cannot build trust with local political actors whose politics are built on the foundations of looting and self-enrichment.

Populist parties, many of which emerged as splinters or stepchildren of the ANC, are also often eager participants when it comes to signing up for dodgy coalitions. They shout louder and make more outrageous promises, but their track record reveals the same story – chaos, patronage and a reckless disregard for basic governance. Being a populist is easy, all you have to do is blame everything on someone else and then avoid all accountability for your own actions. But where we have seen these small populist parties in government, it is clear that they do not have a cooking clue how to run a municipality, which is why the PA did not last very long in charge of Beaufort West.

Populists do not care about the budget balancing or achieving clean audits, they care about TikTok's and hand-outs, and when they do not get what they want, whether it is a tender or a title, they walk away from coalitions and collapse the councils, leaving residents to suffer the debris of empty swimming pools, missing solar panels; and as in Knysna, rotting human bodies floating in the water supply.

We heard more about Knysna recently from the Premier himself, how that municipality is quite literally disintegrating under the ANC and the PA. Knysna has gone from having a competent DA Government in charge, providing services to all its residents, to a chaotic coalition that does not know its ear from its elbow and treats Local Government like a game.



Sadly, the real victims of all of this are the people on the ground that now go days without water and electricity and see mountains of stinking refuse piling up around them. They are the ones who now live with broken street lights, potholes and sewage spills under the PA and the ANC, because there is no functioning council to pass service delivery plans, and because those in charge simply do not care.

But sadly, hon Speaker, the ANC voters continue to elect deeply flawed ANC candidates back into power, as we have just seen overnight in Knysna. It really is tragic to see and to be frank, it almost beggars belief. It is also important to note, hon Speaker, that the DA is sometimes blamed for refusing to work with these local political desperados and for walking away from certain dodgy coalitions.

Hon Speaker, the DA will never walk away from governing well and in the best interests of the people. But we will walk away from corruption, we will walk away from partners who betray the trust of the public, and we will walk away from deals that will force us to become complicit in the very malfeasance we were elected to stop.

We are deeply proud that the Western Cape remains the best governed province in South Africa, as a result of hard work, professional

administration, and a deep seated intolerance for corruption. We believe in transparent procurement, clean audits and measurable service delivery outcomes. When we are in coalition, we insist that our partners believe in the same values that we do. If we want coalitions to work we need binding agreements with performance clauses and accountability mechanisms, but parties like the ANC and the PA continue to resist this, and we would urge them to reconsider.

Hon Speaker, most importantly in closing, we need the voters ...  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bryant, I just want to remind you that your time has expired, please conclude.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): In closing, we need the voters to help us in the clear and unequivocal message in 2026 and beyond that integrity in Local Government matters and we will no longer put up with coalitions between the PA and the ANC. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Thank you very much. I now recognised the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, hon members of the House, people of the Western Cape. On this 26<sup>th</sup> day, 70 years ago, in Kliptown, our forbearers made the Congress of the People and declared boldly and fearlessly that the people shall govern. The adoption of this Freedom Charter was not just a declaration of dreams; it was a commitment of justice, equality, dignity and inclusive governance. Yet seven decades later, we must ask ourselves, “have we truly lifted up the spirit of the Charter?”

Where is the dignity when people slept in flooded homes across the Cape Town Flats communities last night? In informal settlements across Khayelitsha, Philippi and Delft, and in rural towns like Du Noon, homes were flooded, children were cold, and families prayed through the night for safety. In Langa and Gugulethu streets and people’s homes were flooded. We must ask why this is happening.

It is because under the DA apartheid 2.0 investment, service delivery follows a racially coded spatial logic. Leafy suburbs and [Inaudible 0:13:53] proper drainage upgraded infrastructure and responsive municipalities, while poor and working class communities continue to be victims of intentional under development. Hon Speaker, we are called here to debate to the state of local governments under coalition arrangements in the Western Cape. But let us be honest, the real debate is about the complete and systematic failure of the Democratic Alliance to govern in the interest of all.

Take for instance the rot in Swellendam, where a coalition corrupt DA and Freedom Front Plus have turned the municipality into a haven for looters. The Vermaak Report, an independent investigation, exposed a shocking and systematic pattern of corruption, tendering and contracts extended illegally to a father son duo playing puppet master and profiteer with clear conflicts in interests. Senior officials, including the municipal manager, CFO and supply chain manager, implicated in manipulating procurement processes.

The report recommended a disciplinary action and even criminal charges, but nothing has been done, instead the DA and Freedom Front Plus attempt to bury this report. They clothe themselves in the language of governance, but their action exposes a party at war with truth. They wear blue suits and poly smiles, but beneath that thin veneer lays a party more concerned with headlines than with hungry children. They use a special council meeting to declare the Vermaak Report null and void, in indirect contradiction to the earlier council resolution accepting the findings, and then they rewarded the implicated official with a bonus.

If that is not a betrayal of public trust, I do not know what it is. Why is the Freedom Front Plus allowing its name to be tarnished in this way? The Freedom Front Plus was the first party to say that the DA is arrogant, corrupt, bullying, and cannot work with other parties. We call on the

Freedom Front Plus to do the right thing and in the interest of people leave the coalition and corruption in Swellendam Municipality.

Hon Speaker, where was the MEC Anton Bredell in this case? MEC Bredell, the very embodiment of a sectional and decisive leadership in a local government has been silent, absent, complicit. We must speak plainly and unambiguously on this matter. The DA, through the office of the MEC Bredell, is the architect in the instability of municipalities in the province.

Yes, the MEC uses the power of this Department to target non-DA municipalities, abusing Section 106 investigation as a political weapon, yet it turns a blind eye to the DA-led corruption. [Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP: No, hon Speaker, I just want to know through you if the hon member is prepared to take a question?

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, order!

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): He is quick to ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, I did not recognise you yet. Hon Chief Whip, the member is not prepared to take a question. Hon Stoffel, you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): He is quick to act against ANC-led council such as in Knysna, and yet he turns a blind eye to the DA corruption in Swellendam and in the City of Cape Town, and now he wants more power through the municipalities, and a unconstitutional and un-powerful and undemocratic attempt to centralise control and undermine municipality autonomy.

Hon Speaker, this misgovernance of the DA can be seen in other municipalities in the province. In Saldanha Bay, R2,5 million was mismanaged while people wait for houses that never come. In Matzikama,

jobs are handed to unqualified political insiders, like the son of the Deputy Mayor in the defiance of the municipal hiring policy. In the Garden Route there is an R11 million budget shortfall due to irregular salary payment. This is money that could have built homes or fixed roads; and let us not forget the George building collapse where innocent lives were lost.

Hon Speaker, let us also confront the might of the well run DA City of Cape Town. The so-called crown jewel of DA governance is the worst of crime, inequality and suffering. In Khayelitsha, Du Noon and Nyanga, children walk to school through rivers and raw sewage. Gang violence is out of control, 15 lives lost in a single week and all we got are excuses. Millions are spent on technology for LEAP officers' Shot Spotters, yet the only thing that rises is the murder rate.

Whilst the DA claims clean governance, corruption lurks just beneath the surface in Cape Town. How do you explain clean audits when communities are crying out about construction mafias, alleged links with underworld gang leaders and tenders being milked through front companies? We reinstate the ANC-led alliance to call for the President to issue an SIU proclamation to investigate the fraud, corruption and criminal syndicate linked to the City of Cape Town.

Let us now look at Breede Valley. An IDP from 2015 is still not implemented by 2025, †wat 'n skande [what a disgrace.] Roads, sanitation and toilets ...  
[Interjection.]

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, I just want to ask if the member is prepared to take a question please?

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

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

The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question. Hon Masipa, please take your seat. Hon Stoffel, I recognise you.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Let us now look at Breede Valley. An IDP from 2015 is still not implemented by 2025. Roads, sanitation and toilets approved in 2018 have not materialised, because according to the DA they cannot find



a contractor. This is incompetence and wilful neglect. The De Doorns communities live without electricity for over 20 years. Elderly people whose homes burned down wait for years for reconnection. One woman even died after the trauma of the fire and the municipality did nothing. No materials, no support, just silence. Hon MEC ... [Interjection.]

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, public participation is a cornerstone in democracy, but in DA led municipalities' that is not a priority. I thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Thank you very much. [Interjection.] [Applause.]  
Order! Hon members on my right, I am very capable of chairing the meeting, so I have indicated to the member that her time has expired, I do not need for you to reemphasize my ruling. I recognise the hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Speaker, hon members of the House, good afternoon. Firstly, hon Speaker, let me congratulate the ANC and the DA on the newly formed coalition this morning in the Laingsburg Municipality. We are standing in a season of political evolution. The dominance of a single party control is fast becoming a thing of the past and in its place the age of

coalition governments is rising across the Western Cape, whether welcomed or resisted. This shift is not a threat to democracy; it is the very essence of it. Coalitions are not the problem; they are the product of people who are fed up with exclusion, broken promises and unaccountable governance.

The Patriotic Alliance is proud to be part of this change, not for power but for purpose, for people, for progress. We stepped into coalition spaces in municipalities where communities were crying out for something new, something better, and yes, we may be the new kid on the block when it comes to coalitions, but we step in with bold intention and a heart of service.

Let us speak plainly, municipalities once governed solely by the Democratic Alliance, like Matzikama, were riddled with neglect, backlogs in service delivery, frustrated exclusion communities, a local government that functioned more like a closed up boardroom than a servant of the people; and yet the DA dares to call this good governance, but when coalition governments, with voices like the Patriotic Alliance at the table, took charge ... [Interjection.]

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I would like to ask whether the speaker would like to take a question.

The SPEAKER: Hon Constable, there is a request from hon Walters, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): I will take him out for coffee next week, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question, hon Walters. You may continue hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): But when coalition governments with voices like the Patriotic Alliance at the table took charge, we saw a change. Communities that were previously invisible were finally acknowledged. Services are no longer politicised but prioritised. People are engaged, not ignored. Hon Speaker, [Inaudible 0:25:12] is not perfect, of course not, it requires compromise, discussion, and yes, confrontation, but I ask you hon members, is that the hallmark of true democracy? Debate, dialogue, diversity, accountability...

Hon Speaker, coalitions are not the enemy of progress, they are the foundation of a maturing democracy. They force collaboration, they demand humility. They deliver diverse leadership, and when built on respect they bring Government closer to the people. Hon Speaker, we do not fear coalitions, we embrace them, and the Patriotic Alliance remains committed to governing, not for popularity, but for purpose. Let us build coalitions not just in council chambers but in communities. Let us govern not just with mandates ... [Interjection.]

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker – but with morals, and let us always remember, good governance is not about control, it is about care and serving the residents of the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Constable. Before I recognise the hon Minister, Minister, do you need the podium? I recognise the Minister of Local Government and Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the hon Minister Bredell.

0:26:34 – 0:33:33

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dankie agb Speaker. Agb Speaker,

plaaslike regering in Suid-Afrika is in 'n moeras. Dit is in 'n intensiewe  
sorgeenheid ... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker,  
local government in South Africa is in a swamp. It is in an intensive care  
unit... [Interjection.]]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. It is a  
point of order. Why ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Can you speak to me, hon member. Hon Ngqentsu, can you  
speak to me? What is your point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Oh, thank you very much, hon Speaker. I rise  
on the point of seeking to establish as to why only when it is Minister Bredell  
that they clap hands, but when it is others they do not clap?

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. [Interjection.] Order members! Hon members! That is not a point of order, hon member. Hon Minister, my apologies, you may continue.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Plaaslike regering is in 'n sorgenheid op 'n long- en 'n hartmasjien. Ja, koalisies is deel van die probleem, maar ongelukkig sny die oorsake van die probleme veel dieper as net die uitdaging van koalisies. Plaaslike regering is baie soos sport, kom ons kyk na rugby. 'n Rugbywedstryd is 80 minute lank. Plaaslike regering se kompetisie is vyf jaar. In rugby is daar reëls en almal op die veld herken die reëls en die skeidsregter pas die reëls toe. Plaaslike regering werk volgens reëls, soos oorhoofs vervat in die Grondwet, die MFMA, die witskrif op plaaslike regering, Munisipale Strukture Wet, en die Munisipale Stelsels Wet.

Rade het ook hulle eie orde reëls, en die funksies van die skeidsregter is hier ingebou. Howe is die skeidsregter van laaste uitweg. Dink aan die howe as die TMO, die *Television Match Official*, wanneer die skeidsregter nie seker is van die reëls op die veld nie, kan hulle die howe nader.

Agb Speaker, in ons plaaslike regering speel te veel mense nie volgens die reëls nie, soms ken ons spelers nie die reëls nie, maar ongelukkig is daar baie

keer moedswilligheid, gierigheid, en blatante korrupsie en minagting van die wetgewing, wat maak dat ons nie ons mense dien nie.

Agb Speaker, President Ramaphosa het effektiewe plaaslike regering een van sy prioriteite gemaak vir hierdie termyn, en een van die aksies is om die witskrif van plaaslike regering te hersien. Dit is 'n goeie idee want die dokument kom sedert 1998. Maar ook die Ouditeur-Generaal het gewaarsku dat 'n nuwe witskrif nie 'n silwer koeël is nie. As daar uitvoering gegee word aan die inhoud van die huidige witskrif, dan sou ons moeras nie so diep gewees het nie, maar terwyl ons nou in die proses is, is daar net een kans om die plaaslike regering uit die intensiewe eenheid te kry, en die inhoud van die witskrif moet daardie bitter medisyne beskikbaar stel.

Agb Speaker, rugby word gespeel tussen twee spanne, daar kan nie 'n derde span op die veld wees nie. Demokrasie is 'n bietjie meer ingewikkeld en ons kan verskeie opsies in die samestelling van 'n raad hê. Maar koalisies is een daarvan. Maar “kingmaker politics”, waar 'n piepklein 1% of 2% party die burgemeester word, of altyd die een is waarvan raadsbesluite afhang, kan nie werk nie en is nie demokrasie nie. Dit is nie waarvoor die meerderheid van die kiesers gestem het nie en dit maak 'n bespotting van die demokrasie.

Agb Speaker, kom ons praat oor Knysna. Hier is 'n voorbeeld van 'n munisipaliteit wat nie geldelike probleme het nie maar 'n munisipaliteit wat

die reëls ignoreer van die spel. Die gevolg is 'n ineenstoring van basiese dienste soos water en vullis. Almal in die dorp ly hieronder en almal word benadeel. Ek het vanoggend vir die munisipaliteit geskryf om redes aan te voer hoekom ek hulle nie onder administrasie moet plaas nie.

Agb Speaker, dit is 'n verleentheid vir die munisipaliteit, maar ons opsies het eenvoudig opgeraak, en die ANC het sowaar gegaan en die vorige burgemeester wat afgedank is, wat bedank het voordat ons hom in die hof kon kry, en teruggeplaas om te staan, en bring hom terug. Die ANC wil nie korrupsie uitwis nie. Die ANC wil nie korrupsie uitwis nie, hulle bring die korrupte mense terug in regering.

Agb Speaker, in rugby is die skeidsregter onafhanklik en onpartydig. Ons kort tans so 'n persoon in ons rade om die amptenare te beskerm van onbehoorlike politieke druk deur die verkose raadslede. Dit is veral ons munisipale bestuurders en munisipale finansiële bestuurders wat hier baie blootgestel word. Ek stel voor dat ons onafhanklike interne ouditeure in ons munisipaliteite kry. Hulle kan deur Nasionale Tesourie aangestel en betaal word en rapporteer direk aan die provinsiale Minister en die nasionale Tesourie.

In Plaaslike Regering het ons meer doeltreffende gevolgebestuur, of *consequence management* nodig, sodat daar minder lang uitgerekte hofsake



kan wees. As die bloudruk of verslag wat onafhanklik is sê dat 'n munisipaliteit kan nie skoon water gee nie, moet ons kan optree. As 'n munisipaliteit nie sy boeke indien om geoudit te word nie, moet hy onmiddellik onder administrasie gaan.

Ons kan die hersiening van die witskrif gebruik om hierdie reëls van plaaslike regering eenvoudiger te maak. Ek stel voor dat ons die wet vasmaak dat plaaslike regering verplig word om 'n vasgestelde persentasie van hulle begroting op infrastruktuur en die onderhoud van bestaande infrastruktuur moet spandeer. So kan ons die water, die rioolaanlegte, die waterpype, die paaie en die straatligte in stand hou en sal dit nie verval nie.

Agb Speaker, een van die voorstelle wat tans die ronde doen is dat plaaslike regering se finansiële model hersien moet word. Dit alleen sal nie help nie. Ons benodig 'n nuwe finansiële model en ons moet by Nasionale Regering begin, want ons sukkelende ekonomie, ons sukkelende staatsfiskus is as gevolg van 'n Nasionale Regering wat nie finansies verstaan nie. Die Nasionale Departement het geen motivering om te spaar nie, want hulle vat eers vir hulle, hulle kry eers die korrupte *cadres* aan die gang en dan verdeel hulle na provinsies en plaaslike regering.

Munisipaliteite in die Wes-Kaap staan kop en skouers uit bo die ander munisipaliteite in die land, en ek wil afsluit deur ons burgemeesters en munisipale bestuurders wat ... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Local government is in a care unit on a lung and heart machine. Yes, coalitions are part of the problem, but unfortunately the causes of the problems cut much deeper than just the challenge of coalitions. Local governments is a lot like sport, let us look at rugby. A rugby match lasts for 80 minutes. Local government's competition is five years. In rugby there are laws and everyone on the field recognizes the laws and the referee applies the laws. Local government works according to rules, as contained overhead in the Constitution, the MFMA, the white paper on local government, Municipal Structures Act and the Municipal Systems Act.

Councils also have their own orde rules, and the functions of the referee are built into this. Courts are the referee as last resort. Think of the courts as the TMO, the Television Match Official, when the referee is unsure of the laws on the field they can approach the courts.

Hon Speaker, in our local government too many people are not playing according to the laws, sometimes our players do not know the laws, but

unfortunately there is stubbornness, greed, and blatant corruption and disregard for the legislation, which causes that we do not serve our people.

Hon Speaker, President Ramaphosa has made effective local government one of his priorities for this term, and one of the actions is to revise the white paper on local government. It is a good idea because the document dates since 1998. But also the Auditor General has warned that a new white paper is not a silver bullet. If the contents of the present white paper is executed then our swamp would not have been so deep, but while we are now in the process there is only one chance to get local government out of the intensive unit, and the contents of that white paper must make available that bitter medicine.

Hon Speaker, rugby is played between two teams, there cannot be a third team on the field. Democracy is a bit more complicated and we can have various options in the composition of a council. But coalitions is one thereof. But kingmaker politics, where a very small 1% or 2% party becomes the Mayor, or always is the one on which council decisions depend, cannot work and is not democracy. It is not what the majority of voters voted for and makes a mockery of the democracy.

Hon Speaker, let us talk about Knysna. Here is an example of a municipality that does not have financial problems but is a municipality that disregards the

laws of the game. The result is a collapse of basic services such as water and waste. Everyone in the town suffers because of this and every one is harmed. I wrote to the municipality this morning to ask for reasons why I should not put them under administration.

Hon Speaker, it is an embarrassment for the municipality, but our options have simply disappeared, and the ANC has gone and the previous Mayor that was fired, who had stepped down before we could get him in the court, they put him back to stand and brought him back. The ANC does not want to eliminate corruption. The ANC does not want to eliminate corruption, they bring correct people back into government.

Hon Speaker, in rugby the referee is independent and impartial. We presently need such a person in our councils to protect the officials from indecent political pressure by the chosen councillors. It is especially our municipal managers and municipal financial managers that are exposed here very much. I suggest that we get independent internal auditors in our municipalities. They can be appointed and paid by National Treasury and report directly to the provincial Minister and the national Treasury.

In local government we need more efficient results management, or consequence management, so that there can be less long extended court cases. If the blueprint or report that is independent says that a municipality cannot

provide clean water, we must be able to act. If a municipality does not submit its books to be audited, it must immediately go under administration.

We can use the revision of the white paper to simplify these rules of local government. I suggest that we tie down the act that obliges local government to spend a fixed percentage of their budget on infrastructure and the maintenance of existing infrastructure. Thus we can maintain the water, sewerage plants, the water pipes, the roads and street lamps and it will not fall into disrepair.

Hon Speaker, one of the proposals circulating at the moment is that local government's financial model should be revised. That alone will not help. We need a new financial model and we must start with National Government, because our struggling economy, our struggling state fiscus is as a result of a national government that does not understand finances. The National Department has no motivation to save, because first they help themselves, they first get the corrupt cadres going and then divide to provinces and local government.

Municipalities in the Western Cape stand head and shoulders above the other municipalities in the country, and I want to conclude by congratulating our mayors and municipal managers that promote ... [Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Minister, jou tyd is verstreke.

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

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: ... bevorder, gelukwens. Dankie, agb Speaker.

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

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you.] I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the winds of change are blowing through the shores of the Western Cape and with them they carry hopes and aspirations of the people of this province. This change was first witnessed during the 2021 Local Government Elections, where for the first time out of 30 municipalities in this province, 16 of those remain hung and are run by coalition governments. Hon Speaker, the big loser in this election was the Democratic Alliance which still remains in disbelief to this day despite the efforts to always want to desperately hold on to power, even when they are no longer wanted.

Hon Speaker, this DA is currently in court as we speak due to their hunger and desperation to hold on to power, even when they fail to convince their own card carrying members, councillors and voters, that the DA is the proper vehicle to lead the people of this province. Hon Speaker, on 29 May 2025, the Matzikama Council voted and removed the DA and its coalition partners from governing the municipality, a move which still continues to cause those in upper levels of the DA not to sleep at night, hence they are now resorting to courts, in order to clinch back into power by force after losing a political battle to govern this municipality.

Hon Speaker, it is a known fact that the people of the Western Cape suffer from poverty as a result of high level of inequality in this province. Most municipalities run by the DA in this province only administer good services in leafy suburbs [Inaudible – audio distorted 0:35:00] people reside, whilst townships are neglected. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape is currently experiencing a high level housing crisis in the hands of this DA-run province that they govern. There is a growing number of informal settlements because people are growing poor and can no longer afford to pay rent as backyard dwellers, hence they end up settling in unfavourable conditions out of desperation.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape municipalities are currently having poor emergency housing provision for the poor and especially the elderly. The DA is very quick to run to court to obtain eviction orders, but they get stuck when they have to provide suitable alternative accommodation to the same people they seek to evict. Just outside the gates of CPUT campus in Cape Town, hon Speaker, there are homeless people who were being granted an eviction order years ago at the request of the City of Cape Town, but the reason why they are still in that place to this day is because the court made an order that the DA-run City of Cape Town must provide them with suitable alternative accommodation that will respond to their needs, and once more the City is failing to do that to this day.

But as I conclude, hon Speaker, and as we lead to the next Local Government Election next year one thing is certain, the winds of change will continue to blow within the shores of the Western Cape and the DA will lose more municipalities. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I now recognise the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Greetings, hon Speaker. Can you hear me?



The SPEAKER: I can now hear you, you are audible, you may continue, hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, greetings to all, I greet you all in the name of the most high. Hon Speaker, during the 2021 Local Government Elections, 16 of the 30 municipalities have gone for coalition government structures due to no party winning an outright majority. Some of the most noteworthy of these are Theewaterskloof, Knysna, Swellendam and Matzikama, and many more.

Hon Speaker, Theewaterskloof is on the brink of collapse, if not already. In Knysna the coalition for service delivery practically stopped. In Swellendam the DA and the EFF coalition has mismanaged the municipalities to such an extent that the Provincial Government had to step in. In Matzikama the infights in the coalition as recently as 29 May had the coalition change, where GOOD, the PA, the ANC and the EFF outvoted the DA.

Hon Speaker, look at Saldanha Bay Municipality, the situation there, where the NCC councillor, who was the MPEC Chair, unravelled a scam of R2,5 million unaccounted by the Mayor and his team. She was immediately removed as the MPEC Chair.

We must be honest, a coalition government is not the will of the voter, these political closed-door arrangements usually does not happen with the public or with voter participation, it happens in a caucus meeting. These arrangements are usually for certain positions, for example, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Speaker, Committee Chair and so on. The voter usually suffers due to continuous infights in the coalition, and the end result, service delivery is hampered.

Hon Speaker, coalition governments are part of our system, but if parties with different policies, different aims, different goals and a different focus become partners, the coalition will hardly ever deliver, neither will it last. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Jacobs. I now recognise the Minister of Finance. Minister, do you need the podium? Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Speaker, local governments are the engine room of any functioning province. They maintain our sanitation services; keep our neighbourhoods clean, they are responsible for law enforcement and creating an enabling environment for job creation and businesses to prosper. When political instability takes hold it can bring once thriving municipalities to its knees. In the Western Cape we have seen how coalitions driven by opportunistic politicians have resulted in

a revolving door of executive leadership, administrative chaos, and a lack of cohesive oversight.

Coalitions require maturity, compromise, cooperation, patience and a shared vision. But in recent years we have seen how municipalities' finances have been gutted at the altar of narrow political interests, instead of the interests of the people. We have seen how well run municipalities with strong financial indicators and a solid history of delivery, completely collapse. Hon Speaker, we often hear the phrase, "the people cannot eat a clean audit." This dismissive rhetoric ignores the value of financial accountability. A clean audit is not about handing out gold stars, it is about telling people what you spent their money on and it is also about attracting business and investment, creating jobs and delivering services in communities.

In the 2023/2024 financial year, 26 out of our 30 municipalities secured unqualified audit opinions, with 20 achieving clean audits. These results are a testament to the importance of stable political leadership in local governments, however municipalities like Kannaland, which received a disclaimer, and Laingsburg, which received an adverse finding, continue to fall short and demonstrate systemic challenges in regards to political volatility and poor financial controls.

Hon Speaker, as they say, they say “people cannot eat a clean audit”, but they also cannot eat financial mismanagement, corruption or theft. Hon Speaker, †jy kan nie deernis beleide *subsidise* as jy nie geld in jou bankrekening het nie. So gesonde finansies is belangrik vir ons mense [you cannot subsidise compassion policies if you do not have money in your bank account. So sound finances are important to our people.] The financial challenges in Local Government are further compounded by the collective R93,1 million owed to Eskom by five municipalities in the province. While some of the debt has been written off, this debt still remains an area that requires careful oversight.

There is debt incurred by Theewaterskloof, Matzikama, Cederberg, Beaufort West and Kannaland, it all stems from coalition chaos in those municipalities at some point or another. Matzikama, Cederberg, Beaufort West and Kannaland are all currently under payment plan supported by the National Treasury Debt Relief Scheme, except Theewaterskloof, whose R50 million debt arose after the 31 March 2023 cut-off, and the Theewaterskloof’s current Mayor has also rightly attributed these financial woes to a lack of political oversight under the previous coalition administration.

Despite these challenges, the Provincial Treasury remains committed to supporting financially distressed municipalities. In Beaufort West, progress under the Financial Recovery Plan allows the municipality to move to Phase

2, following their revenue collection now rate being 85%, compliance with the Eskom Debt Relief Programme and Capital Expenditure Ratio of 87%.

There is still a lot to achieve, but we are making progress in the right direction. In Theewaterskloof, a Section 139 support action was approved in November 2024 after a sharp decline in this financial position. By August 2024 its revenue collection rate dropped to 64%, while cash reserves fell and commitments grew. The Provincial Treasury and Department of Local Government are supported by the National Treasury in working with officials from the municipality to develop their Financial Recovery Plan, and we are awaiting the adoption of the draft Financial Recovery Plan.

In Matzikama an Operational Support Plan is being implemented with R37,7 million of its Eskom debt already written off. Continued compliance with debt relief conditions is critical to this municipality's recovering. Despite initial resistance to both National Treasury and Provincial Treasury support, a Section 139 intervention is underway in Kannaland with a recovery plan in development and we are awaiting its adoption.

These interventions underscore our commitment to all municipalities, regardless of political dynamics, and the support is bolstered by the Provincial Treasury's recent, first of its kind, Local Government Budget Performance Review, as well as R18,6 million allocated for 24 projects

across 12 municipalities through our Financial Management Capability Grants, for programmes such as water, energy and financial sustainability.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mayor Aletta Theron on her election as Mayor of Laingsburg as part of the DA and ANC Coalition Government. As with all governments across this province, the Provincial Treasury and the Department of Local Government are here to assist as best ... [Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agb Minister, jou tyd is verstreke.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I conclude?

The SPEAKER: You may conclude.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: The path to sustainable local governance is clear and in the hands of the Western Cape people and I urge the residents of this province to support stable governance at the ballot box. I thank you.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, coalitions are a sign of our maturing democracy, but many political parties, and there are councillors too, suffer from political immaturity, and this is destroying any good that could have been achieved through a consensus seeking model. A feature of such immaturity is unwillingness by some political parties to fully commit to political power sharing. They intentionally plan to oust coalition partners who disagree with their plans and their budgets, not allowing for deliberations or disagreements.

Hon Speaker, but there are successful coalitions, the Freedom Front Plus holds the mayorship in Oudtshoorn, this is a very stable coalition where we are sharing power with the ANC, the PA, †Oudtshoorn Gemeenskap Inisiatief and the Advieskantoor [Oudtshoorn Community Initiative and the Advice Office.] The DA decided to be in the opposition, †en onder die Vryheidsfront Plus noem ons dit die “Regering van Plaaslike Eenheid”, the “Government of Local Unity.” Die verskil met hierdie benadering is dat ons alle partye genooi het om deel van hierdie koalisie te vorm en dit gaan goed in Oudtshoorn, met nuwe projekte en die opgradering van sportsfasiliteite, wat voorheen nooit gedoen was nie [and under the Freedom Front Plus we call it the Government of Local Unity. The difference with this approach is that we have invited all parties to form part of this coalition and it is going well in Oudtshoorn, with

new projects and the upgrading of sports facilities, that previously has never been done.]

Hon Speaker, the recent Auditor General, there is a report by the Auditor General on Local Government and it confirms that a lack of leadership and the commitment to ethics are major contributors to dysfunctional municipalities.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the Freedom Front Plus will never tolerate corruption, and for the 2026 Election we stand as a party that will stabilise coalitions, and we are a team player and committed to a consensus seeking in the interests of our rate payers. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and good afternoon to you and good afternoon to the colleagues. Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim. Today we gather to discuss a critical issue that affects the lives of many in our Western Cape communities, the state of local governments under coalitions. The recent shift in the Matzikama Municipality



where the DA lost control, to a coalition of the PA, EFF and the ANC, serves as a timely catalyst for this debate.

Socio-economic conditions under DA rule – During its tenure the DA's leadership in Matzikama Municipality faced significant challenges. Despite efforts the municipality struggled with:

- 1) Service delivery issues. Concerns about water and sanitation services, waste management, and infrastructure maintenance persisted.
- 2) Economic growth. The local economy showed limited growth with high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities.
- 3) Social inequality. The gap between the affluent and the poor remained a pressing concern.

Coalition governments like the new leadership in Matzikama face unique challenges.

- 1) Stability and accountability. Coalitions can lead to instability and blurred lines of accountability.
- 2) Policy coherence. Diverse party interests may hinder cohesive policy implementation.

As Al Jama-ah, we recognise the complexities of coalition governments. We advocate for:

- 1) Effective governments prioritising the needs of our communities and ensuring transparency.
- 2) Collaborative leadership. Fostering cooperation amongst parties to drive development.

The state of local governments under coalitions demands careful consideration. We must prioritise the well-being of our citizens and work towards effective governance. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Brinkhuis, please conclude.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Speaker, I am concluding. Let us engage in this debate with the spirit of constructive criticism and a commitment to serving our communities. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. Hon Minister, before I recognise you, do you need the podium? In that case I recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, Premier, fellow members of the Executive, and members of the Provincial Parliament, both here physically and online. Local Government in the Western Cape continues to show the contrast between effective governance and unstable political arrangements. But the key question remains. Who benefits and who suffers from these choices? From 2011 until May 2025 we have seen the results clear and often very painful. We have seen exactly what happens when coalitions are stitched together in the back rooms by political operators chasing power and position, not principles, and every time, hon Speaker, it is the people, our residents, who pay the price.

But where principled coalitions or working arrangements are formed, we see something different, stability, service delivery and progress. So let us talk facts. Let us look at the critical battlegrounds in our province.

Knysna was a complete mess, with the ANC, PA, EFF, KIM until recently, before the PBI ditched them, they were part of the mess. The results, absolute chaos, qualified and adverse audits became the norm, over R70 million in irregular expenditure, maintenance backlogs exceeding R200 million as we speak. Refuse collection collapsed, infrastructure crumbled, and recently parts of Knysna experienced devastating water outages. Residents were left in the lurch by the coalition and had to rely on water tankers provided, guess

what, by DA Government municipalities surrounding them. This is what DA governance means; we step in, even when we see those communities suffering, even when the others fail to do so.

In Laingsburg in 2021, the ANC, PA, KDF coalition took over, the result, a disclaimer audit with R90 million unallocated for. Zero accountability, zero transparency, but it seems this morning at the council meeting finally the lights shone through to those who seek to turn that town around, and the PA Mayor and KDF Deputy Mayor were voted out by council majority, and yes, a DA Mayor and DA Deputy Mayor did replace these. We wish them well as they seek to turn this ship around.

Oudtshoorn, ANC, OGI, PA, †*Suid-Kaap Saamstaan* [Southern Cape Stand Together,] and yes, the Freedom Front Plus, formed a coalition. What has been the outcome? Unauthorised expenditure rose by 57%, capital project delivered, only 31%. That is not delivery, hon Speaker, that is deliberate neglect at the expense of power.

Beaufort West, once a town of opportunity, now a cautionary tale. Under the ANC rule for a decade, ten consecutive adverse or disclaimer audits, ten consecutive, that must be a record, and in 2021 the council was hijacked by a deal between the ANC, KDF and the PA. Today Eskom is owed R80 million and the entire municipal fleet was repossessed. We have seen years of neglect

under the ANC, and even its coalition partners have left pipelines and treatment facilities on the brink of collapse, putting basic service delivery for the citizens of Beaufort West at risk.

Theewaterskloof in 2021, ANC, PA and GOOD alliance, what did this alliance cost the citizens? R49 million in wasteful expenditure, water projects stalled, indigent residents forgotten, the people were side-lined for political games.

The Central Karoo, now under the ANC, PA, KDF, and until three weeks ago GOOD also joined that relationship of corruption. In 2023 not a single capital project was delivered. The PA-aligned Mayor who is now the Minister of Art, Sports and Culture, handed out contracts without council approval. That is not governance, it is looting in broad daylight; and the roads are fast deteriorating, you can drive across the Central Karoo District, gravel roads are vanishing and vital connections between communities are being severed by neglect.

Cederberg, from 2021 the DA and the Freedom Front Plus and the †*Cederberg Eerste* [Cederberg First] formed a stable coalition. What resulted from that arrangement? Improved audits, consistent delivery, reduced political drama, but in 2025 †toe kruip daar iets in die water, agb Speaker, [then something crawled into the water, hon Speaker,] that stability was

shattered. On 16 January *Cederberg Eerste* turned their backs on the coalition and joined the ANC in the so-called Government of Local Unity. Now service delivery hangs in the balance.

Matzikama, for four years under a stable coalition government which ensured that we brought back discipline and delivery, but on 29 May 2025 the GOOD party, aligned with the ANC, PA and EFF, hijacked this municipality. This was not about the residents; it was about positions, power and personal gain. Now all progress is at risk of being undone. In Matzikama a functioning coalition was toppled by a power hungry alliance. In Cederberg a people first partnership was broken for political convenience.

But let us not forget the other side of Local Government, where it is stable and where we can clearly see clean audits. Since 2016, in Stellenbosch, in Overstrand the lowest water losses in South Africa, in Swartland annually they outperform the infrastructure spent and the projects are on course. But what is the difference between these municipalities and many others in our province and the rest which are failing? Quite simple, the DA is not part of those governments. Governing outright is putting people first and service delivery to all. But that is not just good governance; that is stable governance, poor people first governance.

Hon Speaker, coalitions are said to be the future of South African politics, but that future must be built on integrity, transparency and shared values. Coalitions formed in the shadows, based on ego, threats and backroom deals consistently fail in this province. Ask the people of Knysna; ask the people of Beaufort West, ask the people of Theewaterskloof, ask the people of Matzikama.

But outright DA-governed municipalities build on purpose, principle and the people's interests, those do work, and the DA has shown this works. So let the people of the Western Cape following this session today realise, the Western Cape has shown there is both a warning in what Local Government can look like, but we also have a road map to ensure to South Africa that it can work, and that is by outright majority governance. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Christians on the hybrid system.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the epoch of coalition governments has dawned upon the political landscape of South Africa, hence it becoming obvious that coalitions are indispensable in the pursuit and application of democracy. It is necessary to note and to

recognise the successful coalition agreements existing in municipalities in the Western Cape and also in the country.

Hon Speaker, the success is the realisation of a common goal philosophy and that is, the benefit of this is to improve service delivery to communities. Contrary to popular belief there are well functioning coalitions that counter the misconception that all coalitions are disorderly. Nor are they unstable with frequent leadership changes as popular narrative want us to believe.

Hon Speaker, one example that I want to use is where we co-govern with the DA in George Municipality. George Municipality is working as a well-oiled machine because the parties respect one another and they also stick to the agreement, the letter of the coalition agreement. Also where there are sensitive matters, they try to find common ground where both parties agree. Both parties prioritise service delivery, as a number one to serve the community of George, and also what is to the best of their ability. The ACDP and DA in George have a common goal, and that is that the people of George must benefit in everything they do.

So hon Speaker, the ACDP is a loyal and trustworthy partner when it comes to coalitions. I thank you.



The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I now recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it was interesting that hon Bryant claims some parties form coalitions to get access to housing tenders, where as far as I can recall it is only the DA governed in the City of Cape Town where MMCs have been charged with corruption and had their offices raided as part of housing corruption investigations.

So hon Speaker, we need to be clear. The claimed instability of coalitions is not the fault of the so-called smaller parties; that is a tired old story. GOOD is a minority party in all councils and coalitions that we serve, and we came into those coalitions willing to serve, willing to share power, willing to bring fresh energy and accountability to Local Government. But too often we are met not with partnership but with power games and attempts at silencing, and not because we disrupt or are unwilling to cooperate, but because we threaten the monopoly of the so-called bigger players. We do not go along with things blindly.

The truth is coalitions fall apart because of poorly selected executive leadership, factionalism within the larger parties, personal vendettas, and not because smaller parties do not pull their weight. Knysna is a clear example, municipal breakdown caused by infighting and not a lack of capacity. We

have watched national level power struggles play out in local councils and the people we are supposed to serve gain nothing.

Coalition should bring more representation, more voices, more accountability, that was the hope, but instead we have seen too many failed coalitions because larger parties refuse to work with those they cannot control. Smaller parties do not breed the instability, it is greed that does. The answer is not to retreat from coalition politics; it is to demand better from those who are in them. It is time to stop fighting for seats and start fighting for service. The GOOD party is ready; we just need partners who are willing to work with us and not against their own team. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Herron. I now recognise the Leader of the Official Opposition, hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, allow us to first thank the residents of Ward 8 in Knysna for the ANC's by-election victory last night. In response the DA seeks to now dissolve the council, because they see that the coalition will now remain to continue honestly addressing challenges. We understand there are challenges, but the Mayor has been leading from the front in honestly addressing those challenges. The Premier knows that. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We also note that residents of Ward 9 in Mossel Bay have grown tired of DA governance in the ward and congratulations to our colleagues of the PA on winning the ward from the DA. Coalition government is not easy; it demands maturity, respect, and above all a commitment to put people first. In Oudtshoorn it was the ANC that reached out to form a coalition for stability and service delivery, after the Freedom Front Plus broke the coalition with the DA following MEC Simmers and former Premier Zille's refusal to hold their former Mayor to account for various bullying tactics, including the imposition of an anti-poor budget, an action which also led to the Freedom Front leaving their coalition in Langeberg.

We did not try to unseat anyone in Oudtshoorn, hon Speaker, we tried to build. In fact, the ANC officially reached out to the DA for a formation of a stable all inclusive Local Government in the spirit of the GNU, but hon MEC Londt in his capacity as the Provincial Chair of the DA publicly dismissed any coalitions involving the ANC, and while much more needs to be done, we have delivered in Oudtshoorn as a coalition. New houses handed over to more than 200 people and their budget passed with full agreement. Yes, more needs to be done.

But also, hon Speaker, Cederberg, Cederberg remains stable and successful as a coalition government. Service delivery is back on track and the municipality has over 100 million in the bank, but why then, hon Speaker, do DA coalitions so often fall apart? In Matzikama the DA could not even implement the findings of MEC Bredell's report into their own corruption, as they knew what it would uncover, councillors leading in government deciding who got jobs and on what salary, jobs for relatives, and money taken out of an account meant for food parcels.

It was outrageous that even one of their own councillors stood up to them and voted with principle and later joined us because he knew where integrity lies. It is even more outrageous that MEC Bredell allowed his own findings not to be implemented, the councillors keep their jobs and Provincial Government did not intervene. But in Knysna he wants to remove councillors and dissolve a democratically elected council. In George it was not us who walked away, it was the GOOD party who had enough of the DA's cover up over the fatal George building collapse and they could no longer stand by while residents were left without answers.

In Theewaterskloof the coalition with GOOD, the DA clings on by its corrupt fingertips as another DA Mayor is abusing his power betraying the very people he claims to serve and undermining its coalition partner, the GOOD party. An investigation revealed prima facie evidence that the Mayor has

interfered in the administration and fired senior staff without due process, and appoint so-called DA cadres.

In Breede Valley there was no ward allocation since 2021. In Witzenberg financial irregularities associated with security contracts. All these are leading to the soon collapse of these coalitions. The hypocrisy is staggering, where we build, they break, where we seek partnerships, they push people away. The DA has weaponized coalition politics, not to uplift municipalities, but to cling to power at all costs where they have lost the moral confidence of the electoral mandate to govern alone. They have become obsessed with engineering coalitions that are DA dominated, even where the electorate has clearly rejected a single party rule.

Lately we see, hon Speaker, a new trend in the DA's desperate attempts by running to National Government and Parliament for legislative changes to regulate coalitions. Let us be clear, these desperate calls are not about stability, they are about control and they are about closing the space ...  
[Interjection.]

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, it is a question. There is an inconsistency I picked up. There is a question I would like to hear whether he wants to answer.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He can pose the question when I am an MEC or the Premier. Thank you. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon member [Interjection.] Order! Hon Sayed, just give me one moment. Hon Walters, the hon Sayed is not prepared to take a question. Hon Sayed, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: They are about closing the space for alternative voices in Government that the electorate wants to see, and denying voters the right to choose coalitions that reflect their will. Hon Speaker, coalition government is not just about numbers, it is about trust. It is about serving the people who put us there. The ANC is committed to mature stable coalitions that put people first. That is the difference, that is our promise, and that is why despite the DA's failures we remain ready to work with all who share the same commitment to put the people of this province first. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Van Minnen, before I recognise you, do you need the podium? Then I recognise you, hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, when I was a teenager it was the height of the afternoon soapie period of *Santa Barbara*, *Egoli* and *Days of our Lives*. Now everyone on these shows had at some point been married to everybody else. People vanished and then mysteriously reappeared while looking completely different and nobody seemed to recognise them. The drama was real and never ending, and even if you missed months of the programme nothing really changed. This is much like the Western Cape Local Government coalitions. Let me talk about an episode of the on-going “*Daar op die berg*”, and whatever member Herron and member Sayed says, it is not a good tale.

Following the 2021 LGE, Theewaterskloof Municipality resulted in a hung council and a coalition formed with the ANC, PA and GOOD. The DA area municipal manager was replaced in June 2022 by Boy Ngubo under the ANC led coalition, who was formally appointed to a five year contract, but resigned only five months later. In 2023 the coalition appointed Wilfred

Solomons-Johannes as the acting municipal manager over more qualified candidates, but hey, cadre deployment is real. In September 2023 a flood disaster triggered a R41 million disaster relief fund, but with no records of expenditure no funds were accounted for, and the municipal manager and the CFO was suspended and allegations of corruption and procurement irregularities abounded.

In Grabouw and Caledon residents reported deteriorating service delivery. Large land invasions like Knoflokskraal were tacitly endorsed and audit opinions dropped from unqualified, in previous years, to qualified, reflecting declining financial governance. Council meetings became chaotic delaying critical decisions, like the IDP's budget approvals and disciplinary processes. MPEC did not meet for three years incidentally. Allegations of political interference and supply chain processes undermine tender procedures. The appointment of the municipal manager, Solomons-Johannes, who is literally a GOOD / good cadre was ruled unlawful by the High Court and set aside following a challenge by MEC Anton Bredell.

Another break up, another suspension, and we have five Mayors and four Municipal Managers in three years, causing massive policy and budget discontinuity, and a financial collapse, from a surplus in 2021 to a bankruptcy in 2024. But member Sayed seems to think that this is building. I would not want to comment on that kind of construction.



Hon Speaker, this is sadly not the only soap opera, Knysna, where a bit of body in the water is actually literal. Hon member Sayed seems inordinately proud of this particular achievement. In Kannaland where a convicted rapist returned as mayor after 2021 to form a coalition with the ANC ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Joh!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Voice notes leaking about what would it cost to swing the vote [Inaudible 1:10:12] Laingsburg ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Van Minnen, please take your seat. Order members! Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I want to know whether the Deputy MEC can take a question. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, there are no Deputy MEC's in this House, so I assume that you are referring to the hon member on the floor. Hon Van Minnen, are you prepared to take a question?

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I am happy to take a question when member Sayed is actually the MEC himself.

The SPEAKER: The hon Van Minnen is not prepared to take a question. Hon Van Minnen, you may proceed.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much. As I was saying the drama continues. Without coalition municipalities being able to deliver any meaningful service, except for the service of legal process. Hon Speaker, if member Stoffel thinks this is dignity, I suggest she brushes up on her knowledge of Local Government. Dignity is the foundation of our constitution and the ANC would do well to remember that.

All of this points to the need to build strong and stable municipal authorities that are not bedevilled by unscrupulous coalition partners, who are not interested in service delivery but in building personal power, potentially accruing access to resources and dodgy dealings. It is only through municipalities with good unqualified audits that we see proper delivery to the residents of the Western Cape.

Fortunately Minister Bredell does his job to ensure service delivery in his municipalities, who are literally fighting to win the race to the bottom of the AG's list, while at the top of the AG's list, Cape Town, Swartland, Drakenstein, Hessequa, Berg River, Stellenbosch, all strong DA-led municipalities that serve residents effectively that deliver services and do not get caught up in soapie dramas better deserving of afternoon TV.

Hon member Constable says the PA is the new kid on the block, but all they do is start fights in the car park.

Hon member Cassiem is right about the winds of change, they are blowing the EFF into the footnotes of history.

The Freedom Front Local Government record is reflected in its name with a grade of a FF, and they change sides about as often as Table Mountain has cloud cover.

I echo hon member Bryant in calling on voters to unite behind the DA. We cannot allow unstable coalitions formed by populist parties to continue creating chaos and cause communities to suffer and lose dignity. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Van Minnen. Hon

members, that concludes the debate on this subject. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Developmental Planning on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness Response and Cooperation) Bill [B 10D-2022] (NCOP).

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the House received the report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness Response and Cooperation) Bill, conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP.

I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration, if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to express our full support for the Marine Oil Pollution Bill.

This Bill represents a significant step forward in strengthening South Africa's readiness and capacity to prevent and respond to marine oil pollution incidents. It aligns our domestic legislation with the International Convention on oil pollution (preparedness, response and cooperation), and

places us firmly within the global community of nations committed to protecting the marine ecosystem.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the overwhelming and unanimous support to the Bill as received from all nine provinces during the National Council of Provinces process. This reflects a shared national commitment to safeguarding our coastline, marine biodiversity and the communities who depend on them.

We also wish to acknowledge and welcome the recommendations put forward by the provinces. These inputs have enriched the Bill, particularly around clarifying the institutional role, enhancing and intergovernmental coordination, and ensuring that inland water bodies are also protected.

Importantly the Bill has undergone a full and inclusive process for public participation. We welcome the written and oral submissions made by various stakeholders, including civil society organisations and environmental experts, and members of the affected communities. Their contributions, particularly on issues of accountability, community involvement and fair compensation, have been carefully considered and are now embedded in the Bill.

The Bill establishes a clear enforcement mechanism that provides for the creation of a marine oil pollution fund and upholds the polluter pays principle. It ensures that not only we prepare to respond swiftly to pollution incidents, but that those responsible will be held accountable, and affected

communities will be compensated.

In conclusion, this is a progressive and responsive piece of legislation. It is rooted in international cooperation, national unity and environmental justice. The ANC supports this Bill and urge the House to adopt it. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Speaker, hon members, I rise today on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance to express our support for the Marine Oil Pollution Bill, as deliberated in the Standing Committee, on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

The protection of our coastline is not only a legislative obligation, it is a moral one. The Western Cape, with its vast and economically significant coastline, cannot afford to ignore the devastating impact that oil pollution poses to our marine ecosystems, our fishing communities and our broader tourism and coastal economies.

During the committee deliberations we welcomed the thorough engagement on the objectives of the Bill, particularly the efforts to strengthen prevention and response mechanisms to oil spills, ensure accountability for polluters and provide a legislative framework that supports cooperative governance between spheres of government.

The committee also rightfully acknowledge the need for improved capacity and coordination at local level, particularly in under-resourced municipalities that often face the brunt of environmental emergencies without the tools to respond effectively.

Hon Speaker, this Bill is not just about environmental protection, it is about protecting livelihoods, preserving biodiversity and ensuring that future generations can inherit a coast that is not ravaged by pollution, but restored through responsible governance.

Let it also be said that the support comes with the firm expectation that implementation will be prioritised, monitoring will be consistent and community voices, especially from the traditional fishing towns, will be included in the development of response strategies.

Therefore the Patriotic Alliance supports the Marine Oil Pollution Bill and we commit to continued oversight to ensure that the letter of the law translates into real actions on the ground. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the EFF. The EFF. For the last time the EFF. I will then proceed, the NCC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the NCC takes note of the work done in tabling the Marine Oil Pollution Bill.

For as long as we know the sea and the coast have provided food and income to residents of coastal and fishermen towns, not forgetting that the Khoi and the San stayed on these beaches.

Now, with the world developing at a speed that dazzles us, oil production and transport thereof have increased, but as with everything in life accidents and incidents occur, which sometimes are man-made errors or just an act of nature.

When this happens, we as the public servants must be open to say we have done all that is humanly possible. We must be prepared and able to respond in an effective, swift manner. The Bill is clear that the concept of the polluter pay is in the Bill and it should be enforced.

We are also happy to see that the public participation is written into the Bill. Coastal towns and residents will be hugely affected should such a tragedy occur and their inputs are paramount to successfully implement this Bill.

The NCC supports this Bill as we need to protect our people and our resources. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom



Front Plus supports the report for adoption in terms of the Marine Oil Pollution Bill, and among other potential benefits to the environment, we also welcome the harsher penalties for oil spills within our oceans, and therefore we support. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Al-Jama-Ah, we support this Bill. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports the Marine Oil Pollution Bill for a number of reasons, but the most important reason is it will serve in the best interest of all the people of the Western Cape to protect our coastlines. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, South Africa is a maritime nation with roughly 3 000 kilometres of coastline, and our oceans are not just vast bodies of water, they are vital lifelines.

They feed our communities, power our tourism industry, sustain biodiversity and connect us to global trade, but for too long our seas have suffered from

oil spills, sewage discharge and unregulated pollution from ships. That is why the passing of the Marine Pollution Amendment Act and the Marine Oil Pollution Bill marks a pivotal shift.

These laws bring our maritime regulations in line with international standards under the MARPOL and OPRC conventions. They impose strict rules on ship emissions, sewage disposal and oil spill preparedness.

Importantly they increase penalties, which should hopefully make polluters think twice before treating our oceans as dumping grounds.

Now let us bring this home to the Western Cape, a province with over 1 000 kilometres of coastline, and some of the most ecologically and economically significant marine spaces in the country. Here these laws can make a real difference. They will help protect marine-protected areas like Betty's Bay, where the endangered African penguins nest, and Robberg's peninsula, where valuable rock paintings were found in the Nelson Bay Cave.

They will support the long-term health of fishing communities in places like Saldanha Bay and Gansbaai, and they will boost confidence in our tourism economy from the whale watchers at Hermannus to the surfers in Muizenberg, but implementation is key.

Provincial departments and municipalities will now be required to develop local marine pollution response plans. Cities like Cape Town can no longer

just dump sewage into our ocean without a care in the world.

These new pieces of legislation create a space for accountability, but also demand readiness from Government. We cannot afford to be caught off guard by the next oil spill or shipping incident. We have already seen how damaging such events can be. In January there was a mystery spill between Hout Bay and Kommetjie that left 19 penguins coated in oil.

So this moment is not just about laws on paper, it is about real accountability, real action and a real opportunity for the Western Cape to lead as a model of clean, responsible coastal stewardship. We support the Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Herron. I recognise the DA.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Democratic Alliance welcomes the Marine Oil Pollution Bill, which is a decisive step towards protecting our marine ecosystems, strengthening State readiness and holding polluters to account.

South Africa's coastline is one of our greatest natural and economic assets. From the whales of Walker Bay to the penguin colonies on the West Coast, our marine environment supports thousands of livelihoods through ecotourism, small-scale fishing and recreational activities.

Entire economies and diverse biospheres are dependent on the proper stewardship of our marine resources. By supporting healthy oceans, we empower jobs, coastal communities and all the species that call it home.

Yet this environment remains vulnerable. A single oil spill can undo decades of conservation work, choke marine life and leave local businesses reeling. The consequences extend far beyond the immediate damage. They impact food security, biodiversity and our global image as a responsible maritime nation.

That is why the DA supports the strong accountability measures in this Bill. The principle is clear. If you pollute, you pay. With penalties of up to R35 million backed by cost recovery tools and a strengthened role for SAMSA, we are moving in the right direction.

The Bill also shows progress in building a capable and responsive state. It establishes a clear national contingency plan, mandates trained incident commanders and promotes coordination across all spheres of government. Importantly it ensures preparedness extends to the rescue and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife, a vital inclusion.

We welcome the cooperation provisions with neighbouring states, the ring-fencing of a pollution response fund and the commitment to transparency through regular public reporting. We would like to thank the National

Department for considering and accepting the recommendations of our Standing Committee.

Hon Speaker, South Africa's oceans are not a dumping ground, they are a source for life, beauty and sustainable growth, and we have a duty to protect them all for future generations.

To this end the Democratic Alliance, in chorus with all hon members of the House, supports this Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bryant. Hon member, I have to announce that there are currently 34 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate.

The question put before the House is that the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness (Response, and Cooperation Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill be ratified and adopted.

Are there any objections? No objections. Agreed to.

The Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Bill) conferring authority on the

Western Cape delegation in the NCOP, to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted.

Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environment Affairs and Development Planning on the Marine Oil Pollution (Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Bill) has therefore been adopted.

Hon members, that brings us to Interpellations in terms of Rule 197 and we will now proceed as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Wenger.

## **INTERPELLATIONS**

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

*Whether her Department has any plans to address the recent deaths at clinics and hospitals due to alleged negligence?*

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

The case raised by the hon member concerns a pregnant woman who had a miscarriage at the Delft Community Health Centre on 13 February this year.

Should a baby be born before 26 weeks families are offered the choice to either cremate the remains at their own expense, or for the facility to manage the remains in the same way that it does other biological material. A catch-all and technical term for this is medical waste.

The family in this instance, after counselling, chose to have the facility manage the remains. An internal review and investigation was conducted and found that the clinical steps were lawful and that the family was fully informed. It, however, highlighted that the use of the technical phrase “medical waste” in such circumstances is inappropriate and can add to a family's pain. Further the review noted that more compassionate language should be used to explain the process that is followed.

As a result of this review the Department is in the process of developing guidelines for staff to standardise the approach and ensure sensitivity when handling matters relating to stillborns.

In respect of the case in Eerste River, also raised by the hon member, on Monday, 12 May 2025, a mother arrived at Eerste River Hospital with her 5 year old child. He had reportedly been vomiting and had diarrhoea, lacked an appetite and a fever that made him listless. The triaged nurse met them, took his vital signs and at 12:22 recorded them as within range. He was triaged and placed in the yellow category, meaning he could safely wait while more urgent cases were seen. He was still able to walk, which gave reassuring evidence that he was not in immediate danger. At 16:10 a medical

officer examined the child in full. The doctor found signs of acute gastroenteritis, but no indications of dehydration. Because the child was drinking, alert and did not look acidotic, a blood gas test was not necessary. The child and his mother were then settled into the overnight area so staff could watch how he tolerated fluids, and whether further vomiting or diarrhoea occurred.

Shortly after 20:00 that evening the doctor reviewed him again. The child had kept down liquids and had not vomited or passed another loose stool. His temperature was lower and he appeared comfortable. Confident that he was recovering, the doctor began writing a discharge letter that would allow the family to sleep at home. Without warning the boy's condition changed. He grew pale and unresponsive. Staff rushed to his side, called an emergency and began resuscitation. Despite their immediate efforts they could not restore his heartbeat. A blood gas sample was taken during the resuscitation, which revealed a sudden shift in his body chemistry, showing dangerously high potassium and low sodium. At 21:40 the doctor reported that the child had sadly died.

At the request of the mother a post-mortem examination was arranged and this report is still pending. Once the findings are available the Department will meet with the family to take them through the results and explain what could account for such an unexpected and very tragic loss.

The loss of any child is a profound tragedy and absolutely heartbreaking. My



heartfelt condolences go out to the families affected in both of these instances. No parent should ever have to endure this kind of loss.

As a Department we take these incidences extremely seriously. We are committed to understanding exactly what happened, to support the families as far as possible and most importantly to learn from these tragedies so that we can strengthen our systems, prevent future harm and uphold the dignity and safety of every child in our care.

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

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Greetings to all. I greet you all in the name of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Hon Speaker, on 12 May 2025 a young boy, 5 years old, passed away at the Eerste River Hospital. He came in at about 09:00, he had a severe headache and discomfort, but unfortunately he was not attended to, and around 20:30, while still waiting to be attended to, the small boy could not deal with the pain anymore.

Hon Speaker, this boy, at the age of 5 years old, had a seizure and a subsequent heart attack, and he passed away in the very same hospital where he was hoping to be treated.

Now as shocking as this may sound, one would hope to say that this is an isolated incident. Unfortunately this is not the case.

Hon Speaker, at the Strand Clinic the doctor on call has on numerous occasions turned the patients away, saying they are not sick. Shocking to say the least, the health clinic has just recently disposed twin babies as medical waste when born premature, and then the mother was sent home.

Hon Speaker, Heideveld Clinic has also been brought to my attention. Bad things are happening there. Very, very bad things are happening at many of our health facilities, and this Administration is turning a blind eye.

Just recently we had an oversight visit to Grabouw, where we were informed of the lack of services, including the lack of human resources. In fact majority of our facilities lack human resources.

†Agb Speaker, daai is nog niks. Drie maande gelede toe *alert* ek die MEC, ek *inform* die *Standing Committee through the Chair*, ek *email* die *health administration*, [Hon Speaker, that is still nothing. Three months ago I alerted the MEC, I informed the Standing Committee through the Chair, I emailed the Health administration] and I made them aware of fraud and corruption happening at Red Cross Hospital.

Mitchells Plain Hospital, hon Speaker, our people are dying there, not just of negligence, but language barriers. Foreign national doctors. Then you get

just Black securities acting as if they are the doctors, making decisions on who will see the doctor and who will not.

Hon Speaker, the MEC must tell us today what her plans are to get us out of this health chaos? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, please allow me to convey my well-wishes to the leadership of the Laingsburg Municipality.

Hon Speaker, when tragic incidents of this nature occurs from time time, it will trigger emotional questions and at times it will make serious allegations. It is within our human nature to ask who was supposed to do what and why did it happen, and that is understandably so, but, hon Speaker, what we must understand is that it is in our DNA as human beings to have the ability to show empathy and to show sympathy, and in this instance we, as the Standing Committee of Health and Wellness, we would like to do the same to the parents involved, the family, the friends and also, hon Speaker and hon members, no person in their right minds will create conditions where people willy-nilly die, especially at health institutions.

Hon Speaker, is it our duty as leaders and politicians to create an

environment, especially in health, where people's lives will be improved and where we would strive to make use of opportunities, and to grab opportunities when there is room for improvement, especially out of the lessons learned, as in this case, hence the triage system.

The member who have brought this to our attention, hon Speaker, we serve together on the Standing Committee of Health and Wellness, and I know that his heart and his mind are at the right places, and together we will continue to work together and ensure that we, as a Standing Committee, will try and punch above our weight to help the Ministry, as well as the Department, to ensure that we work and punch above our weight.

As the Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Health and Wellness ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Our condolences to the families involved. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise the hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the tragic death of Lynn Duncan is not an isolated case. After being cleared for transfer to a general ward at George Hospital in April 2022, her condition

worsened allegedly due to poor nursing care. Her family laid a formal complaint of gross negligence following her death five days later. The Department is here to indicate the outcomes of the inquiry.

In another case the Western Cape High Court ruled in favour of a mother who suffered traumatic childbirth injuries in 2010 due to mishandled medical procedures, leaving a child with permanent neurological damage.

These are not mere statistics, they are real people failed by a healthcare system collapsing under the DA leadership. These cases expose the consequences of a mismanaged and under-resourced Department of Health.

Negligence in this system is not incidental. It stems from leadership failures, overburdened and unsupported health workers, and a government more focused on budget cuts than on hiring and retaining vital medical staff.

Hon Speaker, how can the people of this province trust a healthcare system where every hospital visit carries the risk of tragedy? The cost of negligence is not only financial, it is paid for in funerals, trauma and the public trust. Working-class families bear the brunt of this collapse, while the DA continues to present the public health system as a success story.

The ANC demands accountability, transparency and urgent action. The MEC must explain what concrete steps are being taken to prevent further negligence and ensure hospitals are safe, adequately staffed and properly

[Inaudible 1:38:10]

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Life must come before image. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker, part 2.

Hon Speaker, as the NCC we note the response from the MEC here, but, hon Speaker, medical service is not a corner café, mistakes cannot be corrected. There is no after-sale services if a child passes away due to bad services. There is no refunds on a life.

Hon Speaker, for too long we have seen and heard these complaints practically on a daily basis. Today we ask the MEC, the life of a Coloured child on the Cape Flats is already worth nothing when gang and violence take away brothers, fathers, husbands on a daily basis. The violence and crime continue daily and it seems it cannot be controlled, but, hon Speaker, here we have a situation that we can control. The staff at the hospitals and clinics need to be addressed.

Hon Speaker, we cannot have staff nurses in hospitals in the West Coast who

cannot speak Afrikaans, let alone English, but 90% of the patients are Coloured farmworkers and fishermen. These are the conditions we can control.

The NCC demands that the MEC addresses this. Service delivery must be addressed, staff issues must be addressed, management must do better. We owe this to our people in the Western Cape, and we must deliver better services. I thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. The loss of a child is a tragedy and it leaves a lasting impact, not only on families, but on all of us as a society.

These events are a stark reminder of our duty to constantly strengthen our systems of care, to support grieving families with compassion and to never stop striving for the best possible healthcare of every child, and indeed for every one of the 11 million patient contacts per year.

In circumstances such as these under discussion today, the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness activates an internal patient safety review. The review is not a procedural formality, but a deliberate, compassionate process. The Department engages, reviews the facts, listens to

those affected and asks what must change so that every family who uses our facilities is met with safe and respectful care. Each review is monitored through our provincial clinical governance structure until it is concluded, and the insights gained directly inform staffing training and policy.

While we cannot undo the pain of a family's loss, we can honour their experience by learning from it and by working continuously to strengthen the system to support the next patient, parent or loved one that makes use of our services. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members that concludes Interpellation 1. We move on to Interpellation 2 as printed on the Question Paper, and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Simmers.

**2. Mr M K Sayed to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:**

*Whether a commission of enquiry into Communicare was ever established?*

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

Hon Speaker, no formal Commission of Inquiry into Communicare was established. I need to repeat, no formal Commission of Inquiry into Communicare was established.



During July 2019 the then Deputy Minister of the National Department of Social Development set up an interdepartmental technical task team to investigate the affairs and origin of Communicare. The task team included the Social Housing Regulatory Authority, or SHRA, as well as the National Department of Human Settlements, the City of Cape Town, the Provincial Department of Human Settlements and the Provincial Rental Housing Tribunal, who were consulted as part of this process. The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) also participated in this investigative process.

The SHRA reported that the overall management of the Drommedaris and [Inaudible 1:42:1] Social Housing Projects by Communicare is satisfactory. These two projects fall within the ambit of the Social Housing Act and regulations.

The balance of the Communicare's rental portfolio falls outside the mandate of SHRA as these are deemed to be private rental units and do not fall under the ambit of the Social Housing Act and regulations.

In terms of compliance Communicare meets SHRA's regulatory requirements, cooperates fully with SHRA's audits and is currently in good standing with the authority. Furthermore Communicare holds a fully accredited certification issued by SHRA, which is subject to review every five years.

Between 2018 and 2020 the Rental Housing Tribunal received 775 cases from Communicare pertaining to tenants residing at various areas owned by them, among others, Ruyterwacht, Thornton, Brooklyn, Bothasig Gardens, Rondebosch, Plumstead and others, mainly alleging an exorbitant increase in rental by Communicare.

These matters, hon Speaker, were actually finalised by the Tribunal in 2021. It found that the facilitation process...which means it did not need to proceed with a number of the cases. A number of these matters were mediated through our new intervention in terms of mediation, which saw a vast number of these matters being settled by the parties in terms of agreements, and the remainder went over to hearings. Rulings have been issued which are binding. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Sayed. Do you need the podium?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker ...[Interjections]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, you may continue.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Can I start? Hon Speaker, over 600 complaints have been lodged against Communicare, despite the rosy picture that the MEC and leader of the Democratic Alliance in the Province portrays.

Many of those complaints come from the elderly, unemployed and vulnerable residents, and let me also say Communicare is not for us, as the ANC, a political football. It is not, because even in the previous term of government and now, we receive pressure even from people who are ANC aligned and who are connected to leaders in the ANC, not to ask the questions that we are asking in this House, and my message here is not only to the MEC, but it is to those people who are listening. You can message me, you can WhatsApp and say, "Stop raising the issues, you are undermining your own comrades." I will continue raising the Communicare issue on behalf of the ANC, we are not afraid of you.

Now what we need to point out is that in response to the complaints MEC Simmers publicly stated that the Department will establish, prior to this, a Commission of Inquiry on issues raised against Communicare. Notwithstanding the MEC's response, five years later we ask where is the Commission of Inquiry? If the MEC has not yet set up, as he has indicated, the Commission of Inquiry, was a legal opinion ever sought to justify the inaction? Or was this yet another incident where the DA made an empty promise?

MEC Simmers is the custodian of oversight over social housing entities in the province. He has a duty to demand accountability from organisations like Communicare. Why has he not? Instead they fall back on the issue of it being private. Why has he not insisted on the asset register of social housing stock handed over post 1994?

What is being done to protect the constitutional rights of those who have faced eviction, displacement and trauma, including the late Linda Prins, evicted before her death from a property Communicare may not legally own.

Why does MEC Simmers remain silent whilst over 450 eviction matters relating to Communicare proceed in the Cape High Court, and why has there been no support for the victims, or public alignment with the National Minister's forensic investigation? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Sayed. I recognise the hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Am I audible?

The SPEAKER: You are indeed, you may continue.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon member Sayed's question to hon Minister Simmers is an important one, hon Speaker, as it speaks to the need for public accountability and oversight of housing institutions such as Communicare. However, as the hon Minister rightly outlined, no formal Commission of Inquiry into Communicare was ever established, and this was with good reason.

As hon Minister Simmers noted, in July 2019 an extensive interdepartmental task team was convened and the Deputy Minister of Social Development to investigate concerns regarding Communicare. This task team brought together institutions, including SHRA, the Department of Human Settlements, the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, the Rental Housing Tribunal and even Companies Intellectual Property Commissioner (CIPC).

This collaborative effort was not only comprehensive, but also served the interests of the residents of the province who rely on fair access to social housing opportunities. Therefore, hon Speaker, establishing a formal Commission of Inquiry would have been both redundant and potentially duplicative.

The fact that the multi-stakeholder investigation was already undertaken, demonstrates clearly that concerns around Communicare were not ignored, but were addressed through the appropriate, legally mandated institutional mechanisms.

†Nou, agb Speaker, gegewe dat Communicare verlede week 'n voorlegging by die Staande Komitee gelewer het, waar die daadwerklike invloed van hierdie program bespreek is, hoe impak die misleidende narratief deur Opposisiepartye wat volhou dat geen vordering gemaak word om behuising in die provinsie te lewer nie, die werk van hierdie Departement? Dankie baie.  
[Now hon Speaker, given that Communicare last week made a presentation at

the Standing Committee, where the real influence of this programme was discussed, how the misleading narrative is made by Opposition parties that insist that no progress is made to deliver housing in the province, impacts the work of this Department. Thank you.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid Wessels. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Wessels.] I recognise the hon member Jacobs.

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

The SPEAKER: Hon member Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as the NCC we have approached Communicare in an effort to understand the process of them running their business.

They were given land and properties to manage on behalf of government for social housing for the poor, but, hon Speaker, we now see they manage only close to 22% of social housing. The rest of the properties are sold to investors.

This has seen evictions of residents in Ruyterwacht, Brooklyn, Bishop Lavis, to name a few, but, hon Speaker, we were told that their board is chosen and not elected, they do not have shareholders to report to, removals and appointments are made by the CEO and her team.

The National Minister has asked them to stop with evictions until the issue is sorted out. Their response was, “It is within our business plan to evict, we will not stop.”

Hon Speaker, the NCC in its previous sitting asked the MEC regarding this and he was very vague in his response. As the NCC we support this question to the MEC and we are serious to understand, was there ever a Commission of Inquiry established? The question is *mos* now no.

How many more of our Coloured families must be put on the street in this cult by this capitalist organisation?

MEC, there are allegations that this organisation is linked to the underground and the underground is linked to social housing. Hon Speaker, with all these links I just hope it does not link to the MEC, and I just hope that we do not need to worry about something more deeper here. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Jacobs. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and let me also thank the hon member Jacobs for his input and for his questions on the matter. I think they are really helpful and they drive us into the correct direction in as far as getting to the bottom of the Communicare matter is

concerned.

The challenges with Communicare are also part of a much broader social housing crisis in the Western Cape, a crisis that has been ignored systematically and we will explain what we mean. The Province was allocated R1,6 billion under the Human Settlements Development Grant and R382 million through the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant in the 2024/25 financial year, and by August 2024 it had spent only 33% of the HSDG, and a shameful 11% of the ISUPG.

Worse still, R125 million was forfeited to the national fiscus due to the Province's failure to submit a simple rollover request. We are all well-aware that cities are expanding as rural to urban migration continues, and this is placing immense pressure on Local Governments.

We just had a discussion on Local Government now to deliver affordable housing. Yet in this province the Government has been neglecting its duty to provide housing to an extent of underspending budget allocations, while they are not wanting to also use and ensure that Communicare plays the role it should be playing.

We would like to know why has this MEC's Department failed to fully utilise these critical funds amid such dire need for social housing? We know there is land available. Why has the Province not prioritised the release of well-located public land, like Tafelberg site in Sea Point, for housing?



These are critical questions that must be addressed as housing is a crisis right now. The extent to which this Province neglects the poor and working class is concerning because it is systemic. In public spaces it screams and shouts, “We stand for the poor,” whilst in practice the Democratic Alliance Government neglects their needs. We want to tell you we see through the shame. Enough is enough, we demand social housing, we demand an inquiry into Communicare, and lastly we demand that this Province spends the allocated grants. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Sayed. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Speaker, thank you very much, and listening to the hon member from the NCC and the Leader of the Opposition, I think the latter part, the hon member of the Opposition is confusing what social housing is, and I have explained this two weeks ago, the difference between social housing, affordable housing and fully State-funded grant housing, I explained the way the grant is disbursed, I explained the role of the Provincial Department in terms of all of these grants.

Now in terms of social housing, hon Speaker, that is grant funding that works via SHRA through to an accredited SHI, and I need to repeat, Communicare, as it stands, they are a fully accredit SHI. Every five years it is being

reviewed and nothing has been found wrong.

If the hon members feel so aggrieved, they must write to SHRA, who is the authority that oversees them, that does the accreditation. Province concurs or not with the National Department of Human Settlements when PHDAs are confirmed, which determines where social housing can be built, where affordable housing can be built and so forth and so forth.

In terms of social housing, we support applications when it is within the PHDA areas where municipalities apply for them and we assist them, and through SHRA, so that social housing can become a reality. Through that intervention we have now seen social housing being a reality in Drakenstein. It is going to become a reality in Mossel Bay. George is in the process of application.

So we have done our part, but to come back to the main question in terms of Communicare, hon Speaker. I need to reiterate, Communicare is accredited by SHRA. I am not deflecting responsibility, the law says who is responsible for oversight over Communicare, not me. I have a very limited role.

I also had to meet with these individuals who were on the brink of being evicted, but hon Speaker, and I really do sympathise with these individuals, but let us look at the history of why some of these people stopped paying their rent, and it goes way beyond the Communicare question here.

Many of us can recall in 2018 Steen Villas. The hon member Jacobs, whose party is now called the NCC, but was then the CCC, encouraged the people of Steen Villa in Retreat not to pay their monthly rental, and when SOHCO took them to court they tried to prevent it in February 2018. It went on for months and months. They nearly bankrupted SOHCO. They tried similar attempts with Communicare. Communicare approached the court to protect all of their social housing units, but we need to understand, the fact that they needed to approach the court against what public opinion was driving, nearly bankrupted one part of the sector, and why am I saying this, hon Speaker, through you?

Do not mix up grants and use terminologies you do not understand, hon Leader of the Opposition, through you, hon Speaker.

We spend our grants, we play our guidance advice. I did commit into this House to address the issue of the backlog of cases to see how these cases can be resolved, because Communicare were nearly 80% of all Rental Housing Tribunal cases, and by the end of my previous term we had reduced the backlog to only 5% of their cases. We introduced mediation. We introduced facilitation in the Western Cape process.

Our RHD process is a hallmark of what excellence can be, but again, the bulk of these matters – when you ask these people who rented from Communicare, they were told by politicians not to pay the rent, but they signed rental agreements. I cannot take accountability for individuals' actions. I do

sympathise with them, but the law must take its course, and Communicare, as a registered [Inaudible 1:58:23] ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Is abiding by the law, and if you have issues with them, hon member of the Opposition and hon member of the NCC, their review of five years is coming up, then you can play your part. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellations. Order, hon members. We will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper in terms of Rule 202.

I wish to advise hon members that once the hon Premier or the hon Minister has started the reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility, for the hon members on the hybrid system, or by show of hand in the Chamber, if you have any follow-up questions.

Hon members, there are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who poses the initial question, who posed the initial question, will be provided an opportunity to ask the first follow-up question, and

thereafter other hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow-up question if they so wish.

Hon members, the first question, I recognise the hon Premier.

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

### **1. Ms A P Bans to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:**

*With regard to the winter readiness of the Province:*

*What work has been done by the Provincial Government to prepare for the winter rains, especially in informal settlements and farming communities?*

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

I think it is deeply important and really relevant considering the last few days here in the Western Cape, but also given the tragic events near Mthatha in the Eastern Cape in recent weeks. Those horrific floods, which have now killed more than 100 people and displaced more than 2 000 people. This really underscores South Africa's vulnerability to extreme weather events, which are growing ever more common as a result of climate change, and the need for us to prepare and plan for the worst well-ahead of time.

I would like to ask each and every hon member of this House to join me in mourning the loss of those who have died and keeping their families in our thoughts.

Hon Speaker, in the Western Cape, our teams are no strangers to extreme weather events and are such well-practised at preparing for the trials of both our summer and winter seasons.

Much of the work we have undertaken to prepare for and respond to extreme weather conditions, is located within the Department of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Department of Infrastructure, and the Department of Agriculture, Economic Opportunities and Tourism. As such I have received information from all three of these departments for the purpose of this reply.

Planning is crucial to ensure a rapid, effective and coordinated response to any major emergency or incident that occurs. The Department of Local Government, through our world-class Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre, that coordinates the planning efforts between provincial departments and municipalities in the Western Cape.

For the current winter season the Disaster Management Centre commenced planning in February 2025, requesting that local municipalities ensure the necessary planning was carried out and plans were duly submitted to the

WCDMC. These were in turn collated and forwarded to the National Disaster Management Centre.

To capacitate our municipalities, a Disaster Management Learning Programme has been developed and is being rolled out to equip municipal officials in various aspects of disaster management.

The programme consists of 16 short courses, of which five have already taken place. These courses are designed to provide officials with practical guidance on implementing disaster management in their municipalities. For example, in April a short course was provided to 50 officials on early warnings to teach how to establish early warning mechanisms in their municipalities.

In June 2025 a course on awareness and training will be facilitated to teach municipal officials how to develop and implement awareness and training programmes in their communities, and these kind of systems are which gives us the ability, as in the major floods that we saw last year, where disaster management would go out and tell people, “You need to move away from your home right now, because you are in the floodplain and tomorrow the floods are coming.”

The Disaster Management Centre has established a Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan which outlines generic responses to incidents and emergencies, including flood response. While primary responsibility of

riverine floods and dam management lies with the National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, responsibility for urban flood preparedness and response falls under the jurisdiction of local municipalities.

Therefore the City of Cape Town and other municipalities have implemented flood contingency plans as part of their winter readiness planning, or within their disaster management strategies. Prevention remains better than cure, and in addition to responding to disasters, our Disaster Management Centre is committed to working with every one of our municipalities to get the necessary measures in place before floods occur and not after.

The municipal mitigation and preparedness activities at municipal level include the following:

- Provision of sand. Of course, this is for sandbags.
- Clearing of rivers, bridges, drains, ponds, canals and culverts, and of course over the last few months we have those programmes happening, and this is where not only Local Government is playing a role and their disaster management teams, this is where we have got to call on civil society, on people to also play their part. We have seen these drains being cleared out with engine blocks and sheep skins, and you name the rubbish that gets thrown down the drains. That does not help us because that blocks up the drains and of course creates further flooding risk when we do have these rains.
- Advising informal settlement residents to dig trenches around dwellings



to divert rainwater.

- Rehabilitation of access roads to vulnerable informal settlements.
- Health and hygiene promotion around stagnant rainwater.
- Ensuring that an acceptable level of cleanliness is maintained to prevent drain blockages – which I have also just referred to.
- Elevation of toilet facilities within low-lying informal settlement areas is identified for placement on higher ground.
- Trimming of trees to prevent damage from strong winds and to avoid severe disruptions.
- Awareness raising of low-lying informal settlements of flood risk.
- Flood-wise public education and awareness.
- Opening of estuaries in flood prone coastal areas so that you are actually preventing flooding when it does occur, and municipal services are always on standby to be activated in the event of serious incidents associated with these adverse weather conditions.

In addition to the Disaster Management's work with municipalities, the Provincial Government adopts several other methods to strengthen our preparedness for extreme weather.

- The early warning system provided by the South African Weather Service ensures flood awareness and targeted information dissemination based on severe weather warnings, and of course you see that being pushed out through social media platforms, and each municipality identifying those risks and sending it out to the citizens in

their specific municipalities.

- There is a standard operating procedure which has been developed to guide the distribution of impact-based severe weather warning received from the weather service. These warnings are distributed to municipalities and departments to alert them of impending severe weather conditions.
- Flood awareness material. These have been developed to educate communities about what to do before, during and after a flood. These materials are provided to municipalities to support them with their awareness initiatives.
- Then we have also partnered with, and supported and funded, NGOs and volunteer organisations, such as the National Sea Rescue Institute, the Search and Rescue of South Africa, the Life Saving of South Africa. These type of organisations offer a vital service, especially when we have these kinds of disasters.
- The Department of Local Government, through the Disaster Management Centre, also mobilises provincial resources and infrastructure in support of municipal efforts, and facilitates coordination between municipalities, sectors and national agencies. The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre remains in a state of readiness to minimise the impact of winter rains and enhance the safety and preparedness of communities.

In addition to these efforts, the Western Cape Government also works to ensure that roads and other infrastructure that connect our communities,

remain in place and are resilient against extreme weather events.

Road infrastructure conditions inspections are conducted annually, which help us to inform the routine and preventative maintenance that is required, including that of bridge structures.

Whilst flood damage repairs from previous years are still ongoing, and of course we remember the last major floods we had in here, more than 153 roads were blocked and there are still roads that are being rebuilt, have some stop and goes, and one of those we have a discussion on in this House a number of times, the R303 road to Citrusdal, which has suffered heavy damage in seasons past.

Of course right now it is being monitored and you will have noticed my colleague, hon Minister Simmers, how they have used other technologies in really designing new types of bridges so that we can actually manage these floods during this time. I think you have also seen it in those roads that have been built, hon Minister, in the last few years. They really do now, because of new design, withstand these floods that we have.

The Department is also responding to the needs of vulnerable communities and informal settlements using the R325 722 000 in the 25/26 Informal Settlements Upgrade Partnership Grant, with a total of 52 projects now underway.

A total of 15 projects delivering 1 626 service sites accommodated in the business plan, are currently in the implementation phase and remaining projects are in the planning or packaging stages for delivery over the medium-term development plan period.

Furthermore the Department has also embarked on a proactive emergency response by providing emergency kits on a multi-year basis to municipalities within the Western Cape. These kits enhance the preparedness and response capabilities of municipalities in the event of emergency incidents across the province, such as floods, fires, farm evictions and even re-blocking or super-blocking relocations.

Last, but by no means least, we must also ensure that the adverse conditions of extreme weather events do not negatively impact on our food chain and our rural communities who form the backbone of our agricultural sector.

Through its programme, Sustainable Resource Use and Management, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture is responsible for the following initiatives to mitigate flood risk in agricultural areas:

- They distribute early warnings to the wider agricultural community and role-players.
- They identify risk areas in riparian zones and implement ecological infrastructure interventions.
- They provide technical support during and after flood events to assess

the damage and limit further losses. While the previous interventions are implemented pre-disaster, this is a post-disaster recovery intervention. All plans and procedures are in place to immediately respond in the event of a flood or any other agricultural disaster.

- There is also the alien clearing and dead biomass removal in rivers. Infestation of alien vegetation in rivers disturb the river's natural functioning and exacerbate flood damage. The removal of this vegetation reinstates the natural flow of these rivers, and I think the number now at the entrance to Citrusdal is R18 million now that has been spent on opening up the flow of that specific river.

The effects of climate change and our vulnerable position within the changing global ecosystem, means that extreme weather events are becoming more and more prevalent, and this is where I must refer specifically to the last few days of really a lot of rain that has just fallen here in the province.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the disaster management teams, not only our provincial team, but the teams in our municipalities. I think the hardest hit municipality has been the City of Cape Town, and specifically across the Cape Flats. Almost every single suburb across the Cape Flats has been affected and I want to thank those teams that were out through the night last night, but also through the day yesterday, in mitigating these risks wherever they lay.

It is also in Drakenstein. Our officials were out yesterday mitigating risk,

the traffic officials, the sandbags that are put out. The same thing happened yesterday in the Saldanha Bay Municipality, and then today again further up into the Winelands and over towards the Overberg.

We want to thank them, but I also want to say to the citizens and the NGOs who have stepped up when this happens, thank you very much for what you do. It is really a joint or joined up operation between Government and civil society, and how we get this done together. It is very, very difficult.

So lastly our hearts also go out, and our thoughts, to everyone who has been negatively affected by the floods. I really am indebted to the emergency services and again that we have got to be proactive and make sure the first thing that stands up, that we do not have loss of life when we have these disasters hitting us. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon member Bans. Hon Bans, do you have a follow-up question?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): [No audible response]

The SPEAKER: And for the last time, Honourable Bans, do you have any follow-up questions?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): [No audible response]

The SPEAKER: I will then move on. Hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I just want to ask the hon Premier to what extent can we rely on National Government to give any assistance in the event that we would need it from them in terms of disaster risk management? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: I think mostly the National Government's response that we have is when we have to pay for the costs, and as we know it always is quite long delayed and we never get what comes our way, but generally that is the first response.

I think the other side of response, which is immediate response, and what does stand out for me is normally in fire season, but also happens in flood season, is the air force capability, the helicopters on standby, and we know, we have had a discussion in this House.

So that is something that really has to be tackled. We cannot have one out of 74 whatever helicopters that are supposed to be there to aid us in this time, only one available or airborne, which is generally the President's helicopter. We have got to actually get better at responding, but I do want to say that where there is failure we have got to fix it, number one, but I do want to also then say, sometimes our other fellow provinces are not able to also respond

and we are very quick to offer that response.

I opened up saying our condolences to those people that have lost their lives in the Eastern Cape. I do know within hours of that flood we offered help to the Eastern Cape. I spoke to Premier Oscar Mabuyane and said we are able to help. I know that in previous floods in KZN, I mean our teams have been there. So I am really proud of our teams.

I know that we do have gaps in place, but we will continue in this province to invest in our capabilities to make sure that we are ahead of the game, that we are doing what I have just spent the last few minutes talking about, is making sure that we are able to be resilient. There were floods in the city yesterday and we received, if I look at the volume of rain received, we think the canals are big enough. Well, they are not big enough anymore. They might have been big enough when they were designed, but now they have got to be designed twice the size, and our problem is the new stuff gets built – I have just spoken about what our infrastructure team builds on, but that has got to become a national campaign, that we actually make sure that across South Africa we are able to deal with both sides of climate change effect. Floods on the one side and of course the droughts and the fires on the other side.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Premier, it is fantastic to hear the steps being taken by some of our municipalities across



the province, in particular the amazing work being done by the City of Cape Town.

Hon Premier, do you share my concern around some of the municipalities, such as Knysna, where perhaps they do not have the same systems in place, and what can be done from the Local Government level in terms of provinces assistance in those areas? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon members – hon Premier, just before you continue. I just want to remind you, you have an opportunity to ask one follow-up question. You cannot ask more than one follow-up question. Hon Premier, I am not going to dictate how you answer that, but it is my duty to inform the hon members you have an opportunity of one in terms of the Rules.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, but the gist of that question is our capability at provincial level or at Local Government level. Our capability at provincial level, and here, I mean we are actually – the hon Minister is busy on now the next iteration of modernising our Disaster Management Centre. It was part of our partnership and discussions in the UAE and with Dubai, who have offered us a lot of support on setting up the next iteration.

We were there when we saw how AI enables their Disaster Management Centre to evacuate in their problem, big high rise buildings, and you might have just seen in the last, I think it was in the last seven or eight days, there was a massive high rise building fire in Dubai and no loss of life, really

managed, and so they have offered hon Minister Bredell and the team that technology.

So we are going to look at how can we incorporate that into the next iteration in the modernisation of our Disaster Management Centre.

Then at Local Government level, which was kind of the gist of the question, and of course that concerns me, and we just had a debate on local governments and their ability to offer services to their clients, which are the citizens of those municipalities, and when coalition governments of corruption, like in Knysna, are not able to even keep the water flowing or the sewage from running into the lagoon or through the citizens' households in Hornlee, or there is no water in Dam se Bos, or there is no water out in the Rheenendal communities, of course they cannot deal with disasters. They are not able to do it and it is massively concerning.

That talks about the ability of good governance and good governance is about service delivery and then mitigation of risk, and investing into capabilities of mitigation of risk, and that is the Disaster Management Centre, and what I have just spoken about, the training programmes, the work that you do in understanding the potential or possible problem of tomorrow, and you are able to respond effectively, and of course you never know what happens, but if you build that – and I think that is what we have shown over the last few year, that that capability is being built. But when you do not have proper budgeting and you do not have proper leadership and you do not have proper

management at Local Government level, of course you are never going to be able to respond adequately.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise hon member Ngqentsu and then hon member Windvogel.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Premier. We appreciate how you have responded and broadly, and even beyond the scope of the question, but the question from hon member Ayanda Bans was in a way specific, targeting informal settlements and farm communities.

Now given the continued impact of winter rains on those living in squatter camps, when do you intend addressing the crisis of squatter camps in the Western Cape, in particular in the Metro?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you very much to the hon member for the question.

He obviously did not listen to me, because the whole section of what I just replied spoke to exactly that. How many projects there were, how many millions are put aside for that project. He needs to listen to the answer that I give because I do not want to just repeat it again.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Order, hon members.  
Hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Premier, I assume you are aware of an 8 year old child who has died and 120 people who have been left displaced.

I just wanted to check, what are you, as a province, going to do, because the municipality is absent? You explained in your answer there are kits, municipalities have kits to assist these victims, but where there is no – like in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch, is where it happens. So your Department, how are you going to assist those victims? Thank you.

The PREMIER: I presume that my Department is actually under hon Minister Bredell, or the very – [Inaudible 2:22:07] thank you very much.

So I think, as I said, that we are available, our teams are out there 24/7, and I said that yesterday it was amazing to see the officials across this province out there, and of course in every single community, in every municipality, whether it is in Stellenbosch or it was in Drakenstein or it was in Saldana or here in Cape Town, which bore the brunt of it yesterday, they were out there.

Anybody who is displaced, that are the kits that are made available. If those kits are run out then of course we will determine how we get more. Then just give us that information, pass that on to the Disaster Management Centres,

both at Province or directly at that municipality, and they will react to it.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question number 1. We move on to Question number 2 and I recognise the Honourable Premier.

*Eskom: loadshedding and resilience plans*

**2. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:**

In the light of the imminent return of loadshedding and the approaching winter season:

- (1) What specific measures has Eskom implemented to enhance energy resilience;
- (2) whether the residents of the province must have confidence in the adequacy and readiness of the regional energy resilience plans; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you very much to the hon member for the question. In 2024, we established the Energy Council that later became the Energy and Water Council after the last election. That was specifically to focus on making sure that we had energy resilience. Of course, now, it is energy and water resilience.

At a meeting of the Council of Health just under a month ago, 27 May 2025, Eskom provided their winter outlook which remains vigilant towards the potential threat of additional breakdowns. Of course, in winter, we know that the risks go up because a lot more energy is drawn. Eskom does appear to have made some positive steps under the Generation Recovery Programme in particular. Koeberg Unit 2 has been successfully synchronised to the grid and is once again, generating power. Unit 1 remains offline after an extended outage but is expected to return to service next month.

Secondly, Medupi Unit 4 and Kusile Unit 5 are also anticipated to return to service, contributing additional capacity. If all of these units are synchronised to the grid successfully and on schedule, Eskom informed the Council that an additional 1 800 megawatts of capacity that was not available during the previous year, will come online.

We will continue to monitor the progress of these units and Eskom's progress in restoring its generation capacity. The Energy and Water Council will next meet in August, and I would welcome the opportunity to provide further updates to this House in that regard at that time.

Two: despite the positive progress being made by Eskom in restoring generating capacity, the Western Cape Energy Resilience Programme remains a vital part of the Western Cape Government's response to the ongoing threat of loadshedding. Initially designed to mitigate the impact of loadshedding

and reduce reliance on Eskom, the Resilience Plan has evolved into mitigating and managing energy related disasters and facilitating improved energy resilience in the Western Cape in line with the Priority Focus Area 3, Energy Resilience and Net Zero Carbon of the Western Cape's Growth for Jobs Strategy.

The Energy Plan has been delivering on these strategic objectives through projects grouped in the following components. One: disaster mitigation and management. Two: strategic planning, development and management. Three: demand site management. Four: energy generation, procurement and trading. Five: maintenance and expansion of energy infrastructure. Six: increased investment into the energy sector. Seven: improved energy affordability. Eight: net zero emissions in the province.

In its existence, the Western Cape Energy Resilience Plan has already ensured the delivery of 91 160 loadshedding packs to households throughout the Western Cape. It has provided grants to support municipal-owned energy projects like in Hessequa: the municipal solar and battery plant, and electricity master plans and cost of supply studies, and provided support to municipalities as they procure power from independent power producers.

It has ensured small-scale imbedded generation, rooftop solar PV, and the provision of alternative energy systems to SMMEs at 12 trading hubs in seven municipalities. It has also ensured the installation of a solar PV at 17 Western Cape buildings and the Energy Resilience Programme across 142

Health and Education facilities.

While these gains have taken place rapidly, the plan has longer term goals including the ambitious target in increasing low carbon energy by 1 800 megawatts to 5 700 megawatts in the Western Cape by 2035. This goal is currently well ahead of schedule and an estimated 535 megawatts of rooftop solar PV was installed by the end of 2024. Eskom estimates that an additional 175 megawatts of rooftop solar PV have been installed just in 2025 to date.

An estimated 112 megawatts of power are currently being wheeled by the private sector to various known private sector off-takers in the Western Cape, which will further provide sector wheeling anticipated by 2030. Additionally, approximately 380 megawatts of power from the independent power producers are currently under procurement by various Western Cape municipalities.

In the 2024/2025 financial year, 1 000 of non-Eskom energy was tapped into the grid, the bulk of which was through small-scale embedded generation and private wheeling projects. We expect to achieve a further 1 000 megawatts of energy over the current financial year, made up by predominantly municipal generation and private sector business-to-business electricity wheeling. While the threat of loadshedding cannot be discounted, I want to assure residents that we are working as hard as we always have, to ensure the resilience and consistency of the Western Cape's energy supply.



The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Given that historically Eskom does not seem to be able to even build an *afdakkie* for their coal supplies, are there plans with the Provincial Energy Resilience Plan to be able to scale up in cases of added strain like we currently have with this inclement weather? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. The problem is with the kind of size of energy it is so big that you cannot just quickly scale it up. If we could, we would have done that already. But I do think that if you look at the plans of the municipalities that are out on tender at the moment, there are many more municipalities who are going to have more megawatts quicker than they thought.

For example. In the Darling region, there is a plant that was initiated at 100 megawatts, but it looks like they are going to be at 300 megawatts. So, there is probably going to be 200 megawatts that can be made available.

I also think that as we are starting to change the wheeling agreements, for example, the current wind farms. They have excess capacity that is not taken

up in Eskom's normal plan. So, that is why sometimes you will see even though the wind is blowing, you will see them standing still because they have fed in the amount of power that they are allocated to feed in. That is probably an area of very quick win, that we can actually have at the drop of a hat, an excess. Whether it is wind or solar, they are both on the same space.

Unfortunately, in South Africa we have given agreements through the REAP programme to solar, and it is an x-amount. Whether they generate above that amount or not, they can only put in x and that should be the first port of call to mitigate that risk. So, obviously, we can do it where we can here in the province and at municipal level if it needs a quick scale-up, but it is also the discussion we are having at a national level because just that one change in that pipeline process will free up many, many megawatts in the system.

Then, secondly, we actually have to now start thinking about the quick wins we would be negotiating on the current wind contracts. For example, in Caledon, they are getting now within a few years of the end of their contract, and they need clarity. Are they going to be expected to dismantle and close down or do they get an opportunity to put that power back into the grid?

We need to give it to them sooner rather than later because they will reinvest. Because, of course, those turbines are old technology turbines which will be 20 years old and at the end of their lifespan. The new technology gives you twice the amount of power for the same amount of wind. So, they also need to be given that surety and I think that could also be a quick ramp-up.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? It does not seem like there are any further follow-up questions. That brings us to the end of Question 2 on the Question Paper. We move on to Question 3. I recognise the hon Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Wenger.

*Heavy rains and drainage*

**3. Ms D R Stephens to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:**

Whether she is aware of the drainage problem that is being experienced at the (a) Kraaifontein and (b) Scottsdene day hospitals when it rains heavily; if so, what has she and her Department done to address the problem?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. In respect of Kraaifontein Community Health Centre, this facility is situated in a low-lying catchment that experiences inadequate runoff during intense rainfall. A formal request has been lodged with the City of Cape Town to assess the stormwater network and to determine the upgrades required.

While this assessment is underway, the current year's capital works include raising the interior floor level of the waiting area. In addition, the Bellville

Provincial Workshop has designated Kraaifontein as a focus site during period of heavy rain and we have deployed portable pumps to clear water from the parking areas.

In respect of Scottsdene Day Hospital, although no recent flooding incidents have been reported, Scottsdene shares similar topographical constraints to Kraaifontein. A parallel request has been submitted to the City of Cape Town to review the drainage capacity and recommended long-term improvements. Until those recommendations are implemented, the facility will continue to be closely monitored during and after major storms so that portable pumps can be despatched immediately if ponding occurs.

With the adverse weather conditions and cold front over the last two days, members of our engineering and maintenance teams have been proactively monitoring these sites during the night. I am happy to report that no major flooding occurred last night and all was in order. Our teams remain on the ground and continue to monitor the situation closely.

The last report I got, hon Speaker, which was at 2 o'clock just before the bells rang for this session, I was informed that no flooding has been experienced at these facilities. Thank you.

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

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thanks, hon Speaker. I have got no follow-up questions on that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any further follow-ups? I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Minister, for the answer. I want to check with the hon Minister because we have been aware of the problem now for years. Do you have any timeline of interventions undertaken to date, except the engagement with the municipality because the infrastructure is a problem itself. Was there an assessment done? *Ja*, thanks, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you. So, the long-term action required does lie with the municipality and those assessments are underway. But in this year, we are raising the floor level at Kraaifontein which will help alleviate. Then, we have also got the portable water pumps for when there are heavy rains experienced to make sure that those facilities are not flooding. Those interventions seem to be working considering the considerable rainfall we have experienced over the last two days.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? It does not seem like there are any further

follow-up questions. That brings us to the end of Question 3. We move on to Question 4 on the Question Paper, and I recognise the hon Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, hon Minister Mackenzie.

*Sports fields*

**4. Ms D R Stephens to ask Mr R D Mackenzie, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:**

Whether his Department has plans to repair the sports fields in (a) Scottsville and Paarl East; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker and hon member, hon Ms Stephens, thank you for the question. The responsibility for repairing and maintaining local sports field facilities lies with municipalities as stipulated in Schedule 5(b) of the Constitution of 1996.

Accordingly, the City of Cape Town and the Drakenstein Municipality bear the primary responsibility for the upkeep and upgrade of facilities within their respective jurisdiction. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport has an existing Implementation Protocol Agreement with the City of Cape Town to address matters of mutual interest, including sporting infrastructure.

The condition of the Scottsville facility will be raised with the City of Cape Town at their next scheduled meeting for further discussion. Similarly to the agreement with the City of Cape Town, the Department has a good working relationship with the Drakenstein Municipality and will too, raise the conditions of the Paarl East fields. If there is be an application for it to be repaired, it is something that the Department will certainly consider.

While DCAS is not directly mandated to maintain sports facilities, the Department remains committed to collaborating with municipalities to ensure these facilities effectively contribute to community development, social cohesion and crime prevention initiatives. As a key stakeholder in promoting sport across the province, DCAS will continue to engage with municipalities to support their efforts in maintaining and enhancing these vital community resources. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. In terms of the Rules. Hon Stephens, do you have any follow-up questions?

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The hon Minister touched on it already. My question is: what is the system the hon Minister uses to engage with municipalities in regard to much needed municipal sport

infrastructure in support of provincial sport initiatives? He made reference to an implementation agreement. Perhaps, he can expand on exactly what we are looking for as a province and also, how it pertains to rural areas. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon colleague, currently, we have an agreement, a Protocol Agreement with the City of Cape Town as the Department where sport infrastructure is one of the matters that we have. We constantly discuss with our colleagues in the City of Cape Town, and we are working towards how we can help them.

Similarly, we have engagements with our rural municipalities as well. I have just recently returned from George where we worked with the George Municipality and our national colleagues in upgrading the Rosemoor facility, a beautiful R40-million facility, through cooperative governments. Thanks to our colleagues from the Department of Infrastructure and Local Government who have also played a role in doing that.

So, throughout the province we have continuous engagements with our colleagues and of course, municipalities rightfully so have their own mandates and their own priorities. But we are constantly trying to work with them to facilitate and in this case, working together to upgrade facilities like the wonderful Rosemoor facility we opened on Monday. Thank you.



The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? There seem to be no further follow-up questions on Question 4 and that brings us to the end of Question 4 on the Question Paper. I move on to Question 5 and I recognise the hon Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Wenger.

*Renovations: Railton Clinic*

**5. Ms R Windvogel to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:**

With regard to the renovations at the Railton Clinic in Swellendam following the fire:

(a) What is the status of the renovations and (b) what measures are in place to support the staff and patients?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. On 18 February 2025, a fire damaged the Railton Clinic in Swellendam. Additional areas sustained water damage during efforts to extinguish the blaze. Following the fire, the Railton Clinic remains closed because parts of the brick building have been declared unsafe.

The Department of Infrastructure appointed a main contractor to repair the

damage, but I am informed that the contractor has fallen in breach of contract. It is my understanding that the DOI is now following its termination process, after which a new contractor will be appointed through the DOI contractor framework to complete the work.

Health and Wellness engineering and professional support teams remain involved, and the Clinic can only reopen once an independent safety inspection confirms that the building is once again, fit for occupation. Should a section be certified sooner than the rest, services will resume there in a limited capacity while full renovations continue.

In response to part (b), in the interim, all Railton patients have been redirected to the Swellendam Clinic which has been restructured to manage additional consultations. Patient records, medicine and essential equipment were moved to Swellendam Clinic to protect continuity of care.

On 3 June of this year, a temporary facility, known as the Railton Alternate, was opened on the hospital grounds which includes a fully furnished staff container with four consulting rooms, separate ablutions for staff and for the public, and provision for Tuberculosis sputum booth and a marquee tent have been installed. For the sake of the hon members, this is what the temporary structure looks like, to accommodate patients in the interim.

Additionally, a partially repaired mobile unit serves as extra office space, easing congestion while two mobile clinics are covering limited routes so

that chronic medicines can reach rural patients. Plus, two new mobile units have been allocated to the district and will be deployed soon. Throughout this period, the Department issues regular updates through local media, notice boards and stakeholder networks so that residents and staff remain fully informed of these interim arrangements and progress on the rebuild. Thank you.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Minister, for the answer. I assume, hon Minister, that you know the distance from Railton to town when we speak about our elderly and our sick people. With our engagement with the hospital board and the manager, there was a request or there was a type of agreement that they will try to assist those elderly people and sick people with transport. So now, I am happy because at least you listened, with the extra accommodation that you put up there in front of the hospital. But the problem is it is not ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel, order. Hon Windvogel, can you pose your follow-up question to the hon Minister. You do not need to motivate it.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): *Ja*.

The SPEAKER: Please just pose the question.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Okay. [Interjections.] So, it is actually not reaching the people who really need this service, so you really need to look at that. Then, on this question, I just want to know in terms of your timelines. By when do you expect the new contractor to start and by when will they finish?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, before I recognise you. Hon members, you are, in terms of the Rules, you can ask one follow-up question based on the response of the hon Minister and based on the initial question posed. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you answer that, but there was more than one question posed to you. I am not going to dictate how you respond to that.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. We are aware of the transport issues. So, we have been working very hard with our colleagues in the Department of Mobility. We are close to finalising a partnership with local taxi associations that will transport the elderly and children, along with their guardians, to the clinic at no cost. We hope to finalise this within coming weeks. Thank you.

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

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker, generally in the private sector, there is a

lot of goodwill. Through you, hon Speaker, what are the chances of the Department engaging potential stakeholders to become landlords in the instance while we are still busy renovating at Railton? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you very much. So, in these sorts of situations that are unforeseen we do rely on partnerships, and it certainly is a team effort. So, the partnership if it can be concluded successfully with the taxi associations, I think would be an excellent example of bringing that to life. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? Any further follow-up questions? Hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Ja. In terms of my question, hon Speaker, so I want to ask the second one now in terms of your timeline for the new contractor. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I am afraid I am not in a position to answer the timelines as I am not aware of those inner workings because the contractor will be appointed by the Department of Infrastructure. So, if the hon member would be able to pose a

question in writing, thank you.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I will.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? If not, that concludes Question 5 on the Question Paper. We move on to Question 6 and I recognise the hon Minister of Health and Wellness, hon Minister Wenger. I think it is your day today.

*Pacaltsdorp Clinic upgrades*

**6. Ms R Windvogel to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:**

With regard to engagements on the upgrade of the Pacaltsdorp Clinic through the NHI initiative:

- (1) (a)(i) When will the upgrade take place and (ii) how long will it take and (b) what will the upgrade entail;
- (2) whether the residents of the province must have confidence in the adequacy and readiness of the regional energy resilience plans; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: It certainly seems so.

...[Laughter.] Okay. In response to the question from the hon member on the upgrade of the Pacaltsdorp Clinic. This project, in part (a), is to upgrade the Pacaltsdorp Clinic and it forms part of the capital infrastructure component of the NHI grant which is initiated by the National Government.

I am informed that there is a legal dispute between the National Department of Health as the client, and the Infrastructure Development Trust, the IDT, as the implementing agent. This has not yet been resolved. Questions regarding timelines and scope should therefore be directed at the National Department of Health.

In part (2), questions regarding the appointment of a contractor also should be directed to the National Department of Health. However, I believe that the procurement cannot proceed while there is an ongoing dispute. The Department of Health and Wellness has written to the National Department of Health multiple times, as well as to the Director-General and I have written to the National Minister of Health to raise our serious concerns about the non-delivery of this project.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I am covered.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker, from time to time, NHI sponsored projects will stall due to the complications within the NHI. My question then, hon Speaker, is in such instances, what is the Department's alternative to cover up for any stalled NHI projects?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you to the hon member for the question. We have multiple failures of NHI projects that are managed by the National Department not only in Pacaltsdorp, but also in Parkdene, Oudtshoorn Clinic, Oudtshoorn Hospital, Dysselsdorp Clinic, Blanko Clinic, Albertinia Clinic, Riversdale Clinic and Riversdale Hospital.

It has always been the position of the Western Cape Government that the centralisation of healthcare to the national sphere, whether it be for the delivery of infrastructure or the management of hospitals, cannot work and will not expand the provision of healthcare to people of this province. We could have done quite a lot as the Western Cape Government, with R105 million allocated for these projects which ultimately, are being failed to deliver on.

But for our side, we have three projects that are recent projects in the region. The Ladysmith Clinic which was completed last year and cost R25 million. Last month, I visited the R55 million Hornlee Clinic in Knysna and I am pleased to say that it is progressing well. The foundations have been



completed at my last visit, and it is on track.

Just two weeks ago I was in Mossel Bay at the George Road Clinic which is also coming along very nicely. The Department is spending R11 million to deliver services for residents there.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any further follow-ups? Hon Windvogel, is that a follow-up?

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

The SPEAKER: Just, I need to do it for the record. So, hon Windvogel, I recognise you.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No, hon Speaker. I just wanted to check with the hon Minister. In the absence of let us say the National Department and the dispute between the National Department and the Provincial Department, are you going to wait? Let us say it takes another 10 years. Are you going to wait up until the dispute is solved or do you have other plans in place to serve our people because we know the NHI is doing very well in the Southern Cape. Wherever they were you can see there is a difference.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. If you want to ask a question, I will provide you an opportunity. There is no need to debate one another. The question was posed to the hon Minister. The hon

Minister is very capable of answering that question. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thanks, hon Speaker. The last I checked, Pacaltsdorp is in the Southern Cape where that project is not progressing very well ...[Interjection.] ...[Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: The issue ...[Laughter.] The issue is that it comes through an indirect grant, so we do not have any levers over the project in and of itself. So, the issue is that it is also impacting on our service delivery because in some cases in some of these projects, we have decantated facilities in preparation for the building works which then, for whatever reason and because of the dispute between the implementor and the National Department, is not coming to fruition.

So, what we are trying to do is as fast as possible, to try and have this resolved or otherwise, the option would be for this to be converted into a direct grant in which case, we would be able to deliver on infrastructure ourselves.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? There seem to be no further follow-ups. That brings us to the end of Question 6 on the Question Paper. We move on to Question 7 and I recognise the hon Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, hon Minister Meyer.

*Tourism impacts*

**2. Mr N P Masipa to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:**

- (1) What are the benefits of the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme for the province's tourism sector;
- (2) whether the Minister foresees growth in tourist arrivals from markets such as India and China as a result of this scheme; if so, what impact this scheme will have on driving the Growth for Jobs Strategy?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Can I just determine which number is that on the Question Paper?

The SPEAKER: That is Question 7, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Is that the question from hon member ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Masipa.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: ...Masipa? Okay, thank you very much, hon Speaker. I would very much like to answer the question in Afrikaans, if I may.

†Die Skema vir die Betroubare Toeroperateurs, agb lid, is 'n Suid-Afrikaanse inisiatief wat daarop gemik is om 'n eenvoudiger visumaansoekproses van stapel te stuur om visumaansoeke baie meer eenvoudig te maak. Spesifiek ook dan vir groepe vanaf die Ooste, spesifiek ook dan China en Indië. Dit behels die vennootskappe tussen die Departement van Binnelandse Sake en geselekteerde toeroperateurs om 'n digitale platform te bied om visumaansoeke in te dien en dan ook sodoende te verwerk.

Agb Speaker, hierdie skema wil dan toerisme ondersteun, die rompslomp te verminder en visumverwerkingstye vir hierdie sleutelmarkte te verbeter. Die Skema bied aan die deelnemende Toeroperateurs vinniger omkeertye vir visumaansoeke en verminder burokratiese hindernisse. Toeriste trek voordeel uit 'n meer stroombelynde visumaansoekproses en dit het die potensiaal om vir verhoogte besoekerstalle vir die toerismebedryf te lei.

Die sogenaamde Trusted Tour Operator Scheme, dit bied dan die volgende voordele: 'n verbeterde geloofwaardigheid en bestemming deur toeroperateurs te sertifiseer wat aan streng standaarde voldoen, versterk die skema internasionale vertroue in die provinsie se toerisme-aanbod veral vir groepsreise en hoër waarde markte. 'n Volgende voordeel van hierdie skema, agb Speaker, is ondersteuning vir transformasie en inklusiwiteit. Die skema sluit meganismes in wat opkomende en histories benadeelde toeriste-

operateurs ondersteun om toegang te kry tot nuwe toeristemarkte en meer volledig aan die toerisme-ekonomie deel te neem.

’n Verdere voordeel, agb Speaker, is die versterking van vennootskappe. Dit maak nou ’n samewerking moontlik tussen die Regering, die privaatsektor en internasionale diplomatieke sendings wat sentraal staan om hindernisse in verband met die regulatoriese omgewing of marktoegang te pak en hierdie is werklik een van die nuwe inisiatiewe wat ons sien, en dit het groot waarde.

Agb Speaker, ek was verlede maand ook met die Africa Travel Indaba in Durban waar ek ook dan met die verskillende operateurs, veral ook uit Indië, met hulle ook daar vergader het en veral met die mense wat ook dan in die media spesifiek is om hierdie skema aktief te bevorder sodat ons meer toeriste na die Wes-Kaap kan lok. Dankie, agb Speaker.

[The scheme for the Trusted Tour Operators, hon member, is a South African initiative aimed at launching a simple visa application process to simplify visa applications. Specifically then for groups from the East, specifically then China and India. It involves the partnerships between the Department of the Interior and selected tour operators to offer a digital platform to submit visa applications and then also process.

Hon Speaker, this scheme team wants to support tourism, reduce red tape to improve their visa processing times for these key markets. The scheme offers to the trusted tour operators faster return times for visa applications and

produces bureaucratic obstacles. Tourists benefit from more streamlined visa application processes and it has the potential to lead to increased visitor numbers for the tourism industry.

The so-called Trusted Tour Operator Scheme offers the following benefits: an improved credibility and destination by certifying tour operators adhering to strict standards, the scheme strengthens international confidence in the province's tourism offer, especially for group travels and higher value markets. A next example of this scheme, hon Speaker, is support for transformation and inclusivity. The scheme includes mechanisms that support emerging and historically disadvantaged tour operators to gain access to new tourist markets and participate more fully in the tourist economy.

A further benefit, hon Speaker, is the strengthening of partnerships. It now enables cooperation between the government, the private sector and international diplomatic missions that stand centrally to tackle obstacles in connection with the regulatory environment or market access, and this is really one of the new initiatives that we see, and it has great value.

Hon Speaker, last month I have also been at the Africa Travel Indaba in Durban where I have met with various operators, especially also from India, and especially with the people who are specifically in the media to actively promote this scheme so that we can lure more tourists to the Western Cape. Thank you, hon Speaker.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] I recognise the hon Masipa. Do you have any follow-up questions?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Minister for the comprehensive answer. Hon Minister, just a follow-up question. Does the hon Minister believe that expanding this Trusted Tour Operator Scheme to include additional source markets beyond India and China, will positively contribute to the province's economic growth and job creation? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon member Masipa. I will reply in English. I think there is a huge market. I have met with the South African Tourism Industry from the National Department, and they have confirmed that last year, 2024, the biggest percentage growth, not the numbers, but the percentage growth, was into the Western Cape. The tourist numbers were from the United States of America and secondly, from the Netherlands.

We also know that annually, we get about 400 000 visitors or tourists from the United Kingdom and therefore, I have met with the Consul-General of the United Kingdom. I have also met with the newly appointed Ambassador of the Netherlands and certainly, I have also met with the Consul-General of the

United States. We are seeing growth potential, and we now know the source markets.

I am very thankful for the National Department, particularly both Tourism, but also the Department of Home Affairs who have been pioneering this particular Trusted Tour Operators because what we have seen is significant growth from those particular source markets.

But the question that the hon member is now asking: is there potential to roll this out to further new markets. I think because this Government believes in evidence-led and data-led governance, we will wait for the tourist numbers and the figures coming out in a year. This has now recently been piloted. We like to see when a project or a new scheme is implemented. We would like to give it 12 months to run, put it through independent evaluation so that we have the proper facts and data to make further assessments.

But in the general trend, I see that South Africa, given the due politics, is suddenly the safest country in the world and I think we in the Western Cape and in South Africa in general, will now benefit from major tourists. I am certain that this Trusted Tour Operating Scheme, if we expand it to other source markets, we can hugely benefit. I do not want the Western Cape to succeed; I want South Africa to succeed. Therefore, I will also encourage that this programme must benefit all nine provinces in South Africa. I think there is great potential, there is great appetite and there are great significant things.



I have last week also met with the Minister of Tourism, Minister Patricia de Lille, and she has also asked me to work more closely with her regarding the further rollout of tourism here in the Western Cape. I have subsequently written to her, and we are waiting for that particular meeting.

So, I am looking forward, hon member Masipa, for the further growth in the Western Cape. You will know that in terms of the Growth for Jobs Strategy, I have over time, by the year 2035, have to triple the tourist numbers here in the Western Cape. Therefore, hon Speaker, I have called for a Municipal Economic Tourism Summit and this summit will take place on 8 to 10 July, next month. I will bring all the tourism people together in the province so that we can decide how we can exponentially grow the tourism assets, specifically in the rural areas.

Hon Speaker, you will also know that for the next six months, Cape Town is fully booked and therefore, I want to channel also a lot of tourists into the regional areas, the various districts. I had some discussions yesterday, for example, with the tourism people and the Municipal Manager of Hessequa in Riversdale, and there are great significant developments in this particular regard.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? There are no further follow-up questions and that also brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Hon members,

the outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

## **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

The SPEAKER: We move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145 and I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker, June marks Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, a vital reminder of the mental health challenges facing many men in the Western Cape. The Democratic Alliance calls on everyone to engage with the men in their lives, partners, friends, families, colleagues and to encourage open, honest conversations about mental health and the importance of seeking support.

Mental health is a critical part of overall wellbeing, yet it remains underdiscussed, especially amongst men. We need to do away with the Wild West saying that 'cowboys do not cry'. Cowboys should not suffer in silence. Research shows that one in three South Africans will experience mental health issues during their lifetime. Alarming, suicide accounts for an 11% of all injury deaths in the Western Cape, with 80% of those being men amongst the ages of 20 and 39.

I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Department of Health and Wellness for their work to improve acute psychiatric units. These modern facilities are designed with patients' needs in mind, providing spaces that

promote dignity, healing and recovery. We are also aware that there are space challenges at some hospitals. Mental health is just as important as physical health. We must break the stigma around mental health illness, and we must support those struggling in silence, and encourage them to seek help. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the ANC.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, given the particular offensive currently directed at women within the Mobility Department, I must remind this House that the essence of our revolution as national liberation forces remain routed in the struggle to resolve three interrelated contradictions: class, [3:02:15 - Inaudible] and gender struggles.

Under the DA-led Government, it is evident that this struggle is far from over. Within the provincial traffic division, we are witnessing a disturbing particular hostility towards Black officials, particularly Black women which exposes the deep [3:02:32 - Inaudible] injustice and entrenched in this Government. A striking example is the Department's hostile and inhuman handling of a sexual harassment case involving a former senior official, Mr Payne.

The victim, a woman, suffered immense psychological trauma because of the incident and was booked off due to this which impaired on her mental health. She subsequently exhausted all her leave entitlement and applied for

incapacity leave, a request the Department heartlessly denied. Even more appalling is that the Department then froze the victim's salary, effectively punishing her twice. First as a target of sexual abuse and again, as a worker seeking justice [3:03:17 - Inaudible].

Deepening the problem further is there are less community presence of a certain official in court in support of her former boss, despite the seriousness of the allegations strongly suggests that the mistreatment of the victim may be taking place under the influence or instruction of the accused. This official has now been rewarded as Acting Head of Department.

Against this background, we call on the hon MEC for Mobility and the hon Premier to take urgent and decisive action directly in this matter and to institute a full and independent investigation not only into the original incident, but into the conduct of Department employees who are calling to plead allegiance to a former colleague accused of a serious crime. This House must send a strong and unequivocal message that ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has ...[Interjections.] your time has expired.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...will not ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...and will not allow their ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I have called you to order more than once. That is a transgression of the Rules. Your time has expired. We all work within the Rules. Member Statements are for two minutes to all political parties. So, I have switched off your microphone halfway through your speech and it will reflect in Hansard as such. I recognise the PA.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Chair. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, today I rise with a heavy and saddened heart. The trending viral videos are one that no public representative should ever become accustomed to seeing. The footage shows elderly citizens who are mothers and fathers, lying under blankets on the sidewalk outside the SASSA office in Cape Town. Not sleeping, camping out in the cold in desperation just for the chance to be helped the following day. It is a disgrace.

Hon Speaker, this is not a once-off incident. A neighbour near the office confirmed that people begin arriving as early as 5 PM the previous day, every day, because they cannot afford to risk being turned away when the doors open. It is not just in Bellville. This is happening as the SASSA offices across the province and beyond.

These are not just numbers in a file. These are vulnerable citizens, elderly people, people with disabilities, single parents relying on Government grants to survive. Yet, they are being forced to risk their health, safety and dignity

for what should be a basic service. And if after hours of waiting they are finally allowed inside, what awaits them, according to public comments under the video, they are often met with rude and dismissive staff. Some are sent away without assistance, told to return on another day without explanation.

This is inhumane, hon Speaker. This is not what a caring state looks like. This is not how a country treats its most vulnerable and this cannot be allowed to continue under our watch. We must hold SASSA and the Department of Social Development accountable. We must demand urgent action, more staff, extended hours, better systems and above all, the respect and compassion our people deserve because dignity should never depend on how early you can line up on a cold pavement. I thank you, hon Speaker.

*[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]*

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

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, it is important to reflect on a critical development in the minibus taxi sector, one that brings hope to thousands of commuters across the Cape Metro. On 24 June 2025, representatives from CATA and CODETA met to resolve ongoing disputes affecting Mfuleni-Somerset and Khayelitsha-Somerset routes. Their constructive show of leadership and responsibility, all parties acknowledged the urgent need to ensure that public transport services are delivered safely, reliably and within the bounds of regulated operations.

This agreement follows a prolonged period of instability that not only disrupted lives and livelihoods, but also tragically cost many lives. The toll has been heavy, and the ongoing conflict caused immense inconvenience and distress for countless commuters who rely on public transport daily. Let us be clear. The violence that characterised this period must be unequivocally condemned. It has no place in our community and must never again, be a means of resolving disputes.

By sitting down as adults and engaging in dialogue and placing the interest of commuters above all else, these associations have shown that peace is possible when there is political will and shared purpose. Both organisations reaffirmed their duty to uphold order and protect the wellbeing of those who depend on public transport. This agreement represents more than cessation of hostilities, it is a commitment to a structured cooperation, safer operations and long-term sectoral improvement. We commend all stakeholders for facilitating this resolution and urge continued accountability from all parties involved. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The EFF has no statement. Thank you.

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

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, today the NCC rises to highlight the visible disparity between Black informal settlements and Coloured informal settlements in the Western Cape, for example, Grabouw. Hon Deputy Speaker, when you enter from Cape Town's side on the N2, there is a huge informal settlement that sits on your left. Now, these people are from the Eastern Cape and some are foreign nationals. The area is a land that belongs to Government, and it was taken without permission. But this area is serviced with water, electricity, waste and sanitation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as you travel down, just past Grabouw on the same road on your right-hand side, there you will find Knoflokskraal. Now, there you will find there is an indigenous group of aboriginal people, or they are offsprings of the aboriginal or they are blood related to the aboriginal, but it is a group of people that want to preserve their roots and culture.

Hon Deputy Speaker, just like Orania, like the Xhosas or Zulus or Venda's, we also love to preserve our culture and our way of life. Now, this community has been there for close to five years with no services provided and we ask ourselves why. Why are the aboriginal or the Coloured



community treated like third class citizens, yet other illegal land grabbing informal settlements are serviced and developed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, now we were told that this year, the Western Cape Provincial Government will spend R6 billion on informal settlements, yet nothing for Knoflokskraal. †Is dit omdat daardie nou 'n Coloured community is? [Is that because that now is a Coloured Community?] Hon Deputy Speaker, I want the Coloured community to take note: you must pay your monthly rent, or you will be evicted. You must pay high tariffs on basic services, or you will be cut down. You must pay your rates, or the sheriff will repossess your furniture.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the signs are crystal clear. There are three sets of rules, and we will remain the oppressed. †Al wat ek sê is Coloureds, skrik wakker. [All that I say is, Coloureds, wake up.] Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ANC.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today with deep concern to once again, highlight the unacceptable and worsening state of healthcare services in the Western Cape. This time, at Villa Clinic in Villiersdorp. The clinic, though newly built, is failing dismally to meet the basic healthcare needs of the community.

Residents, especially farmworkers, are forced to take precious time off work

to seek medical attention, only to wait in long queues all day and be turned away when the clinic closes before they are helped. They are told to come back the next day. For someone earning a meagre daily wage, this is not just an inconvenience, but also a financial blow, a loss of income and a denial of dignity.

Even more disturbing, pregnant women are now being denied access to free pregnancy tests, a basic component of primary healthcare. They are told to purchase pregnancy kits out of their own pockets and then return to the clinic with the results. When the Constitution guarantees access to free basic healthcare services, how do we explain this blatant exclusion of the poor?

Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot allow a brand-new clinic to become a symbol of broken promises. A lack of staff, a lack of resources and a lack of urgency from the Western Cape Government is eroding the health and dignity of the people of Villiersdorp. The ANC demands that the hon MEC in the Department urgently intervenes. The people of Villiersdorp deserve quality healthcare, not a building without services. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere gratitude to the disaster risk management teams across the Western Cape and within our municipalities. Thanks to their dedication and preparedness, we have thus far recorded no serious incidents, despite the

adverse weather conditions. This speaks volumes about the level of readiness and coordination we have in our province.

In the Western Cape, we are proud to have well-trained and responsive teams that act swiftly when adverse weather warnings are issued, as we saw just yesterday. As we brace for further inclement weather, I am confident that these teams will continue to operate with vigilance and professionalism. This is the standard of excellence we have come to expect from this capable and responsive Government.

I also want to take this opportunity to call on all public representatives across all levels to play an active, visible and hands-on role, especially in low lying and vulnerable areas across the province. Our communities must not only be protected, but they must also be treated with compassion, respect and dignity in their time of need. Nowhere else in South Africa can one find a more capable government than right here in the Western Cape, and it is our duty to strengthen that trust through action on the ground, particularly with this kind of weather. I thank you.

*[The Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus regards the concept of transformation to be a central

theme throughout our constitutional democracy. Hon Speaker, for the past 31 years, South Africans from all walks of life had to bend the knee to an ANC and its proxies failed economic policies, delaying positive transformation and delaying socio-economic transformation. We must accept the incapacity of the ANC to reverse the historical injustices of the past by themselves. Transformation must be redefined during the proposed national dialogue announced by the President.

A more comprehensive action plan must be drafted after listening to all stakeholders, including businesses, the youth, cultural groups and civil society at large. Transformation must also include the vision that includes all cultural group rights of access to opportunities for advancement and the urgent eradication of abject poverty, especially among Black, African and Coloured communities. We must reduce income inequality, but this cannot become possible without economic growth. We need economic growth in order to change and improve the quality of our peoples' lives. Hon Speaker, the economic growth must be at least between 4% and 6% per annum.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, we call upon our Government to implement actions and policies that will not delay positive transformation and reverse the injustices of the past. The GNU must lead the way to a better future, a more inclusive future and a non-racist future. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Al Jama-ah party we want to wish all the Muslims in the Western Cape and across the globe, a happy new year 1447. We wish the whole Muslim community a prosperous, a blessed and a beautiful year 1447. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP welcomes the proposal by the MERO Committee meeting on Tuesday, to assist struggling Cape Town residents in financial distress. The City of Cape Town is considering a once-off debt remission to those buckling under financial distress.

The City will write off R2,2 billion in outstanding, irrecoverable debt owed to it. If the once-off debt relief is offered by the City, the ACDP calls on City residents that are facing hardships and qualify for this relief, to go to or contact the City of Cape Town to make use of this debt relief.

Hon Speaker, this debt relief is much needed because of a number of reasons, amongst others the substantial electricity tariff increases, frequent loadshedding contributing to economic hardships as businesses are faced with the reduction in productivity, loss of income and job losses. Hon Speaker, the residents outside of the City of Cape Town are also deserving of a break and we are urging other municipalities to look at debt relief for struggling

residents within their municipalities. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. We have no statement.

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

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Speaker, we live in an age of technological change where in the space of a few decades we have progressed from mobile phones, emails to social media. Suddenly, we are in the midst of AI, Artificial Intelligence. Business professionals are already using ChatGPT and similar technologies to draft initial documents for editing.

Prof Johan Fourie of Stellenbosch University has recently written about experiments in the use of AI in the field of education to assist learners and thereby, support traditional methods of education. Numerous studies are taking place internationally in this field, one of which relates to a programme being undertaken in Nigeria where AI augmented education has been tested in ordinary public schools. Learners were invited to participate in receiving lessons after school, by using ChatGPT on a computer in learning English during 12 sessions over six weeks. The results reflect that the impact of the intervention extended well beyond the brief six weeks of the programme, with improvements in year-end exams.

In our rapidly changing world, one can foresee the use of AI in our province by the WCED to help bolster reading and Maths learning for our young learners. Our teachers would similarly need to be trained to be able to apply AI to supplement traditional education methods for the benefit of our learners. Hon Speaker, the future is upon us as we all need to step up in understanding the benefits of AI. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that concludes Members' Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish. Can I just get an indication? Are there any? There are none. Hon Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: I would just like to ask the hon Windvogel if she would please send through the information regarding the clinic in Villiersdorp so that it can be investigated.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Are there any further inputs in terms of Rule 145(6)? No? In that case, that is the end of Members' Statements. We move on to Notices of Motion in terms of Rule 151.

## **MOTIONS**

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

## **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

*[There are no Motions with Notice.]*

The SPEAKER: We now move to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 24 June 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting on 24 June 2025, political parties did submit the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the



Programming Authority as follows: hon D G Jacobs, hon F Kamfer, hon R Windvogel, hon P Z Lekker, hon P Stoffel, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon L D Van Wyk, and hon A P Bans.

## **MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the South African men's cricket team that has just emerged as victorious at the ICC World Test Cricket final in England; notes that this victory proves to the world that in the so-called country where bad things happen world champions live and play sport; notes that it also gives the next generation of cricket, football and rugby stars the opportunity to dream; further notes that victories like these allow those young ones playing street cricket in Elsies River or football on a patch of open land in Eldorado Park to dream and to grow; and salutes them and thanks them for keeping the flag flying high.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates the South African cricket team, the

Proteas, led by captain Temba Bavuma, that won the World Test Championship (WTC); notes that the Proteas defeated Australia by five wickets at Lord's; notes that this marked the Proteas' first-ever WTC title; notes that, for decades, South Africa built a reputation of heartbreak, reaching finals but never clinching them; notes that this win finally silences the doubters; notes that Temba Bavuma, the first black African test captain, led the team to glory; and notes that his captaincy symbolises both progress in transformation and renewed national pride.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Professor Priscilla Baker, senior professor of analytical chemistry at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), after being honoured with the 2025 L'Oréal–UNESCO For Women in Science International Award as the Africa and Arab States Laureate; notes that Prof Baker is one of only five recipients worldwide this year, and the only winner representing Africa and the Arab states; notes that she will be officially honoured at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris on 12 June; and notes that, growing up in Bellville South, Cape Town, Prof Baker certainly inspires us all to reach for the stars and we know she is an inspiration to many.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House notes with deep sadness and outrage the tragic killing of a 15-year-old girl from the Zisukhanyo Secondary School in Samora Machel, Cape Town, who was fatally shot while walking to school on the morning of Wednesday 12 June 2025; and notes that this incident is part of a disturbing pattern of violence in Cape Town communities where innocent school children, particularly in working-class areas, are routinely exposed to violent crime and gang activity.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House notes the passing away of Major-General André Lincoln in May 2025; notes that Major-General Lincoln was a veteran of the liberation struggle; notes that, as a former uMkhonto weSizwe intelligence officer, he sacrificed much for the freedom and dignity we enjoy today; notes that his courage, patriotism and unwavering commitment to justice remain an inspiration to all South Africans; and notes that, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to both the liberation movement and law enforcement, Major-General André Lincoln was honoured with a state funeral and laid to rest with full provincial honours.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Jaydin Donough, a matriculant at the Belgravia High School, on the remarkable achievement of authoring four books, including *Shadows of the heart*, *Tales of nature* and *Stones in the graveyard*; notes that his works are written with the express purpose of inspiring his peers across the Cape Flats, particularly in his school and neighbouring communities; commends Councillor Rashid Adams of Ward 49 for recognising Jaydin's talent and spearheading a fundraising initiative to support the publication of *Stones in the graveyard*; further acknowledges Jaydin's extraordinary contribution to youth literature; and celebrates his role as a beacon of hope and inspiration for young people in the Western Cape.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Anele Gqasana on being awarded a civic honour in recognition of his dedicated and selfless service to his community; notes that Mr Gqasana has played a leading role in combating gender-based violence, working tirelessly to build a safer and

more just society for all; acknowledges the positive and lasting impact of his efforts, particularly in empowering vulnerable individuals and fostering a culture of accountability and support; further notes that this civic honour will be officially conferred on 26 June 2025, and represents a well-deserved recognition of his commitment to justice and safety; and extends sincere appreciation to Mr Gqasana for his unwavering dedication to the public good and commends him as an example of active citizenship in action.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Mr Temba Bavuma, captain of the Proteas, on leading the national cricket team to victory in the ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's; notes with pride that Mr Bavuma was born and raised in Langa, a community with a rich cricketing tradition, where his love for the game was first nurtured on township pitches; acknowledges that his journey from Langa to Lord's stands as a powerful symbol of perseverance, discipline and excellence, and serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring sportsmen and women from similar communities; recognises that his leadership and resilience under pressure have inspired a new generation of cricketers and united South Africans in celebration; and extends heartfelt congratulations to Mr Bavuma and the entire Proteas squad for this historic achievement and

for making the nation proud.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Lifezone Sport International on successfully launching another international soccer exchange tour, DreamPossible9, which saw a group of talented young players from Kensington and Factreton fly to Sweden on 21 June 2025; notes that this remarkable initiative provides life-changing opportunities for the youth through sport, travel and cultural exchange – offering not only elite-level training and international tournament experience, but also fostering friendship, discipline and hope; further notes that this marks the ninth such exchange organised by Lifezone since 2009; acknowledges the critical role of families, local coaches and community supporters who helped raise funds and prepare these young athletes for the journey; and extends sincere congratulations to the Lifezone team for their continued commitment to youth development and for inspiring communities across the Cape Flats through sport.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates Olivia Castleden, a Grade 9 learner at Somerset College, on being selected to represent South Africa at the prestigious Pan-African Mathematics Olympiad in Botswana; and notes that Olivia boasts an impressive record, including winning a gold medal at the South African Mathematics Challenge.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House acknowledges the exceptional service of the Helderberg Hospice, which has provided compassionate palliative care to the Helderberg community for over 40 years; recognises the vital contributions of its staff, volunteers and leaders in delivering holistic care with dignity and excellence; and congratulates Helderberg Hospice on this milestone and expresses deep appreciation for its ongoing impact in the Western Cape.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates 18-year-old Matthew du Toit, known as “Crazy Sharky,” a learner at the Zandvliet High School, on his planned 100 km run in September to support the Red Cross War Memorial

Children's Hospital; acknowledges this inspiring youth-led charity initiative and wishes him success; and calls on Members of this House to support his Back-a-Buddy Campaign.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates Kaylin Willscott on being named to the Wineland Media and ROTOCON 30 under 30 list; commends her commitment to social upliftment through wine and her leadership as a young woman in a traditionally male-dominated industry; and encourages continued support for young talent and women in the Western Cape's wine sector.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates the winners of Miss Helderberg and commends the organisers for arranging this uplifting event; further thanks local businesses and organisations for driving community initiatives; and calls on members of this House to support more youth-driven initiatives that make young people feel seen and heard.



*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

†Mnr L D VAN WYK (DA): Ek stel sonder kennis voor:

Dat die Huis JS Klopper Primêre Skool in Elsiesrivier gelukwens met die viering van hul 70e bestaansjaar saam met oudleerders, oudpersoneel en lede van die gemeenskap; kennis neem dat, sedert die skool in 1955 met slegs drie klaskamers geopen het, dit opgebou het tot 'n baken van uitnemendheid in akademie, sport en die kunste, en die respek en waardering van gesinne regoor die gebied gewen het; en ook erkenning gee aan die leiers en die bydrae van die huidige en vorige skoolhoofde, asook die betrokkenheid van gemeenskapsleiers.

*[Voorstel soos vervat in die Notule]*

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

That the House congratulates JS Klopper Primary School in Elsies River on the celebration of their 70<sup>th</sup> year of foundation along with ex-pupils, ex-staff and members of the community; takes note that, since the school had opened in 1955 with only three classrooms, it has been built up into a beacon of excellence in academy, sport and the arts, and had won respect and appreciation of families all over the area; and also recognises the leaders and the contribution of the present and former principals, as well as the involvement of community leaders.]

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House notes the passing away of Louis Tebugo Moholo-Moholo, a South Africa jazz legend; sends condolences to his family, friends and the jazz community, where he had made a huge impact; notes that Louis was born in Cape Town; notes that he formed The Blue Notes with Chris McGregor, Johnny Dyani, Nikele Moyake, Mongezi Feza and Dudu Pukwana; notes that he had made an incredible impact in the jazz scene in the country; and honours his contribution.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if the member had read them out aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members, you are reminded that 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d), will start now. I recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I hereby move without notice:

That this House congratulates the West Coast District Municipality after being recognised as the best municipality in the country following the annual review of local municipalities, which covered audit outcomes for the 2023/2024 financial year; further acknowledges the positive impact this achievement has had in the respective communities; and further notes that where the Democratic Alliance governs it governs well.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: No.

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon member. There is no need for debate. There is an objection, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Professor NomaFrench Mbombo.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes and commends the R40 million investment by the DA-run George Municipality into the upgrade of Rosemoor Stadium in George, a game-changing development that includes an athletics track, netball courts and a grandstand, certified to host provincial and national competitions. This investment not only creates new sporting opportunities for emerging talent in the Garden Route but also drives local job creation and demonstrates the DA's commitment to community upliftment through infrastructure development. Thank you very much.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: No.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with growing concern the growing signs of division within the African National Congress caucus in the Western Cape, in light of recent developments including the decision of the South African Communist Party to contest the upcoming local government elections, notably with hon Benson Ngqentsu emerging as a candidate; further notes the increasingly uneasy position of the ANC in managing individuals who hold dual membership in both the ANC and the SACP, particularly regarding political alignment, loyalty, and coherent representation. That the House recognises the continued decline in public support for the ANC and its allied formations in the province, as contrasted with the growing confidence expressed by voters in the Democratic Alliance's record of effective and accountable governance in the Western Cape. I so move, with the permission of hon Ngqentsu.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

Hon MEMBERS: Object, object! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, in terms of the Parliamentary Rules, I must put the motion to the House before you object, which I have not done. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Object! Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection ...[Interjections.] There is an objection. Hon members, there is no need for debate. You will have an opportunity because it will go below the line, and you will have an opportunity to debate at a future Sitting. I recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The PA moves without notice:

That the House congratulates the Patriotic Alliance on their victory in the recent by-election for winning Ward 9, Mossel Bay in yesterday's by-elections. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

An HON MEMBER: Object! ...[Laughter.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. On behalf of the African National Congress, I without notice:

That the House congratulates the Gauteng Provincial Government, under the leadership of Premier Panyaza Lesufi, for successfully initiating and implementing lifestyle audits on senior Government officials. The audits are conducted in partnership with the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), to form part of a broader anti-corruption strategy aimed at strengthening transparency, ethical governance, and public trust in state institutions. We would like the Western Cape Government to follow suit, to root out corruption where it exists and earn public trust. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection ...[Interjections.] Order! There is an objection, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. There is no need for debate. You will have an opportunity at a future Sitting if the House so wish, to debate that topic. I recognise hon Ngqentsu.

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

That the House notes that the Cape Town City Football Club was the only team representing the City of Cape Town in the South African Premier Soccer League following the relegation of another Cape Town based team in the 2023/2024 season, Cape Town Spurs Football Club. The relegation of Cape Town City marks another significant setback for top-flight football in Cape Town, a city with a rich footballing heritage and a passionate sporting community. The PSL plays a critical role in youth development, talent scouting, local economic activity and job creation. This development highlights the need for increased institutional support for professional football in the Western Cape, including grassroots development, investment in clubs, and improved collaboration between the private sector, government, and sports federations. We need the Government to act now and act decisively. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there



any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] [Applause.] Order! There was no objection, and we move on. I recognise the hon Lekker. [Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the African National Congress on their victory in the recent by-election held in Ward 8, Knysna Municipality, in the Western Cape. This victory demonstrates the growing confidence of communities in the leadership, vision, and service delivery of the ANC. The residents of Ward 8 have expressed their faith in the ANC's commitment to addressing their needs, improving service delivery, and building a more inclusive, accountable, and development-oriented local government. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

*[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved?

An HON MEMBER: Objection! Objection!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed below the line. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

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

That the House notes with deep concern regarding the increase in violent shootings and gang-related incidents in Khayelitsha and other working-class communities in Cape Town in recent weeks, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries, and leaving residents living in fear. These acts of violence continue to destabilise communities, disrupt schooling, local businesses, and the broader society. While the Western Cape Government continues to invest in safety initiatives in affluent suburbs and the Cape Town CBD, working-class communities remain under-resourced, under-policed, and disproportionately affected by violent crime. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

Hon MEMBERS: We object!

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

Hon MEMBERS: Yes! Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. It will be printed on the Order Paper below the line. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): On behalf of the ANC, I move without notice:

That the House wishes Banyana Banyana all the best in the upcoming Women's Africa Cup of Nations 2025 which takes place in Morocco from 5 July to 26 July. Banyana Banyana goes into the tournament as defending champions. We wish coach Desiree Ellis and her players all the best. The nation is behind them, and we know they will make us proud. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

Hon MEMBERS: No! No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to.

Hon members, before we conclude the business of the day, I am to rule based on the sitting of 22 May 2025 in which a point of order was raised by the hon Minister of Health and Wellness. During the sitting of 22 May 2025, in the course of the debate on Interpellation 1, the hon Minister of Health and

Wellness raised the point of order concerning a statement attributed to the hon member Stoffel.

Specifically, the hon Minister requested a ruling on whether it was parliamentary for the hon Stoffel to assert that the hon Minister Simmers was abusing hon members of this Parliament. At the time, I did not clearly hear the remark in question and therefore, sought clarity directly from the hon Stoffel. Her response to me, and I quote:

“No! Not at all, hon Deputy Speaker.”

I committed to reviewing the Hansard transcript of the proceedings before making a determination. Having now examined the official Hansard record, I wish to provide my considered ruling.

The transcript reflects that the hon Stoffel stated:

“You can say what you want, MEC Simmers. You are abusing the members of this Parliament, and we want this report to the House.”

While the principles of open and vigorous debate are foundational to the functioning of this House, such discourse must be conducted within the parameters of the parliamentary decorum, and mutual respect. Hon members are expected to refrain from making statements that impute improper motives or conduct on fellow members. The comment attributed to the hon Stoffel

makes serious allegations against another hon member and in doing so, breaches the conventions that govern respectful engagement in this Chamber.

Hon Stoffel, are you able to stand? It is thus my ruling that I find your comment unparliamentary and therefore, respectfully request that you withdraw the statement in question.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, with great respect, I am not going to withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you remain standing. I would give you some advice in terms of the Rules. You are allowed, in terms of the Rules, to bring any substantive matter should you make any allegation against any hon member seated in this House. I will again request that you withdraw your comment.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I will repeat myself. With great respect, I am not going to withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will then request that you leave this Sitting.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, the African National Congress will be leaving with hon member Stoffel. We do not agree with the ruling. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have given my ruling. The remarks made were unparliamentary and breaches the conventions that govern respectful engagement in this chamber. I thus find the comment made and attributed to hon member Stoffel as unparliamentary. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, is it possible to make some of these rulings at the beginning of the Sitting because it constantly happens now that the hon ANC members make unparliamentary language comments and then, at the end of this Sitting they make a show of leaving the House once they have contributed. So, there are no real consequences for making unparliamentary remarks. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will definitely take your comment and input under advisement. Thank you.

Hon members, that also concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members online will be exited from this Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:52.