
THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 08:00.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Order! I want to take this opportunity to once again welcome our esteemed guests to the Sitting. Please note that for this Sitting the Standing Rules of the House will apply.

Further, in compliance with the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act of 2004, this entire hall, including all visitor' seating areas, passages and ablution facilities will be regarded as the Precincts of Parliament.

Before we proceed, I would like to make some comments about the logistical arrangements, hon members. Today we have hon members present here in this Hall with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff. The Secretary and the Administration will ensure that there is a dedicated technical support at all times during the Sitting.

Hon members, the Quorum requirements for this Sitting of the House are provided for as per the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and who are entitled to cast their votes in accordance with our Standing Rules.

Hon members, you have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Hon members who are considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

The Serjeant-at-Arms will ensure that members' attendance is recorded.

Today's Sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules, and in instances, hon members, where the Rules cannot be applied; the Ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Hon members who wish to raise a point or order; such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer, as normal, but must mute his or her

microphone when he or she has completed speaking.

Hon members, you are kindly requested to ensure that your microphones are unmuted when I recognise you and mute your microphones as soon as you have completed speaking.

For the purposes of this Sitting, Language Interpreting Services are available by using the devices at your disposal. Hon guests in the gallery, should you wish to also make use of the interpreting device and you are not able to and you need assistance, the attendants that are in the gallery will provide the necessary assistance.

Hon members, please allow me an opportunity to once again welcome the guests in the gallery, and to all our hon members. I will now recognise the Secretary that will read the First Order of the Day.

†Die SEKRETARIS: Debat oor Premiersrede.

[The SECRETARY: Debate on Premier's Address.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I have received a copy of the Premier's State of the Province Address delivered in the House on Wednesday, 26 February 2025. The address is printed in the Minutes of the Proceedings and I now place it before the House for debate.

Hon members, before I recognise the first speaker, I would like you to please

follow the Speaker's List.

The Administration made sure that there is an extra seat, so can I please ask that once the speaker on the podium has started speaking, that the next speaker please take up their seat so that we can have a smooth run or a smooth flow during this debate.

With that being said I now recognise the Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed.

Debate to Premier's State of the Province Address

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Premier Alan Winde, hon Speaker Daylin Mitchell, hon Chief Whip of the Official Opposition Ayanda Bans, our Deputy Provincial Secretary, hon members, hon residents of the Western Cape, the people of Beaufort West and Central Karoo. It is an honour to address this House as the ANC marks the 70th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter, a living document that embodies the hopes, dreams and aspirations of our people for a free, equal and just South Africa. Yet as we reflect on these ideals we must confront the harsh reality. In the Western Cape under the Democratic Alliance leadership, the vision of equality is still a long way off. The DA's track record is increasingly defined by corruption, mismanagement and a lack of accountability.

I want to pay tribute though to the resilient hard working people I meet every day across the province, but the picture painted by the Premier is not one that

the majority of our residents will recognise. It is not one that the majority of residents in Beaufort West and the Central Karoo will recognise – a province where thousands of learners go unplaced while teacher posts are cut in poor areas, a province where violent crime is rampant and the Premier lauds K9 Units and LEAP officers while children are killed in Gangland crossfire. A province where youth unemployment – omitted from the Premier's speech – and which is directly linked to crime, is ignored, the Western Cape is still without a youth policy to this day, and the province where access to housing, healthcare, decent schooling, clean and safe streets, and a decent job, is still decided by the colour of your skin. The Premier tells us that he will stand up against those who seek to tell us that “might is right”, while it was his party that invited the United States Government to interfere in the South African democracy just last year when we went to elections. Now we are supposed to believe that he is on our side again. [Interjections.]

Yes, we should step up and stand up for South Africa and the Western Cape, but let us have a dose of reality while we do it. Let us remind everyone, hon Speaker, about Communicare. In May last year the then Minister of Human Settlements, Mmamoloko Kubayi, investigated how Communicare properties were acquired pre and post 1994. Following her visit and report to President Ramaphosa, a forensic investigation was appointed and started work in January 2025. The part of her report where she gave Communicare a letter to stop evictions, has been ignored, allowing Communicare to continue, is the failure of MEC Simmers to hold Communicare accountable to a national decision. As the Leader of the Opposition I followed up with both Ministers

Kubayi and Minister Nkadimeng, and I am pleased to report that a forensic team began its work in January this year.

Despite this, under Premier Winde's leadership, the City of Cape Town and the Provincial Infrastructure Department, appear to ignore national instructions, failing to address on-going evictions, most recently halted by SAPS after Communicare tried to force pensioners out of their Rondebosch homes. From the on-going scandal and other housing failures that continue to displace families, the collapse of municipal governance in Swellendam, Saldanha Bay, Matzikama, Garden Route District, and many other municipalities, to police investigations into dodgy tenders in the City of Cape Town – the DA so-called model of good governance is failing.

A Swellendam Council resolution to release the Vermaak Report into allegations of misconduct by the municipal manager was overridden without legal justification. The DA-led Saldanha Bay Municipality recklessly mismanaged R2,5 million during the previous financial year, amidst a major housing backlog. In Matzikama, Mr Heinrich Koopman, the son of DA Deputy Mayor Amelia Job, repeatedly received appointments despite lacking qualifications, violating municipal recruitment policies and resulting in wasteful expenditure under the Municipal Finance Management Act. The DA Garden Route Municipality has an adjustment budget shortfall of R11 million due to alleged irregular salary payments, and what about the George building collapse, when the hon Van Wyk was the Mayor, funded by this very Legislature, the investigation was swiftly handed over to SAPS without a

shred of transparency or accountability to this Legislature, despite promises being made to the contrary. Why is the Premier hiding from the public what should have been an open and clear investigation? The secrecy raises serious concerns about what is happening and about what is being concealed.

This is the theme of the day in the Western Cape. No accountability, no transparency, no questions allowed. Premier Winde, your MEC Anton Bredell's Municipal Assistance Bill represents nothing short of an attack on local democracy. It undermines local Government autonomy, centralising power in a way that destabilises the very foundation of cooperative governance as outlined in the Government of National Unity's Medium Term Development Plan. It is an abuse of power that serves only the DA's narrow interest at the expense of local municipalities and the communities they serve. Already MEC Bredell abuses the concept of concurrence to block appointments in non-DA coalition municipalities, even appointments in the offices of political leaders.

In Education the DA has once again failed the people of the Western Cape. The decision to cut over 2 400 teacher posts disproportionately affects poor communities, deepening apartheid-era inequalities. We stand together with civil society formations and other political parties against this injustice. Worse still, the MEC Maynier has misled this Legislature on where the cuts would fall. We will support the substantive motion of the NCC to hold the MEC accountable. This is not just poor governance; it is a betrayal of the future of our children. Concerned teachers have actually requested that I hand

over this memorandum [Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, yes it is. I rise on Rule 59. The hon Sayed has impugned improper motives on both hon Bredell, as well as hon Van Wyk in his comments. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, thank you. Order members! Order! Hon Chief Whip, I will revert to Hansard and I will come back to the House with the ruling, because pretext, context and post-text matter, and I will utilise Hansard to make a ruling. Hon Sayed, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I hope my time remains.

The SPEAKER: The time is on the screen for the public to [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Concerned teachers have requested [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Sayed, there is, hon members, my apologies, I probably should have indicated this to you in the beginning. The time is indicated on the screen, so the Table Staff is not managing the time, it is for you to manage and for the public to see. Hon Sayed, you have four minutes

and 26 seconds remaining.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. Concerned teachers have requested that I hand over this memorandum on their behalf to the Premier and Education MEC. Apartheid spatial planning remains alive in Cape Town and across the province. The poor remain isolated in areas with fewer resources, inferior public transport, and little economic opportunity, while the wealthy benefit from sustained privilege. The DA's policies have only deepened these divides. We are not surprised that the DA at a national level would undermine the very GNU and its clearing house that it forms part of, to actually go to court against the Expropriation Act. The opposition of Premier Winde's Government to the use of vacant public land for affordable social housing in Tafelberg is another case in point. We will continue to stand with "Reclaim the City", and Ndifuna Ukwazi on this matter.

On international relations and on the international stage, we will not be bullied, not by Donald Trump, not by foreign governments, and certainly not by those who seek to undermine South Africa's sovereignty. [Applause.] The work of the International Court of Justice on Israel's murderous genocide of the Palestinian people will continue as we lead the way on human rights and international law.

Premier, you have correctly pointed out that South Africa's leadership is hosting the G20 and the B20 this year, and that it is a major milestone for our continent and country and even the province, however your own MEC for

Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, Dr Ivan Meyer, has jeopardised our trade and diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China by visiting Taiwan in his official capacity, directly contradicting our national One China Policy. This reckless action undermines years of economic cooperation.

Just last year November, a high level Chinese delegation gathered in Cape Town leading to a bilateral agreement with the City of Cape Town and Xi'an City to expand trade investment. The Vice Mayor of Xi'an emphasised the shared economic potential between our regions, yet in one move MEC Meyer has compromised these efforts with no consequences from you or your administration. Wesgro reports that exports to China exceed R16 billion (Note – this was corrected later during Sitting from million to billion) in 2024, reinforcing China's role as a key trading partner and a major contributor to job creation in the rural economy.

Premier, this situation exemplifies how members of your party operate as if the Western Cape is an independent republic from South Africa. It is unacceptable that as Premier you allow such economically damaging actions that harm our province's and country's relations with one of our largest bilateral BRICS partners, especially in these unstable global times. Premier, you cannot allow members of your Government to act against national foreign policy, while you emphasise protecting relations with the United States. You remain silent as MEC Meyer damages ties with China, harming our agricultural workers in the process.

Despite these failures I stand here proud of the unity in action among Opposition parties in this Legislature. The ANC, the EFF, the PA, the NCC, GOOD, Freedom Front Plus, and Al Jama-Ah, despite our differences on a variety of issues, are committed to working together for the betterment of every resident in the Western Cape. The collaboration is an example of what can be achieved when diverse voices come together for a common purpose. The Premier ended his speech with the words: “The Western Cape Government is for you.” Who was he talking to, vested interests, or ordinary hard working people?

As we commemorate 70 years of the Freedom Charter, we must ask ourselves, which side is Premier Winde’s party on, the side of ordinary South Africans striving for a better life or the side of the already wealthy and powerful with secrecy and inequality? The ANC and the united Opposition stand ready to hold this Provincial Government accountable for its failures and to build a province that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Order! I now recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker and Premier. Today we have a

responsibility to address this House on matters that lie at the very heart of our province's future, the well-being of our children, the strength of our communities, and the role of Government. Today, I stand before you to speak about the critical intersection of education, opportunity, and the shared responsibility between the Western Cape Government and communities to ensure that no child is left behind, essentially what is created when we all "step up".

The role of Government is not to create jobs directly but to create the conditions that allow jobs to flourish. It is to build an enabling environment where innovation, entrepreneurship, and skills development can thrive, and at the foundation of this enabling environment lies one indispensable foundation - education.

Education is the great leap forward, the bridge between poverty and prosperity, and the key to unlocking the potential of every child. It is education that is the launchpad for a child's future, for their success and the map to step forward. Yet, Speaker, we cannot ignore the harsh reality that our education system is under immense strain, and our children are paying the price. The recent cuts to teaching posts across the province are a stark reminder of the challenges we face. These cuts are not just numbers on a spreadsheet; they represent lost opportunities for thousands of learners. They represent dreams deferred and potential untapped.

We must acknowledge the difficult fiscal environment in which we operate

and we cannot shy away from the key fact that the Western Cape is not receiving its fair share of the national budget that National Government sees fit to starve the Western Cape of the budget it needs for success. Let us remember that this problem was foretold last year, an unfunded pay increase to teachers by National Government was always going to result in cuts due to the budget shortfall of billions.

I am hearing a lot of complaints from the Opposition who seem to believe in the myth of the magic money tree, but not any solutions, so, hon Speaker. through you, I would want to ask Members' Sayed and Herron if they are willing to give up their salaries to fund an extra teacher or three. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): But seriously, Mr Speaker. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order members!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): This is not a small deficit that can be fixed by shifting a few numbers around; it is a shortfall in the billions. Where will we get the money from? Do we cut school transport, school meals, take away critical services from other departments?

In this regard I must mention Mr Bruwer, the Headmaster of Merweville

Primary, a small deeply rural school. This remarkable headmaster is feeding almost half his school every day because you cannot teach a hungry child. A child who often gets no nutrition over weekends due to poverty and social problems. A teacher who is investing in growing food and teaching skills to children to build themselves a future. Can we cut that budget? Absolutely not! The money must come from National. This inequality is a matter of justice. Our children deserve better, and it is the responsibility of National to ensure that our children receive their fair share of resources.

Hon Speaker, while we hold National Government accountable for these shortcomings, we must also recognise the power of communities to step up and fill the gaps. The strength of our nation lies in the resilience and resourcefulness of our people, and they also need the help of a caring and responsible Government, and in this spirit I want to highlight what the Western Cape Government has been doing to step up, and to focus in particular on the success of the e-Centres.

These e-Centres are more than just buildings. They provide access to the gears of progress, the enabling environment for up-skilling the results in job creation. They provide a space for learners to complete their homework, for individuals to apply for grants, and for community members to upskill in computer literacy. In a world that is increasingly digital these skills are not just a luxury; they are a necessity. E-Literacy with a capital E is the new literacy, and without these skills, people are shackled to the past without the tools to build a new future. Like Jeffrey Sauls who works at the Merweville

e-Centre and who is retrained in IT skills to live his dream and now works to help others in Merweville achieve the same.

However, we know, that despite the 1 600 hotspots created by the WCPP, not every community has access to a physical e-Centre. That is why the mobile e-Centre is such a vital initiative. It travels to the far-flung corners of our province, bringing support and opportunity to those who need it most, at last count this was over 1 800 residents. A true example of the Western Cape Government stepping up to help and assist the communities of our province.

While we celebrate these successes, we must also remember the challenges that remain. In places like Beaufort West and the Karoo, children face unique obstacles to achieving success. Poverty, distance, and a lack of resources create barriers that are not easily overcome. That is why the role of the Commissioner for Children is so critical. As we prepare for a new Commissioner, it is imperative that the Commissioner sets clear targets, makes full use of their budget and champions the needs of our children with unwavering determination. The Commissioner must be a voice for our children, a tireless advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

Hon Speaker, the work of the Commissioner for Children is not just about addressing immediate needs; it is about laying the foundation for a brighter future. It is about ensuring that every child, no matter where they are born in this province, has the opportunity to reach their full potential, and it is about recognising that the success of our children is not just an ethical imperative;

it is an economic one. An educated, skilled, and empowered generation is the greatest asset any nation can have.

Let us remember that the challenges we face are not insurmountable. They are a call to action, a reminder of the work that still needs to be done. Government must create the enabling environment for job creation and opportunity, and maybe I should repeat that line slowly again so that the ANC can hear it. It is through the strength of our communities that this vision will be realised. Together, we can build a future where every child has access to quality education, where every community has the resources it needs to thrive, and where no one is left behind. Let us not wait for tomorrow to do what we can do today. Let us invest in our children, empower our communities, and work together to create a nation that we can all be proud of, and to quote the song that we all heard in this hall last night:

“We are stronger when we all step up.

and the world is better when we all step up”.

I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Van Minnen. Hon Petrus, please take your seat, I will recognise you now. Hon Petrus, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, just to address you as per the Rules. I just wanted to seek your guidance so that one is not deemed to have misled the House and to be irresponsible. In my speech

I misread the Wesgro China investment, it is supposed to have been * R16 billion and not R16 million, I want that to be corrected. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But I will also hand my speech over to Hansard.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I just wanted to seek your guidance on now, just in the spirit of honesty. Thank you, Speaker.

[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order members! I will, firstly that is not a point of order. Secondly, hon Sayed, you can submit your speech, when the Hansard is being circulated, we circulate Hansard in unrevised versions, and you can make your comments directly to Hansard as it gets captured. With that being said, I recognise the hon Petrus.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you Speaker. Hon Speaker, hon Premier, members of the House, and people of the Western Cape. The Patriotic

Alliance stands here today to address a critical issue and that is the impact of illegal foreigners on job and business opportunities of the people of the Western Cape. Our province is struggling with economic pressures, a struggling education system, violence and crime, and the crisis of unemployment, yet you and your Government is silent on illegal foreigners and the impact on all these issues. [Interjection.] The Patriotic Alliance asked for measures that will protect the job and business opportunities of the people of the Western Cape.

†Agb Speaker, die George bou-ramp, tydens verlede jaar se SOPA het die Premier onderneem om oorweging te skenk aan 'n onafhanklike Kommissie van Onderzoek. U het die mag om dit te doen. Nogtans het u stilletjies gegaan en die verslag van die ondersoek aan die polisie oorhandig. Hierdie Huis weet niks wat daarin staan nie, ook weet ons nie, ook weet die mense van die Wes-Kaap nie; net u die skrywers en die polisie. Is daar dalk iets wat ons moet weet? Is daar dalk iets wat ons nie moet weet nie? Is daar dalk 'n Burgemeester, voormalige Burgemeester in die Huis wat ons nader kan bring aan die waarheid. [Tussenwerpsel.] [Applous.] Ek was nie. [Hon Speaker, the George building disaster, during last year's SOPA the Premier undertook to consider an independent Commission of Inquiry. You have the power to do it. Nevertheless you went quietly and handed the report over to the police. This House knows nothing that it says in there, also we don't know, also the people of the Western Cape do not know; only you, the authors and the police. Is there perhaps something that we should not know? Is thte perhapd a Mayor, former Mayor in the House that can bring us closer to the truth?

[Interjection.] [Applause.] I was not.] The Patriotic Alliance demands that you release the report of your investigation with immediate effect and that this House debates it. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Before the courts.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Step up, Mr Premier and release [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): I need your protection, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order members!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Step up and release the Report.

An HON MEMBER: Step up in your [Inaudible 00:32:02]

Mr B PETRUS (PA): We also ask that you allocate more resources to health, social development, safety and security, education, small business development, rural development, sport development, job creation and municipalities.

†U verwys gereeld na ander munisipaliteite en hoe dit daar gaan. Kom ons gaan kyk 'n bietjie na hoe dit in die vlagskip-munisipaliteit, die sogenaamde

vlagskip-munisipaliteit in George gaan [Tussenwerpsel.] wat al sedert verlede jaar sukkel om 'n proses af te handel vir die aanstelling van 'n munisipale bestuurder. Maar u verwys gereeld na ander munisipaliteite. U eie munisipaliteite sit met probleme wat nadelig is vir die inwoners van George en ander streke in die Wes-Kaap, en ek vra vandag namens die Patriotic Alliance, dat u gaan kyk na die probleme wat daar tans aan die gang is in die George Munisipaliteit. Ons vra ook dat alle munisipaliteite wat hulp nodig het die nodige hulp moet kry.

[You regularly refer to other municipalities and how it's going there. Let us go and look at how it's going in the flagship municipality, the so-called flagship municipality in George [Interjection.] which since last has been struggling to to complete a process for the appointment of a municipal manager. But you regularly refer to other municipalities. Your own municipalities are stuck with problems that are detrimental to the citizens of George and other regions in the Western Cape, and today I ask on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance, that you go and look at the problems going on in the George Municipality. We also ask that all municipalities in need of assistance receive the necessary aid.]

Premier, the centre cannot hold if you do not trust us. We are committed to help built a better society for the people of Mitchells Plain, Elsies River, Langa, Bongoletu, George, and the whole of the Western Cape. Thank you.

[Applause]

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

Johnson. [Interjection.] [Applause]

†'n AGBARE LID: Gooi!

[An HON MEMBER: Throw!]

The SPEAKER: Order members! Order! Hon Johnson, before you proceed I would like to remind the guests in the gallery that you are more than welcome in the Sitting today, but I would like to remind you in terms of our Standing Rules that you may not participate in the proceedings of the House, and I am sure that you are very excited to see hon Johnson on the podium, but I just want to remind you to please just restrain; and hon Johnson, you will have my protection. Hon Johnson, I recognise you. [Interjection.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, as I woke up this morning and all too familiar feeling greeted me, as I am sure it likely did for you and many other members of this House. That is the feeling of home, the feeling of belonging. But Beaufort West is my hometown and I am proud to be a representative of this town.

†Agb Speaker, om groot te kon word in die Karoo, hier in Beaufort-Wes, was 'n absolute voorreg. Ek het vir 18-jaar hier gewoon, my hoërskoolloopbaan hier op die dorp voltooi, en op hierdie einste kerkgronde waar ons vandag sit, het ek kerk bygewoon. Ek onthou die goeie tye, maar ek onthou ook die swaar tye. Ek onthou droogtes en ander teleurstellings, maar meer belangrik onthou ek die goeie en sorgvrye tye in die strate van Beaufort Wes, met min

tot geen bekommernisse van 'n dag oud. Wanneer tye moeilik geraak het, was daar altyd 'n deur oop vir 'n vinnige koppie koffie en die vinnige boodskap van “jy weet mos, ons druk net deur, deursettingsvermoë,” of soos die Engelse sal sê, “perseverance”.

[Hon Speaker, to have grown up in the Karoo, here in Beaufort West, was an absolute privilege. I have lived here for 18 years, completed my high school career here in the town, and on these exact church grounds where we sit today, I attended church. I remember the good times, but I also remember the difficult times. I remember droughts and other disappointments, but more importantly I remember the good and carefree times in the streets of Beaufort West, with little to no worries of a day the old. When times became difficult, there was always an open door for a quick cup of coffee and the quick message of “but you know we just press on, resilience”, or as the English would say “perseverance”.]

Hon Speaker, have you ever watched tennis players in the finals of a Grand Slam tournament? Often after playing an excellent but gruelling set, the person will lose the last game of that set by just one point and therefore they will lose the set. They have played a great number of excellent points and have won five games to draw at five all, just to lose one crucial point, and therefore losing the entire set five-six. Sometimes this means losing the match, or even the whole tournament, by one, just that one very point. Imagine how heartbreaking that must be. Hours of playing an excellent match in the hot sun, just to lose by one point, yet with the next tournament they are back, starting the elimination round again from scratch.

The ability to get up after a devastating defeat, whether it has been in the form of drought or poverty, this is what makes people of the Karoo so unique. It is the perseverance and determination to start the hard work all over again and this is true resilience.

Hon Speaker, Economic opportunity is a pathway to greater independence and empowerment for everyone, and we must make sure that the people of Beaufort West have every opportunity to get quality education and build a successful future for themselves. There can be no excuses, and our commitment to the advancement of this cause must be ceaseless.

†Agb speaker, die gemeenskap van Beaufort-Wes weet dat 'n hele paar van die agb lede in hierdie huis, die opposisie ook, in hierdie gemeenskap gebore is en grootgeword het. Vir ons is ons gemeenskappe 'n baken. Ons moet vir ons gemeenskappe as 'n baken van hoop gesien word. Ons kom uit 'n landelike gemeenskap en vandag is ons die leiers van hierdie Wes-Kaap Provinsie. Dit beteken dat ons die uitdagings wat ons gemeenskappe, my gemeenskap, in die gesig staar, verstaan.

Agb Speaker, met dit gesê, die finansies van die Beaufort Munisipaliteit is onstabiel, maar die Wes-Kaap Regering en die Beaufort-Wes Munisipaliteit werk hand-aan-hand aan die implementering van die Finansiële Herstelplan wat tans in sy tweede fase is. Sedert die begin van die Finansiële Herstelplan is groot vordering gemaak, maar dit is belangrik om daarop te let dat die

verandering van 'n situasie van hierdie aard nie oornag sal plaasvind nie, en ek wil dit graag herhaal. Dit is belangrik om daarop te let dat die verandering van hierdie situasie nie oornag sal plaasvind nie.

[Hon Speaker, the community of Beaufort West knows that several of the honorable members in this House, also the Opposition, were born and grew up in this community. To us our communities are a beacon. We have to be seen as a beacon of hope to our communities. We come from a rural community and today we are the leaders of this Western Cape Province. It means that we understand the challenges facing our communities, my community.]

Hon Speaker, having said that, the finances of the Beaufort Municipality is unstable, but the Western Cape Government and the Beaufort West Municipality work hand in hand in implementing the Financial Recovery Plan and which currently is in its second phase. Since the beginning of the Financial Recovery Plan great progress has been made, but it is important to note that the change of the situation of this nature will not happen overnight, and I want to repeat. It is important to note that the change of this situation will not happen overnight.]

Hon Speaker, our children are integral to our success, as a country and as a province, and it is for this reason that I believe that it is time for the residents of the Karoo to step up in our communities. It is only through a whole-of-society approach, where everyone is treated with fairness and access to opportunities, and especially economic opportunities that we can

close these inequalities.

While we as a Province, including Beaufort West, are not getting our fair share, we most definitely deserve our fair share of the budget. We must continue to do the best with what we can, and what we have been given.

Like the seasoned tennis player who plays each shot with precision and purpose, we have to prioritise with efficiency, innovation, and accountability to achieve the outcome that other provinces aspire to replicate. Let us now reflect on how, despite receiving less, we are achieving more for the people of this province.

Hon Speaker, let us turn our focus to unemployment, particularly the DA's Growth for Jobs strategy. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, the Western Cape has achieved the lowest unemployment rate in the country, 19.6%. For context, no other province comes close to this achievement, with our rate being nearly half of any other province. Furthermore, even our broad unemployment rate remains significantly lower than the narrow rates of any other province. This is an incredible milestone for the Western Cape, but it is only the beginning.

†Agb Speaker, die Wes-Kaap, ook bekend as die Kaap van Storms, staar dikwels die onvoorspelbaarheid van die natuur in die gesig. En ek wil hier stilstaan om erkenning te gee aan ons brandbestryders wat al die afgelope paar dae in die provinsie verskeie brande in die gesig staar, om alle inwoners,

diere en eiendom te beskerm.

Agbare Speaker, landbou bly die bloedlyn van ons landelike gemeenskappe, volhoubaarheid van lewens en die dryfkrag van werkskepping in gebiede waar geleenthede skaars is. Die sektor is die hoeksteen van ons ekonomie, en befondsing is noodsaaklik vir die herstel en groei. Om te bou op ons belofte van uitnemendheid, sal die Wes-Kaap steeds fondse bewillig vir pro-aktiewe toesig en ingryping vir die voorkoming van uitbreek van siektes, regoor die provinsie. Hierdie inisiatief is 'n sleutelkomponent van ons Growth for Jobs-strategie, wat ons toewyding bevestig vir die lewering van gehalte landbou uitvoerprodukte.

Agb Speaker, deur u moedig ek die inwoners van Beaufort-Wes en die breë gemeenskap aan om te help bou aan ons gemeenskap. In Beaufort-Wes het die gemeenskap al veerkragtigheid in tye van krisis gewys. Met elke krisis wat inwoners in die gesig staar, het hulle dit op hulself geneem om hierdie uitdagings aan te pak, mag dit so voortgaan.

In hierdie einste kerk waar ons onself vandag bevind, is ek in 2013 voorgestel as lid van hierdie gemeenskap, van hierdie gemeente, en die einste raadslid, of Tannie Delene Slabbert, wat my geestelike mentor was, los ek julle graag met die volgende boodskap [Tussenwerpsel.].

[Hon Speaker, the western cape, so known as has the cape of storms, often faces the unpredictability of nature. And I want to pause here to acknowledge our firefighters who have faced several fires over the past few days in the

province, to protect all citizens, animals and property.

Hon Speaker, agriculture remains the bloodline of our rural communities, sustainability of lives, and the driving force of job creation in areas where opportunities are scarce. The sector is the cornerstone of our economy, and funding is essential for the recovery and growth. To build on our promise of excellence, the Western Cape will still provide funds for proactive oversight and intervention for the prevention of diseases all over the province. This initiative is a key component of our Growth for Jobs strategy, which confirms our commitment for the delivery of quality agricultural export products.

Hon Speaker, through you I encourage the citizens of Beaufort west and the broader community to continue building our community. In Beaufort West the community had shown resilience in times of crisis. With each crisis facing the citizens, they took it upon themselves to take on these challenges, may it continue like that.

In this very church where we find ourselves today, I was confirmed in 2013 as a member of this community, this congregation and this very councillor, or Tannie Delene Slabbert, had been my spiritual mentor, I leave you with the following message.] [Interjection.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Agb Johnson, jou tyd is verstreke.

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

†Mnr P JOHNSON (DA): “God seën Suid Afrika, God seën die Wes-Kaap en God seën die mense van die Karoo. Baie dankie. [Applous]

[Mr P JOHNSON (DA): God bless South Africa, God bless the Western Cape and God bless the people of the Karoo. Thank you.] [Applause.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Baie mooi!

[An HON MEMBER: Very nice!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order! I now recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you Speaker. Speaker, it cannot be that every year during the State of the Province Address that over 7 million residents in this province are deceived through misrepresentation by the Premier, especially when it comes to crime in the Western Cape. With the latest national crime stats, Speaker, showcasing the Western Cape at the top of the list it was quite shocking to know and to see that the Premier spoke little to nothing about how he actually plans to eradicate crime in the province.

Speaker, every year we are being misled by this DA-led Government about how millions of rands are being pumped into the Safety Plan, yet every year, Speaker, crime increases under the DA's watch here in the Western Cape, because the reality is wherever that funds are being pumped into, in the Safety Plan, it is definitely not in our Coloured and African communities, especially with the latest stats that has been released. We might have noticed,

Speaker, that yesterday the Premier avoided speaking about the Safety Plan, because he knows that it is a complete failure as usual, and he also failed to speak and touch on drugs and gang-infested communities, especially on the Cape Flats. Hon Speaker, residents in gang-infested communities have lost so much hope and trust in this DA-led Provincial Government that they are too scared to turn to this Provincial Government for help, because they know that running to this DA-led Government is just a complete waste of time.

Hon Speaker, residents across the province has lost so much hope and trust in this DA-led Government that they are now running to organisations like PAGAD and other crime prevention organisations, to shut drug dens in our communities and to hand over druglords to SAPS, because they know that these groups gets the work done much faster and do not play when it comes to the lives of our Coloured and African children. Speaker, it can never be that the lack of funds and resources is an excuse by this DA Government as to why drug dens are not being shut by our Province, but then we look at community members with no resources and with no funds with the help of organisations like PAGAD, and then it makes one wonder how is it that they can shut drug dens and hand over druglords to SAPS without resources and funds, but a whole DA-led Provincial Government failed to do so with the available resources and funds.

Hon Speaker, it is clear as to what this DA-led Government wants for our children. They want our African and Coloured children to remain hostage to drug and gang-infested communities, just as they want our children to remain

without an education when they place our kids in schools which are from their homes, because to this DA a Black child should never progress as it threatens the lives of the White and the wealthy. With the latest crime stats, hon Speaker, released across the country, it is extremely concerning as the Western Cape remains the leader in serious crimes, especially with Cape Town being on the top of the list. This proves that the DA Safety Plan is ineffective, hon Speaker, and the people continue to suffer as a result. So hon Speaker, can the Premier please tell us how and where exactly is the Safety Plan working in our Coloured and African communities?

The Premier spoke very nicely about how Stellenbosch is the biggest economic investment to this province. However, Speaker, as we battle to understand why this Province is failing us when it comes to eradicating crime in Black communities, it is very clear now as to why Cape Town and Stellenbosch has the highest population to police ratio among smaller municipalities, and it is not because it has a bigger population, but due to its economic significance, and due to the wealthy living on that side. This is concerning, hon Speaker, because what they are telling us is that better police resources are allocated and deployed to Stellenbosch due to the fact that it is a wealthy area, with some of the most notable billionaires in the country, and therefore their security and their safety, Speaker, is more important than those across the province, especially our poor, and those sitting before us, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, the resources of this country must be prioritised to the poor and

the vulnerable who live in constant fear on a daily basis and who cannot afford high walls with electric fences and 24/7 armed response security, as compared to those in Stellenbosch.

Hon Speaker, we call on the Premier of this Province to stop acting like he is running a pseudo state and join forces with the National Government to develop a concerted effort to defeat crime in this province, because clearly the DA is not here to fight crime for our poor communities, and does not know how to handle crime in this province.

Hon Speaker, let me let me move on to Education. Just like the DA is here to hold our Coloured and African children hostage to drugs and gangsterism, they are also very much here to ensure that our children do not get the education they need to progress out of this life of poverty. The hatred towards African and Coloured children are so deep here in the Western Cape that they send our kids to schools in other regions, which is an hour to two away from where they currently live, because they know that if parents cannot afford to buy a slice of bread or buy their kids school uniform, then how will they afford to travel to another region on a daily basis to get their children to school, and they must not tell us that there is available transport for kids placed in schools across the province, especially those who are placed in far schools, because they even messed up with the transport. They even messed up with transport for our kids to make sure that they do not reach the schools that they are placed in.

Hon Speaker, last week the Provincial Department of Education reported that the backlog for unplaced learners stood at only 786, and then as usual, late applications are blamed for this backlog.

When it was time to account in the Education Committee, hon Speaker, the Department only held one physical meeting to address the matter, and this was with the presence of police at the Legislature, while the second meeting was cancelled, and the third one held virtually, because they know that parents are angry and this Department did not want to face parents of unplaced learners. Today the situation is so dire, hon Speaker, that to an extent that the Department's phone lines are off. They are sending parents from schools, and back and forth from the district departments of schools. Parents are struggling and phones are not being answered by the Department, Speaker. It is a complete mess and the situation remains chaotic as the Department continue to fail Coloured and African children in this province.

Hon Speaker, the state of education in this province is in deep crisis, even when one looks at the Matric results. The reality is that while there was an improvement in the percentage of the 2024 Matric Pass Rate, the province still occupies the same position as it occupied the previous year when Matric results were released, which is fifth place across the entire country. This is very much concerning as we are stuck without any major progress in this province. Speaker, it is clear what the DA wants for our children and what they want for our African and Coloured children.

Hon Speaker, yesterday the Premier spent most of his time speaking about how we need to step up and make this province a safer space, especially for tourists who visit this province, because with more tourists, as the Premier said, comes more economic opportunities.

The Premier ignored disparities in resource allocations across the province where wealthier areas receive better police resources due to the economic importance, while poorer communities like the Cape Flats, among others, are left to fend for themselves, and while the DA chose Beaufort West, hon Speaker, as a preferable venue for this year's SOPA, the Premier even failed dismally to highlight the challenges that the people of Beaufort West face here, and instead of addressing these challenges and offering solutions to the people of Beaufort West, the Premier instead elected to speak about his own trip to Germany.

Furthermore, Speaker, the DA has failed to address a deep rooted racism that continues to plague the Western Cape, seeing African and Coloured communities endure on-going systematic marginalisation, exclusion and violence. But in conclusion, Speaker, the Premier's address failed to acknowledge the suffering of millions of residents across the province, who are being systematically failed by this DA-led Government, and while the Premier called for residents to step up and make the province a safer space for tourists in order to bring more economic opportunities, I think it is about time that the Premier takes his own advice by stepping up first and doing what he is supposed to do by first creating a safer space for the residents of

the Western Cape, especially for the poor and the marginalised, and not tourists. Thank you very much, Speaker. [Applause.]

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me first say what an honour it is to speak today on this platform in the beautiful town of Beaufort West. Over the past two and a half days I have had an opportunity to meet with many of the residents of the town and learned more about the many challenges they are facing and find out how they are working to overcome them. It has also been wonderful to hear from residents how they have already seen a significant improvement in service delivery since the new Government took over in July last year and we are counting on Mayor Reynolds and his team to continue to move things forward in the right direction, but it will not be easy.

As a colleague described earlier, it is a bit like inheriting a bus with a broken engine and †*pap* [flat] tyres. It is going to take a long time to rebuild, but I think the team that is in place is the right team, and they are going to do a fantastic job.

Hon Speaker, the Province of the Western Cape is renowned for its natural biodiversity. Just here in the Karoo we find over 6 000 different species of plants and hundreds of different types of animals and birds. Over 40% of the

Karoo's plants are endemic, meaning they only come from this region. This incredible biodiversity can become a driver for tourism and job creation going forward. We must do everything we can to protect the local biodiversity here and across the province, and work with the authorities, both local and international to combat poaching syndicates. We have seen rare Karoo succulents being targeted by these syndicates in particular.

The Western Cape's incredible biodiversity provides us with a massive economic opportunity and we must seize it by investing in what is referred to as "the biodiversity economy." We must embrace bold and dynamic eco-tourism programmes that not only provide jobs but help to turbo-charge the economy for local communities, such as this one. Embracing our biodiversity economy is about creating opportunities where they are needed most, without destroying the natural ecosystems that sustain us all.

Hon Speaker, we can champion the growth of rural areas by building strong value chains that leverage off our biodiversity, ensuring that services are accessible to all. This is how we foster prosperity, by empowering people and providing the tools they need to thrive. But we must go further. We must encourage more private investment in order to protect our precious biodiversity.

Yesterday we witnessed how a ground-breaking public private partnership is helping to purify waste water for irrigation and consumption, and some of you may have noticed that the water you were drinking last night comes from

this project, and it is actually sometimes referred to as toilet to tap. So go and do some investigation as to how clean that water actually is. It is very clean.

It is precisely through bringing the private sector closer in projects like these that we can achieve these results, and it is up to us to equip the next generation with the training and skills they need to unlock new economic opportunities.

Speaker, in order to defend our environment we also need strong law enforcement. We have witnessed the success of law enforcement programmes across our province under the DA, and it has been incredible to see how some of these programmes have helped to combat poaching and biodiversity loss. Speaker, I have heard some members of the Opposition criticising the Premier for investing in additional law enforcement for the Western Cape.

Now let me tell you, without the assistance of additional law enforcement in places like Cape Town, Overstrand and all along our coast, we would never have achieved the massive breakthroughs that we are seeing in the fight against *perlemoen* and crayfish poaching. This poaching not only puts the environment at risk, it also floods coastal communities with drugs and turns many of our young people into gangsters and addicts, and I say, shame on anyone who criticises the Premier's investment into Law Enforcement. This DA-led Province will continue to work to improve safety and will work hand-in-hand with our local communities to forge powerful partnerships and

tackle environmental crime head-on.

But Speaker, our biodiversity economy is not the only way we can leverage off our natural resources. Under the DA we will continue to build as much solar infrastructure as we can in order to take advantage of the enormous solar potential in our province, and we are already seeing the successes of this approach in many towns across the Western Cape. The Premier briefly mentioned it in his speech, but I want to take a moment to celebrate the progress we have made together in the City of Cape Town. Over the past two and a half years, businesses and households in Cape Town have earned more than R55 million, largely in municipal bill credits, by selling their excess solar power back to the City.

This is a testament to the power of DA-led innovation, and to the determination of regular South Africans coming together to address the challenges faced after almost 20 years of ANC load-shedding. The DA-led Cash-for-Power Programme encourages residents and businesses to install solar panels and to reduce their reliance on the municipal grid. The massive earnings from this programme show us that when we invest in clean, renewable energy, we create new opportunities. We create jobs, we strengthen our communities, and we take real action on climate change.

As the Premier noted, not all countries seem to share our willingness to address the impacts of climate change going forward, but we do, and we have seen the impacts, not only in the increase in natural disasters, but also the

impacts that climate change is having on agriculture, and while our incredible disaster risk management teams are doing sterling work under the leadership of Minister Bredell, there is still much more to be done to lessen the impacts of climate change going forward, and I must say, hon Speaker, as an aside it was interesting to hear Minister Bredell being accused of centralising power by the ANC. I think that is a case of "pot, kettle and black."

Our own efforts to mitigate climate change to reduce emissions, while absolutely necessary, unfortunately will not prevent global warming. What we must focus on concurrently, and with great urgency, is adapting to the changing climate. This means changing the way we build, the way we farm and our relationship with our water resources. Having attended a number of COP conferences myself I can attest the fact that talk is cheap. It is only through action by forward thinking governments that we can lessen the impact of climate change now and in the future.

Speaker, as we move into a new and unpredictable time in global politics, it is essential that we in the Western Cape focus on working together to solve our own domestic challenges. At the forefront of this must be a commitment to protecting our natural environment, because as the saying goes, "there is no planet B." This Government, under a DA-led Administration has the opportunity to lead the way, and I am confident that with the cooperation and the assistance of our partners in the National GNU, we can do much, much more. Thank you. [Applause.]

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

[Applause.]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you Speaker. I thank you, Speaker. Greetings to all, Premier. I greet you all in the name of the Highest, Tjaihessa, One Love. Speaker, members, Premier. †Ek groet ieder en elk vandag hier in die wonderlike naam van ons God die Vader, God die Seun, en God die Heilige Gees. Wees gegroet my mense van die Wes-Kaap. [I greet each of you here, in the wonderful name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I greet you my people of the Western Cape.]

Speaker, as we gather here today, we open this august House and we prepare ourselves to face 2025, including all the challenges that the people of the Western Cape have to deal with on a daily basis.

Premier, congratulations on your speech, but Premier, I cannot but wonder how much did you spend on that speech writing, and the people that were drafting it for you.

Hon Speaker, our kids are dying on the Cape Flats, and as we speak our children are dying in Manenberg, our children are dying in Elsies, our children are dying in Mitchells Plain, our children are dying in Lavender Hill, and here the people of the Western Cape are still waiting on a Safety Plan coming from your Government.

Premier, MEC of Safety & Security, the blood of our innocent children that died on the Cape Flats is on your hands. Just two weeks ago a young man lost his eye in Kensington and this was due to an illegal operation from law enforcement evicting Coloured people from their living spaces. I was on the scene and I contacted the MEC for Safety. It was just an hour before the boy lost his eye, but once again the MEC has showed us her core duty is to fail the people of colour.

Mr Premier, this can only be a result of White cadre deployment. I want the people of the Western Cape to know that when it comes to Coloured Lives Matter, to the Democratic Alliance it means nothing.

Here is my truth. When a couple of zama-zamas died in an illegal mining operation, the Democratic Alliance came out full swing, “we will launch an investigation to see how and why these zama-zamas died, †maar julle moet julle skaam. Ons verloor 3 000 kinders elke jaar op die Kaapse Vlakte, en nog nie een keer het die DA ’n *investigation gelaunch* om te sien hoekom is daar so baie moorde op die *Cape Flats*. [Applous.] [but you should be ashamed. We lose 3000 children every year on the Cape Flats, and not once has the DA launched an investigation to see why there are so many murders on the Cape Flats.] [Applause.]

I hope the Coloured people are taking note and punish you hard when it comes to the next elections. Yes, Speaker, how long shall they kill our prophets while we stand aside and look, and some say it is just a part of it.

But we say enough is enough. Now Premier, we have the Land Expropriation Amendment Bill that allows you to return the stolen land that was taken from the Aboriginal, from the Indigenous and from the Coloured people.
[Interjection.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Daar is dit nou!

[An HON MEMBER: There it is now!]

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Will you now address the issue of the stolen land? Will you now return the Coloured people from where they were forcefully removed? Will you now take this opportunity to correct the injustices of the past, or will you simply continue with the colonisers' plan, running to court with the very same decision made by your loving GNU?

Premier, your fabricated stats that says the Western Cape has the lowest unemployment rate is quite misleading, because most of the Coloured areas across the province, the unemployment rate is at 70-80%. For who did you create the 62 000 jobs?

Premier, we note your comments on Education, but it cannot be correct that 2 407 teachers are relieved from their posts and the Premier is silent about it. We do understand that you do not care about us because you do not like us. Your kids go to private schools, but our kids must go to schools in gang-infested areas, and the Premier is silent about it, because you are not like us. Our mothers and fathers up until today as we speak are knocking on doors to

get their kids accepted at schools, and the Premier is silent about it, because you are not like us, and you are not like us, and you are not like us. Shame on you, Premier. This province has a housing crisis, the housing [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP: On a point of order, Deputy Speaker.

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

The CHIEF WHIP: Speaker, the member is continuously addressing members of the House directly and not through you. Please ask him to address the Chair and not members directly. We know they are starved for content but we ask that they please follow the Rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: On a point of order Deputy Speaker, the Chief Whip has not been recognised, he stands up and he speaks and he tells you to recognise him. That cannot be tolerated. That is unparliamentary, it is wrong, he cannot just because the Chief Whip... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: We will do it too.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Chief Whip, I have indeed seen him. Hon Jacobs, hon Jacobs, I am aware of the time that is allocated to you; hence I did not want to disturb you, but please speak via the Chair. You may proceed.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Yes, Mr Chair. I think we need to step up or step out, right. [Applause] Sit down. Be humble. This province is in a housing crisis, the housing waiting list is over 360 000, and the new houses that were built in this province were built for who? Surely it becomes clear that the Western Cape is a home for all, except for the owners of the Western Cape, and today we still await the Minister of Infrastructure to investigate Communicare since 2019.

Hon Speaker, now we have just learned that nearly a billion rand was returned by the Department of Infrastructure. This could have been used to build houses for Coloured people that were found here in the Western Cape, but again I cannot help to think that the Democratic Alliance, when it comes to them, Coloured lives does not matter. However Premier, Speaker, MECs, let me remind you, the hands of God are directing the NCC to lead His people to freedom, and this is a cause for which I am prepared to die for. *Amase*. [Applause]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Jacobs. I now see the hon Kaizer-Philander.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Agbare Speaker, Premier, inwoners van die Karoo in die Wes-Kaap. Daar is 'n koortjie wat lui: “Move on up a little higher”, en in my Afrikaans vertaal ek dit “*beweeg net 'n bietjie op, beweeg net 'n bietjie op*”, en die lied gaan verder: “*Gaan eendag huis toe en vertel jou storie, en ek het oor berge en heuwels geklim*”, en ek staan vanoggend hier self as 'n plattelandse kind, wat glo in die baanbrekerswerk wat hier in die Wes-Kaap vir die mense van die Wes-Kaap gedoen word. Werk skep is essensieel vir 'n klein dorp se sosiale ontwikkeling, aangesien dit die ekonomiese groei, gemeenskapswelsyn en sosiale stabiliteit direk beïnvloed. Dit bied inwoners finansiële onafhanklikheid, wat armoede en ongelykheid verminder. Werk skep bevorder 'n gevoel van doel, verhoog sosiale mobiliteit en versterk gemeenskapsbande.

Vir gemeenskappe om hul sosio-ekonomiese en sosiale omstandighede te verbeter, moet daar samewerking wees tussen die gemeenskap, Regering en die privaatsektor. Die DA beheerde Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Regering se beleid en programme is gesentreerd op mensgerigte ontwikkeling.

Agb Adjunk Speaker, die Ervarings-leerprogram het al meer as 12 000 jongmense gehelp om vaardighede in verskeie velde te ontwikkel, van ambagsbedrywe, kleding en tekstiele, tot besigheidsprosesseringsoriëntering en gasvryheid. In 2024 het 417 matrikulante hul eerste werkservaring opgedoen deur die Eerste Werkservaring PAY-program, en in 2025 het 465 interns klaar geregistreer.

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Speaker, Premier, citizens of the

Karoo in the Western Cape. There is a little choir that goes: “Move on up a little higher”, and in my Afrikaans I translate it “just move up a little higher, just move up a little”, and the song goes further: “Go home one day and tell your story, and I climbed over mountains and hills”, and I stand here this morning as a rural child who believes in the pioneer work done here in the Western Cape for the people of the Western Cape. Creating work is essential for a small town’s social development, as directly influences economic growth, community wellbeing and social stability. It offers citizens financial independence, that reduces poverty and inequality. Work creation promotes a feeling of purpose, improves social mobility and strengthens community ties.

For communities to improve their social economic and social circumstances there should be cooperation between the community, Government and the private sector. The DA-led Western Cape Provincial Government’s policy and programmes are cantered on human development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Experiences learner programme has already helped more than 12,000 youths to develop skills in various fields, from artisan careers, clothing and textiles to business processing orientation and hospitality. In 2024, 417 matrices had their first experience of work through the First Work Experience PAY programme, and in 2025, 465 interns finished registering.]

†Me W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): 40 000 kinders is ondersteun om ’n liefde vir lees te ontwikkel danksy die YeBoneers wat biblioteek

geletterdheids ure verhoog het, asook 6 000 versorgers is bemaatig om kinders te help met geletterdheid en lewensvaardighede.

Die gemeenskapskunssentrum netwerk het van 12 na 52 sentrums gegroei, wat veilige ruimtes bied vir jeug om hulself uit te druk en maatskaplike kwessies aan te pak.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, ons mag nie die belangrikheid onderskat van multi-generasionele huishoudings, en om ouer persone en jonger geslagte beter met mekaar te verbind en toeganklike ontspannings en kulturele programme wat 'n betekenisvolle en waardige lewe ondersteun.

Agb Adjunkspeaker en Premier, deur u, vandag moet ek hier gaan. Terwyl ek praat van kwesbaarheid is ek seker bewus elkeen van u wat luister is self geraak of bewus van iemand wat geraak word deur die SASSA omskakelingskrisis. Ja, agb Adjunkspeaker, ek noem dit 'n krisis.

In my inleiding het ek gepraat van gaan eendag huis toe en vertel jou storie, en ongelukkig kan te veel mense 'n storie vertel van die mislukking van die Nasionale Departement van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling, en ek staan vandag hier as 'n stem van honderde duisende kwesbare burgers, gestremdes, ouer persone en gesinne wat afhanklik is van maatskaplike toelaes om oor te oorleef.

Ons moet 'n harde en duidelike boodskap stuur aan Minister Tolashe. Jy het

die mense van Suid-Afrika en die mense van die Wes-Kaap in die steek gelaat.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, maatskaplike toelaes dien as 'n belangrike lewenslyn vir kwesbare individue en gesinne wat finansiële ondersteuning bied aan diegene wat werkloos, bejaard, gestrem of in swaarkry verkeer. Vir gesinne wat afhanklik is van hierdie toelaes skep dit 'n gevoel van stabiliteit wat hulle in staat stel om in hul noodsaaklike behoeftes te kan voorsien.

Vir maande het hierdie krisis gesmeul. Mense wat vroeë oggendure moes trotseer, aangevaar uitgelewer was en uiteindelik steeds sonder hulp huis toe moes gaan.

Ons sien 'n Nasionale Departement wat wegkyk en nou na maande van stilswye nou ewe skielik wil Minister Tolashe die Wes-Kaap kom besoek en probeer om Postbank die sondebok te maak. Ons sien jou, Minister Tolashe. Ons eis dat die ANC Minister skuld die nasie 'n verskoning vir die oneffektiewe hantering van die omskakelingsproses. U skuld ons mense 'n belofte om dinge reg te stel by SASSA en as u dit nie kan doen nie, bewys die nasie 'n diens en bedank. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Agb Adjunkspeaker, die DA in die Wes-Kaap het opgestaan – *we stepped up*. Inwoners van hierdie provinsie kan nie wag vir 'n Minister wat nog moet ontwaak nie. Die DA se SASSA Switch veldtog het alreeds binne hierdie week oor die 15 097 inwoners bygestaan en dit is nie Minister Tolashe se

besoek aan die Wes-Kaap nie, dit is die DA in die Wes-Kaap. Ons help nog elke dag inwoners om van die SASSA goue kaart oor te skakel na Postbank of na 'n ander bank van hul keuse.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek moedig elke inwoner aan, as u steeds vasgevang is in hierdie chaos wat deur die ANC Nasionale Minister van Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling veroorsaak is, kontak jou DA raadslid, en in dieselfde asem wil ek elke raadslid en aktivis bedank vir julle oneindige toegewydheid om ons mense te help in hierdie moeilike tyd.

Ek moet ook vir die mense van die Wes-Kaap uitwys, geen een van hierdie politieke partye het enige poging aangewend om ons mense in hierdie krisis tyd by te staan nie. [Tussenwerpsel.] Bewys vir hulle hulle onvermoë, bewys hulle by die 2026 stembus. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Agb Adjunkspeaker, om af te sluit, maatskaplike ontwikkeling is die hoeksteen waarop ons 'n voorspoedige en 'n inklusiewe toekoms bou deur in onderwys, gesondheidsorg en gelyke geleenthede te belê, ontsluit on die potensiaal van elke burger wat 'n samelewing skep waar almal kan floreer.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, kom ons kom saam, kom ons werk hand-aan-hand en ons bou 'n toekoms wat die waardes van geregtigheid, agb lid Windvogel, geregtigheid, geleenthede en gedeelde sukses vir ons toekomstige geslagte kan weerspieël. Ek dank u, agb Adjunkspeaker. [Applous.]

[Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): ...40 000 children were supported to

develop a love for reading thanks to the YeBoneers who have increased library literacy hours, also 6 000 carers were empowered to assist children with literacy and to life skills.

The community arts centre network grew from 12 252 centres, which provide safe spaces for the youth to express themselves and address social issues.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we may not underestimate the importance of multi generational households, and to connect older persons and younger generations better with each other and accessible recreational and cultural programmes that support a meaningful and dignified life.

Hon Deputy Speaker and Premier, through you, today I have to go here. While I speak of vulnerability I am probably aware each of you listening is affected or aware of someone who is infected by the SASSA, conversion crisis. Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I call it a crisis.

In my introduction I spoke of going home one day and telling your story, and unfortunately too many people can tell the story of the failure of the National Department of social development, and I stand here today as a voice of hundreds of thousands of vulnerable citizens, people with disabilities, older persons and families that are dependent on social grants to survive.

We have to send a loud and clear message to Minister Tolashe. You have failed the people of South Africa and the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, social grants serve as an important lifeline to vulnerable individuals and families that provide financial support to those who are jobless, aged, disabled or finding themselves in hard times. bejaard, gestrem of in swaarkry verkeer. For families dependent on these allowances it creates a feeling of stability that enables them to provide for their essential needs.

Four months this crisis has been brewing. People who had to face to early morning hours, were exposed to danger, and still had to go home without any help.

We see a National Department that looks away and now after months of silence, Minister Tolashe suddenly wants to visit the western cape and try to make the Postbank the scapegoat. We see you, Minister Tolashe. We demand that the ANC Minister owes the nation and apology for the ineffective handling of the conversion process. You owe our people a promise to set things right at SASSA and if you cannot do it, do the nation a favour and resign. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA in the Western Cape has stood up – we stepped up. Citizens of this province cannot wait for a Minister that still has to wake up. The DA's SASSA Switch campaign has already within this week stood at over 15 097 citizens and it was not to the Minister Tolashe's visit to the Western Cape, it is the DA in the Western Cape. We are still helping

everyday citizens to switch over from SASSA's golden card to Postbank or another bank of their choice.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I urge every citizen, if you are still caught up in this chaos that was caused by the ANC National Minister of Social Development, contact your DA councillor, and in the same breath I want to thank each councillor and activist for your unending commitment to help our people in this difficult time.

I also have to point out to the people of the Western Cape, none of these political parties made any effort to assist our people in this time of crisis. [Interjection.] Prove to them their inability, prove to them at the 2026 ballot box. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, to conclude, social development is the cornerstone on which we build a prosperous and inclusive future by investing in education, healthcare and equal opportunities, unlock the potential of every citizen that creates a society where everyone can flourish.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let us stand together, let us work hand in hand and we build a future reflecting the values of justice, hon member Windvogel, justice, opportunities and shared success for our future generations. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before I recognise the following

speaker. This is a political debate and I understand. However, I would want to – at this particular time I have noted the words echoed by hon member Windvogel and I will request that that be withdrawn.

It is unparliamentary to state that the member is lying. †Ek het jou mooi dopgehou, jy het gesê die persoon lieg. [I watched you carefully, you said the person is lying.] Can you please withdraw unreservedly. [Interjections.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek kan nie terugtrek nie omdat sy het gelieg. [Tussenwerpsels.] Sy het gelieg. [Tussenwerpsels.] Sy het gelieg.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I cannot withdraw because she lied. [Interjections.] She lied. [Interjections.] She lied.]

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

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Sy kan nie sê – *she misled the House*. Sy kan nie sê [Tussenwerpsels.] dat enige een van ons het nie ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): *she cannot say – she misled the House*. She cannot say [Interjections.] that any one of us has not ...] [Interjections.]

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

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...die mense gehelp nie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Sy lieg. [Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ... helped the people.]

[Interjections.] She is misleading the House.

†'n AGB LID: Almal het ge-*pay*.

[An HON MEMBER: All got pay.]

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): She is misleading the house, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Windvogel, as the [Interjections.] Chair, the direct words that you have used is unparliamentary. I will request that you please withdraw. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Okay. I will withdraw the lying part [Interjections], but she is misleading the House. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, hon member Windvogel ...[Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): [Interjections.] You are misleading the House. [Interjections.] You are misleading the House.

†'n AGB LID: Almal het ge-*pay*.

[An HON MEMBER: Everyone got pay!]

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): *Finish* en klaar.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): *Finish* en klaar.]

†n AGB LID: Almal het ge-*pay*! Almal het ge-*pay*!

[An HON MEMBER: Everyone got pay. Everyone got pay!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we will not proceed
...[Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Do not mislead the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Windvogel, can you please stand up.
[Interjections.] In order to safeguard the decorum of the House, please
withdraw unreservedly the comments that you have made.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I will withdraw the lying part, hon Deputy
Speaker, but I cannot withdraw because she is misleading the House.
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All I need to know is that you have withdrawn
unreservedly the comments that I have seen you have made.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Die gelieg, sy lieg. Moet ek
...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): The lying, she's lying. Must I

]...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Dit wat ek gesê het dat sy is 'n liegbek,
[Tussenwerpsels.] ek moet daai *withdraw*?

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): That which I said, that she is a liar
[Interjections.] must I withdraw that?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Oukei, daai *withdraw* ek, maar
...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Okay, that I withdraw, but ...] [Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Sit af! Sit af!

[An HON MEMBER: Switch off! Switch off!]

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...maar sy is *misleading the House*.

[Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ... but she's misleading the House.]

†n AGB LID: Sit af, sit af.

[An HON MEMBER: Switch off, switch off.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Rules are very clear. The member must withdraw unreservedly or else [Interjections.] she must be removed from the House.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we are currently in a community. This is also being streamed all over. In order to safeguard the decorum of the House, hon member Windvogel, you have been a credible member of this House for many years. You understand the Rules. I will request that you please withdraw unreservedly, [Interjections.] but before I – I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. The member has withdrawn.

An HON MEMBER: She did!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You made your ruling. I do not know why we should be taking command ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: And he is still allowing [Inaudible 1:14:41]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...from the Chief Whip of the Opposition and you

are allowing it. You are also not – there is a noise there. [Interjections.] You are not making any ruling on that. So please, hon Deputy Speaker, be consistent on your Chair and be impartial. That is all that we are asking.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, it is a very simple instruction. It is to withdraw unreservedly. [Interjections.] Hon member Windvogel has then added an amendment to that particular withdrawal.

Hon member Windvogel, I will give you one opportunity still.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): How many times?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: To withdraw unreservedly the comment that you have made.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): [Inaudible 1:15:20] hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that particular ...[Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, we could not hear the hon member. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, hon Deputy Speaker, that cannot be tolerated, hon Deputy Speaker, no. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we will proceed.

An HON MEMBER: You are such [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The record will reflect that that apology has been withdrawn unreservedly.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, no [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be reflected it has been withdrawn unreservedly. A special plea once again to those in the gallery to not partake in the proceedings. [Interjections.]

Hon member, you may now proceed, hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF PLUS): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you. Hon members of this House, Premier of the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, can you please take your seat? I recognise you, Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I have also raised a point of order on the noise from the gallery. You have not made a ruling on that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have requested from those in the gallery to

please respect the decorum of the House and not to participate. Hon member Marais, you may continue.

†Mnr G MARAIS (FF PLUS): Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Agb Adjunkspeaker, Parlement is op kerkgronde vandag en ons is in Beaufort, 'n Afrikaanssprekende gemeenskap. Ek moet net sê ek was baie beïndruk met die Premier se Afrikaans gister. Ek weet nie of dit die lug is hierso in Beaufort wat bygedra het tot die verbeterde Afrikaans nie, maar, agb Premier, op 'n ernstige noot.

Daar is kinders wat nie by 'n Afrikaanse klas kan inkom nie en Afrikaans is 'n akademiese taal. Dis die geboorteplek, hierso in Paarl is die geboorteplek van Afrikaans. Wanneer gaan u dit regstel en wat is die beleid in terme van moedertaalonderwys? Geen kind moet geweier word om in Afrikaans, sy moedertaal, te kan leer nie.

Agb Premier, ek wil ook vra, daar is verslae wat ek kry van die gemeenskap wat vir my sê hulle word ingelig dat sekere skole weier om die plek vol te hou. Hulle hou sekere plekke vir kinders wat buite die provinsie nog inkom. Is dit 'n beleid van die Departement om in die skole spesifiek sekere plekke of 'n getal plekke oop te hou vir kinders van buite die Wes-Kaap?

[Mr G MARAIS (FF PLUS): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Parliament is on church grounds today and we are in Beaufort, an Afrikaans-speaking community. I just have to say I was very impressed with the Premier's Afrikaans yesterday. I don't know if it's the air here in

Beaufort that contributed to the improved Afrikaans, but Premier, on a serious note.

There are children that cannot get into an Afrikaans class and Afrikaans is an academic language. It is the birthplace, here in Paarl, of Afrikaans. When are you going to put it right and what is the policy in terms of mother tongue education? No child must be refused to study in Afrikaans, his mother tongue.

Hon Premier, I also want to ask, there are reports that I get from the community that say to me they are informed that some schools refuse to keep the place full. They keep certain places for children that are still coming in from outside the province. Is it a policy of the Department to keep open in the schools specifically certain places or a number of places for children from outside the Western Cape?]

We have to step up in terms of accommodating children of the Western Cape as a priority over any other province in this South Africa we are living in. You are the Premier of the Western Cape and the Western Cape should be your priority. The children of the Western Cape should be your priority.

Hon Premier, you spoke about the Memorandum of Understanding, cooperation agreement signed between the City of Cape Town, Western Cape Government and the National Minister. Will you support that this particular agreement also be formalised with other municipalities?

There is information that druglords and criminals are also targeting rural areas and if we do not address that matter they are still going to commit crime. We must leave no stone unturned in the fight against crime.

Hon Premier, agriculture. Agriculture is the lifeblood of the Western Cape's economy. Does your vision include the TRANCRAA lands that have just been inherited or been transferred to Coloured communities of Mamre, Pniel, Kranshoek, Friemersheim, Ebenhaezer, Genadendal, Slangrivier?

We want to see redress. Redressing the injustices of past discrimination and I believe that these communities can benefit economically as well. Especially Mamre that is in the City of Cape Town.

You boasted about the bachelor pass rate and I am happy too about the bachelor pass rate, but poorly qualified young people will continue to make our workforce unemployable and exacerbate the reliance on State handouts and social grants. We are increasingly becoming a social state and ever increasing taxes to balance the fiscus is destroying our country and its economy. We need technical training colleges because the Fourth Industrial Revolution demands it.

Hon Premier, if you are the Premier of the Western Cape, please also ensure that the other areas in George also benefit from the GoGeorge buses. We want the Coloured areas also to be serviced. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, please conclude. Thank you so much, hon Marais. I now see hon Minister Sileku.

†Die MINISTER VAN MOBILITEIT: Agb Adjunkspeaker, agb Premier, agb Kabinet-kollegas, agb lede, geagte gaste, dames en here, veral die inwoners van Beaufort-Wes. Somlomo, mandithathe elithuba ndamkele wonke umntu namhlanje apha ekhaya – eBhova!

[The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet colleagues, hon members, hon guests, ladies and gentlemen, especially the citizens of Beaufort West. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to welcome everyone that is here with us today at Bhova]

Last night the Premier tabled his State of the Province Address highlighting the successes of the Western Cape Government, while also making a clarion call to all of us, Cabinet members, hon members, business and society, to step up.

Stepping up is about reflecting on your successes while planning your desired future. It is about looking beyond the horizon and envisioning a future where all citizens prosper. It is about within Mobility all our programmes and initiatives are geared towards economic growth and enabling environment for jobs.

Mobility is close to my heart for many reasons as it touches every single one

of us. Mobility is not just about getting from one place to another, it is about connecting people to their livelihoods, their communities and their futures. The Karoo state of mobility is underpinned by non-motorised transport. Non-motorised transport is not only a mode of transport, it is indeed a way of life in the Karoo.

†Die besoekers sou opgemerk het dat verskeie van ons burgers stap, fietsry en selfs perdry. The Karoo is making non-motorised transport fashionable. †Dit is hoekom ons die verspreiding van fietse aan skole, nie-regerings organisasies, Buurtwagte en ander organisasies geprioritiseer het. Tussen April en Desember 2024 is 155 fietse na verskeie skole in die Sentraal Kantoor uitgedeel. As u nou belangstel in die kleur van die leerders is u meer as welkom om elke skool te besoek, want ons kyk nie na ras nie, ons kyk na die behoefte. Ons verander die Karoo geleidelik in 'n nie-gemotoriseerde distrik deur ons doelbewuste pogings.

[Visitors would have noted that several of our citizens walk, cycle or even ride on horseback. The Karoo is making non-motorised transport fashionable. That is why we prioritized the distribution of bicycles to schools, non-government organizations, Neighborhood Watches and other organizations. Between April and December 2024, 155 the schools were distributed to several schools in the central office. If you are now interested in the color of the learners you are more than welcome to visit each school, because we do not look at race, we look at the need. We are changing the Karoo gradually into a non-motorised district through our concerted efforts.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier sketched the current landscape of rail. An efficient passenger rail network has a multiplier effect, impacting everything, from people's ability to get to work to the efficiency of local businesses and every fabric of our economy. I am therefore encouraged by Minister Chris's outlook and vision making passenger rail the backbone of public transport.

We are seeing the tide turn through the recently signed service level plan between PRASA and the City of Cape Town. The SLP is a step towards the City taking a management role in commuter rail. It is for this reason that we will continue to advocate for the devolution of rail to improve efficiencies.

The Government of National Unity presents us with an opportunity to step up beyond party lines and make a meaningful change to the economy. †Ewe Gqugqugqu, kufuneka sibambisane siqubisane nalemicelingeni! [Yes, Gqugqugqu we must be united and do things that are assigned to us together]

Every year many lives are shattered by the devastating consequences of road accidents and injuries. These are not just statistics, they are our friends, family members, colleagues and neighbours. Imagine the pain of a parent who loses a child in a car crash, or the anguish of a spouse who must now navigate a life without a partner. Families are left to pick up the pieces, often struggling with grief, guilt and a sense of helplessness, but the impact does not stop at the emotional level, hon Premier. Road accidents also have a profound economic cost. Medical expenses, rehabilitation and lost productivity can drain family savings and strain public resources. Business

suffer when employees are injured or killed, leading to decreased productivity and increased costs. The economy bears the burden with billions of rand lost each year due to road accidents and injuries.

By advocating for safer roads, stricter enforcement of traffic laws and better education on road safety, we can and we will save lives and reduce the economic impact.

As the only province in the country that offers 24/7 traffic law enforcement services, we are stepping up our visibility, static operations and predictive analysis to ensure less carnage on our roads. One life lost on our roads is one life too many. This is why we must ensure that road safety is everyone's responsibility.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to the men and women in blue. I see my traffic ship from Beaufort is also here and the colleagues, our traffic officers who continuously raise the bar 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

In addition to traffic law enforcement we are stepping up our efforts through road safety education and awareness programmes, hon Premier. Our Junior Traffic Training Centre programmes have become the beacon of hope as our school learners are championing road safety at grassroots level. In the Central Karoo alone †het ons 3 JTTCs oorhandig in Merweville en hier tuis in Beaufort-Wes [we delivered 3 JTTCs in Merweville and here at home in

Beaufort West.]

Through collective efforts and partnerships we can overcome the carnage on our roads by spreading the word, road safety is everyone's responsibility. Just yesterday I had the privilege and an opportunity to engage with the Central Karoo municipalities and I want to thank the Mayors that were present because we are spreading the message of road safety and we are engaging specifically on this issue that I am raising here.

How do we move forward? Collaboration and partnerships of all spheres of Government and SOEs are crucial to address mobility shortcomings. The Western Cape is blessed with a wealth of opportunities and resources, and we have the potential to build a truly integrated and sustainable mobility system, one that benefits everyone. We must prioritise the expansion and modernisation of our public transport network with a special focus on passenger rail.

Hon Deputy Speaker, mobility is more than just the ability to get from one place to another. It is a fundamental pillar of equity, opportunity and progress. By improving mobility in the Western Cape we can break down barriers that separate us. We can drive economic growth and we can build a future that is more inclusive and sustainable for all of us, instead of us focussing on race and trying to divide what this caring Government is trying to achieve in uniting our residents in the Western Cape.

Mobility is more than just the ability to move from one place to another. It is the essence of freedom and independence. It allows us to explore new horizons, connect with loved ones and pursue our dreams. Let us build a province where everyone, regardless of where they live, has access to economic opportunities ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...to succeed. Let us step us. †Baie dankie, [Thank you,] *nkosi*. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I now see the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Chief Whip of the Official Opposition, fellow residents of the Western Cape, the people of Beaufort West and the Central Karoo.

Allow me to salute and honour the men and women from this town and region who, against adversity, rose and stepped up to the task of standing in the gap for people of this town in the greater struggle for liberation. Let me mention Mandlenkosi, Nomatyala Hangana, Randall van den Heever, Doreen Hugo, Novello Mack, Ronnie Klink, Elmar Jonas.

It is from these giants that we today have the privilege to have a democratic

dispensation that became able to bring a SOPA in this town, and further have many daughters and sons in this region participating in shaping this province in the Speaker, Daylin Mitchell; MEC Isaac Sileku, who just spoke here; Chairperson of Finance, Peter Johnson; Ayanda Bans, the Chief Whip of the Opposition Party; hon member Noël Constable; hon Windy Plaatjies, who is a member of Defence Portfolio in the National Assembly; Trudy Dijana, who is the former MPL in this province, and many other public reps in both district and local municipalities in this region.

You are all reminded by Zolani Mahola to step up, as when you step the people of this town and region can see themselves in the affairs of this complex province with deep and growing inequality.

†Hon Deputy Speaker [ndivumele nditsho ukuba sixakene nento kulentetha ye-Nkulumbuso yephondo, oHloniphekileyo uMnu. Alan Winde. Inkulumbuso ineminyaka mihlanu yolawulo, yanikwa kwakhona eminye emihlanu ku-2024 uluya ku-2029, kodwa engaqali ukuba sezintanjeni zombuso kweliphondo, kwaye esakuba nguMphathiswa wezoqoqosho nokhenketho kweliphondo. Kuyakrokrisa, kuyakhwanqisa ukujonga imizila yemisebenzi yakhe ukulwa indlala, ukunika ingqwalasela namathuba ngokunyanisekileyo kwimpula zikalujaca, kumahlwempu, nenkathalo kwisizwe esimnyama neendawo zentlalo yabo.]

[Speaker, allow me to say we are defeated in what is being said by the honorable premier of the province, Mr Alan Winde. The premier was ordained to five years to a premier and he was given again another five years

to be a premier between the year 2024 to 2029. But it is not his first time to be in this position in this province and before he was the minister of economy and tourism in this province. His history of positions of work is very suspicious to fight the hunger. To honestly give opportunities forcefully and to pay attention to the poor people. To take care of the black people and the conditions of the places they stay in.]

We are in Beaufort West town today. Income inequality in the Central Karoo remains dangerously high, with Beaufort West registering the worst levels in the district. Nearly half (44,1%) of households in the town are classified as indigent, unable to afford basic services and necessities.

Economic growth remains concentrated in the Cape Metro while rural areas, like the Central Karoo, are systematically neglected. The Central Karoo is in crisis with an unemployment rate of 29,9%. This region faces one of the highest joblessness rates in the province. Food insecurity is escalating at an alarming rate.

In Beaufort West 42,2% of residents struggle to afford food, up from 39,7% in 2022. In Prince Albert the situation is even worse, with food insecurity rising from 39,8% to 43,6% in just one year. These numbers are not just statistics, hon Premier, they reflect families battling daily hardships, children going hungry and communities abandoned by the very Government meant to serve them.

Hon Premier, it is important to take into consideration the history of this province. The Cape has a colonial history, the Cape of Storms as it was previously named in the 1400s. It still bears symbols of oppression and systematic exclusion for its Black majority. The stark reality of the Cape of Storms are found in the levels of inequality measured by the Gini coefficient remaining at a very high 0,614 over the past 5 years.

This province is becoming extremely expensive for its citizens, but more affordable to affluent societies of the world. If undisrupted this trajectory remains true to the colonial conquest and project of keeping the indigenous people poor and servants to Europeans in their own motherland.

The Household Affordability Index Report of January 2025 has revealed the sharp increase in the food prices of the low income households, with the food basket in Cape Town sitting at R5 368,58, of which R2 837 of this money is average cost of core food such as maize, maize meal, rice, bread, vegetables, meat, and R1 045 is cost of hygiene products, that varies from a household of four to seven members.

The survey further shows a difference between this food basket of around 47 items prioritised by poor families versus the cost of a basic nutritious diet that ranges between R4 838,80 for a five member family, to R6 686 for a seven member family, without including costs of a basic nutritious diet of R976,39 per month for children in that household between ages of 3 years up to teens of 18 years.

What is this telling us, hon Premier? The truth of what the working class and poor households grapple with on a daily basis to make ends meet. These costs of a food basket does not feature the transport cost, the electricity, paying for school fees and other necessities, let alone savings or possibility of investment to create wealth for these families. They live literally from hand to mouth and at most on a perpetual deficit borrowing from Peter to pay Paul.

So a glorified discussion about a job giving dignity is false, hon Premier, as until we are preoccupied with decent jobs, decent wages and decent working conditions, the wealthy cannot continue to feed from the blood of the poor.

In the Stats SA 2025 Income & Expenditure Survey 2022/23, the average household income of White headed households is almost five times higher than that of Black African headed households, and almost three times higher than the average household income of Coloured headed households.

When are we stepping up to confront this racialised earnings complex that leaves our citizens still trapped in the colonial and apartheid legacy? Only when we step up these communities will attest that we see them.

Hon Premier, you told us yesterday that between 2014/15 and 24/25 the Province has spent R98,5 billion on infrastructure by your Government, and you said that your Government lays the foundation for the private sector to

build upon and create a booming jobs-rich economy. What is that booming jobs-rich economy?

According to the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, between this period, 2014, Western Cape has added nearly 400 000 jobs to its regional economy and the very Premier in his days as MEC of Economic Development in his boisterous job-gimmicks promised 500 000 jobs under the then PSP for 2014 to 2019, and his results are less than 200 000, that is below 40%, and that is actually even not matching the bachelor pass of a matric, maybe a national senior certificate.

In taking office, hon Premier Winde, you promised again jobs for each household in your tenure in 2019 to 2024, and such followed again with a below 40% performance as many households in this province await a job opportunity from this province.

Now we are told of Growth for Jobs and trillion economy, and with this below 40% performance surely we remain optimists by will, but pessimists by intellect, as per Antonio Gramsci.

While they boast about the province's overall unemployment rate of 19,6%, you conveniently ignore the dire situation in areas like the Central Karoo where unemployment is nearing 30% and the not economically active proportion of working age population is sitting at 60,5% in 2023 and is up from 58,3% in 2022, and in Beaufort West it is 62,7% in 2023, up from

60,2% in 2022. This is from the Provincial Treasury MERO Report 2024/25.

DA governance has not reduced inequality, instead we see more and more people not being able to afford the cost of living in urban areas. For over a decade the DA policies have resulted in protecting the interest of an elite minority while leaving Black, Coloured and Indian communities locked out of economic progress. The province has become a playground for the privileged, where predominantly White-owned businesses dominate key industries and little to no intention to enable substantive participation of Black businesses in the closed value chains.

It actually mirrors the US Trumpism that recently declared a Trump Visa card for the wealthy and here we have seen the DA bending backwards and forwards for e-Visas for tourists with deep pockets, even moving money during budget adjustment for tourism safety, whilst our Black people are lingering, dying against stray bullets in gang violence in extortion in the Philippi areas.

The time to step out of the Cape of Storms and step up to the Cape of Good Hope is now, hon Premier. Let us not fail the most marginalised in our endeavours to grow the cake of the economy of this Cape.

Mahatma Gandhi called on us to step up, I quote:

"A civilization is measured by how it treats its weakest members".

So we need to step up and ensure equality of everybody in this particular province. I thank you. [Applause.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in the Western Cape we do not just talk about economic growth, we drive it. While other provinces remain trapped in policies of State dependency, of Marxism and economic decline, the DA-led Western Cape stands as a beacon of opportunity, investment and job creation.

While members on the left are busy failing to step up, our agricultural sector, employing over 240 000 people, continues to expand with public-private partnership projects bringing more land into production.

The province has attracted R171 billion in foreign investment, cut through red tapes to empower SMMEs and boosted exports. Unlike the ANC's failure to stimulate growth we focus on economic freedom, business-friendly policies and real solutions, proving that governance rooted in action delivers prosperity. This is the difference between talk and results. This is the Western Cape way.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the Premier rightly noted, our Government is stepping up and so are the people and businesses of the Western Cape. Our role as Government is not to create jobs, but to create an enabling environment where businesses can thrive, innovation can flourish, communities can prosper. This approach has borne fruit. By attracting new investments and supporting existing businesses, we are not only driving economic growth, but also expanding our tax base to fund essential social programmes.

The results speak for themselves. Business confidence is rising, unemployment is decreasing, tourism is booming and demand for educational and infrastructural development is growing.

The Western Cape stands as a beacon of effective governance, driving job creation and economic resilience while other provinces are struggling under poor leadership of the ANC on the left. This success is no accident, it is a result [Interjections.] of deliberate policy choices aligned with our Growth for Jobs strategy.

Take, for example, the City of Cape Town under the Mayor and his team. They have implemented 10 strategic priorities for growth and jobs, resulting in Cape Town leading all metros in South Africa with the lowest unemployment rate. The City's ease of doing business has fuelled a booming township economy, streamlining informal trading permits and business

licenses. Emerging entrepreneurs benefit from vital services such as supplier development helpdesks, an entrepreneurship academy and dedicated business support for informal traders. If not for Eskom's failures of the ANC, Cape Town's unemployment rate will be even lower.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape has by far the best provincial leadership in the country, one that delivers results. Ignore the noises on the left of the members of this House. They know that what they have under a DA-led Government is far superior, which is why they remain happily in opposition.

Minister Ivan Meyer's department has led from the front with a clear economic and job growth ministerial priorities. The result of the Fourth Quarter are a direct reflection of this Administration's effective policies and our Parliament's robust oversight.

The Western Cape has delivered 62 000 jobs in the last quarter and remains the only province with an unemployment rate below 20%. Unlike the ANC, which is on my left, which seeks to burden businesses with transformation levies, we focus on creating a conducive environment where businesses can thrive. That is why unemployment in our province is being dealt the heaviest of blows.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has enhanced port performance, not perfect, strengthened international trade relations through

Wesgro and attracted new investments into the province.

Similarly since taking office the National Minister of Agriculture has prioritised biosecurity, export protocols and food security. Through his leadership South Africa has an exclusive export protocol allowing meat products from the Karoo to be exported to China from foot-and-mouth free zones, while we are enduring the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in other parts of the province.

Moreover, the Thailand market, which has been closed for 16 years, was reopened with just seven months of Minister John Steenhuisen's tenure. As a result the first shipment of apples from the Western Cape has already been exported this month. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Members are running commentary ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...the running commentary ...[Interjections.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...this side.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...please. Please continue, hon member.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Please protect me.

Similarly Minister Leon Schreiber from Home Affairs has made significant strides, launching the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme visa for tourists from China and India. Just last week we witnessed the arrival of the first group of Chinese tourists in Cape Town under this new scheme, boosting both our tourism and hospitality industries.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is abundantly clear who the real destroyers of our economy are:

- Without the title deeds the emerging farmers on leased land reform farms are not able to access bank loans. They need title deeds.
- Eskom, whose incompetence keeps the country in darkness.
- The Minister of Finance, whose obsession with burdening South Africans with an unnecessary 2% VAT hike instead of a job-creating budget.
- Panyaza Lesufi, whose fixation on BELA Bill is not about education, but an ideological attack on Afrikaans-speaking communities.
- The National Government, which refuses to devolve policing powers and transport powers to local authority, undermining community safety, business confidence and the daily lives of working people.

Let me be unequivocal. Our commitment to the Government of National

Unity remains steadfast. While we have firm disagreements on key policies, such as the NHI, EWC and BELA Bill, our shared goal is clear: to build a prosperous South Africa where Government support enables businesses to thrive, where economic policies create jobs and where governance is about delivery not ideology.

We will not be deterred by those who seek to obstruct progress. We are here to serve our people in every town and every village, including the Central Karoo, to create a community [Interjections.] where opportunity ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...is not a privilege for the few [Interjections.], but a reality for all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Masipa, please conclude. [Interjections.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJ): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. [Speaking in vernacular]. Good morning, *goeiemôre, molweni*.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, fellow members of the Western Cape Legislature, Executive Mayor, councillors, head of departments, directors and all guests.

The Al Jama-ah political party will be very constructive today and will be working towards establishing a more inclusive economic development. We will work with the Premier. The Al-Jamaa political party, we will work with the Premier ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJ): ...and his team in areas such as bringing investors to create jobs in the agricultural sector, which will open new markets for an inclusive economic development.

Many of our constituencies' ancestors are from countries like Malaysia, countries like Indonesia and the President of the Al Jama-ah political party, who is the Deputy Minister of Social Development, hon Ganief Hendricks, has established a very good relationship with these governments and Muslim parties, who are anxious to bring more tourists to the Western Cape.

The party knows of many investors from the Muslim world who are interested in investing a trillion dollars in the Southern African Development Community. Many of these African countries who form part of SADC were the frontline states that helped us achieve the freedom that we enjoy today.

Hon Premier, you must put your money where your mouth is. Young people especially do not see the Premier working for them. President Ramaphosa and the Premier Lesufi is in the forefront of creating jobs.

I want to assist, I want to assist our hon Premier, Alan Winde, to do better than them by issuing a Premier Order, like President Donald Trump's Executive Order, [Interjections.] which will create full employment in the Western Cape. No one must be left out. Full employment will be decent jobs to comply with the convention on decent jobs, which our late President Mandela signed with the International Labour Organisation.

Al Jama-ah wants the Premier to win the international award for creating decent jobs and please, hon Premier, surprise us further by creating next generation jobs. Decent work pays fantastic, fantastic salaries with pension, medical aid, housing and bursaries.

Please, hon Premier, make us proud. I thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Ministers, hon colleagues, I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A safe province is a prosperous province. That is right, hon Premier, and I was encouraged with the MOU that was signed between National Government, Provincial Government and Local Government to ensure that resources are allocated directly, but hon Premier, as the ACDP we still believe in the devolution of police powers.

Power to the people, power lower down, that is the answer. Hon Premier, I am very passionate always when it comes to Neighbourhood Watches and you said there is 500 Neighbourhood Watch groups, over 16 000 members, but I still believe that we can do more for our Neighbourhood Watches. I still believe that something must be given to them. Maybe, as I said previously, a funeral cover.

The deployment, hon Premier, of the LEAP officers and statistics does not lie, but it saddens us when we read headlines:

- 12 February, seven dead, one injured.
- 9 February, 17 killed, 12 injured.

And people are then calling for the intervention of the army, but hon Premier, you said nothing about AGOA.

Remember, June 2023 you went to Washington DC because AGOA was under threat, and you engaged lawmakers that South Africa should remain part of the AGOA agreement and we know agriculture, the wine farmers, the citrus

industry exports, will be devastated if we do not have part of AGOA.

So, hon Premier, please, do what you did before, because you did a concerted effort to make sure that we are part of AGOA.

While being for the week in the Central Karoo, it is a clean town, and the residents can be very proud of their clean town, well done. Cape Town can learn from you, but, you know, we visited the Beaufort West Hospital and we went to the labour ward and there was a nursing sister speaking about, "This is life." They talk about life, birth is life, and so passionate about Beaufort West, but her main concern was unemployment. Unemployment. She said the man being the breadwinner has no dignity because they cannot provide.

So, hon Premier, maybe you must ask Minister Anton Bredell, when Gayton McKenzie was the Mayor of the Central Karoo District he had a fundraiser and he collected R3 million. [Interjections.] That money was not put into the municipality's account, but into his lawyer's trust account. Where is the money? [Applause.] [Interjections.] He failed the people of Beaufort West and he got a promotion, being National Minister.

Hon Premier ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, hon member Christians – hon member Nkondlo? Take your seat, hon member Christians.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I thought you had spoken to the matter of the people in the gallery clapping or participating?
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We cannot hear.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I thought you had made a ruling and reminded the people in the gallery not to participate. So I am pleading with you to continue to do that. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Nkondlo. Once again a plea to those in the gallery to not participate. Please respect the decorum of the house.

Hon member Christians, one minute and 15 seconds remaining.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): The hon Premier also did not speak about the SOEs.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Three point ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Christians, there is a point of order.

†n AGB LID: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek weet nie wat is die rede wat Minister Mackenzie genoem word hier nie. Ek wil net vra dat ons wegbly van dit af [Tussenwerpsels.], dat ons nie soontoe gaan nie. Dit kan lelik raak hier binne. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dit kan baie lelik raak hier binne.

[An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not know the reason why Minister Mackenzie is mentioned here. I just want to ask that we stay away from that [Interjections.] that we do not go there. It can become ugly in here [Interjections.] It can become very ugly in here.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, hon member. Hon member Christians, please continue.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, again there were bailouts. R3,2 billion to the SABC, and the Western Cape Education Department needed R3,6 billion over three years to retain the 2 407 teachers. There is the money. We are looking for money, there is the money, throwing it down the dark hole. The National Government is doing that, and because of the expropriation without compensation, the aid has been stopped. The US aid to Africa has been stopped, and that is why I believe the Social Research Foundation did a survey just before the 2% VAT increase proposed by the ANC and before the loadshedding. I do not know if you know it, but the ANC is currently on 32% down from 40%.

I want to say in closing well done to our matric results, Minister Maynier and the Department. Well done to Crestway High, we were there not so long ago,

but Professor Jonathan Jansen transformed that day from 35,9% to 66%.
Well done. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. I see Minister Marais.

†Die MINISTER VIR POLISIE-OORSIG EN GEMEENSKAPSVEILIGHEID:
Agb Adjunkspeaker, agb lede. Dit is vir my 'n voorreg om vandag hierdie Huis toe te spreek.

[The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members. It is a privilege for me today to address this House.]

I want to start by informing the people of the Western Cape about the commitment of the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety to the people of this lovely province.

In the 2024/25 financial year we budgeted R1,8 million to support 24 rural municipalities with peace officer training. †Om aan te dui hoe ernstig die Wes-Kaap Regering is om veiligheid in ons landelike gebied te verbeter, het ons tydens die Aansuiweringsbegroting 'n addisionele R3,6 miljoen toegeken vir ons groeiende Vredesoffisier Projek in ons plattelandse munisipaliteite.

Benewens dit het ons departement R21 miljoen geallokeer om K9-eenhede en landelike reaksiespanne te vestig en te ondersteun.

Hierdie inisiatiewe bemagtig landelike munisipaliteite om wet en orde te handhaaf en sodoende die algemene lewenskwaliteit van hulle gemeenskappe te verbeter, en om as 'n kragvermenigvuldiger vir die Suid-Afrikaanse diens te dien.

Die Departement van Polisie-Oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid beoog voorts om K9-eenhede op alle dorpe wat met ander provinsies grens en dien as hoofroetes na die Wes-Kaap, op die been te bring. Die vermoë van hierdie honde om smokkelware soos onwettige dwelms en vuurwapens uit te snuffel, sal die vloed van onwettige wapens en dwelms na die Wes-Kaap aansienlik if left to verminder. Dwelms en vuurwapens is geïdentifiseer as die grootste bydraers wat die voortslepende bende-geweld in die provinsie aanvuur.

[To show how serious the Western Cape Government is to improve safety in our rural areas, we allocated an additional R3.6 million during the Adjustment Budget to our growing Peace Officer Project in our rural municipalities.

In addition our Department allocated R21 million to establish and support K9 units and rural the reaction teams.

These initiatives empower rural municipalities to maintain law and order and thus improve the general life quality of their communities, and to serve as a power multiplier for the South African Service.

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety also aims at establishing K9 units in all towns bordering on other provinces and serving as main routes to the Western Cape. The capability of these dogs to sniff out contraband such as illegal drugs and firearms will significantly reduce the flow of illegal firearms and drugs to the Western Cape. Drugs and firearms were identified as the largest contributors instigating the continuous gang violence in the province.]

I am aware that the Central Karoo K9-unit is under severe strain. I am pleased to inform this House and the residents of Beaufort West that the Gift of the Givers has stepped up and donated 15 dogs to the Western Cape Police. These dogs will undergo the required training and will be all paws on deck within the next few months. I trust the Central Karoo K9-unit will benefit from this generous donation.

We are in advanced consultation with the SAPS to have a local firearms destruction facility. Guns lying in storage waiting to be transported up North remains a huge risk. If firearms can be rendered, destroyed immediately after a case is completed, the risk of it being stolen and recirculated is drastically reduced.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, anders as wat algemeen aanvaar word, kan ek hierdie Huis vandag meedeel dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie, met behulp van ander wetstoepassings eenhede in die provinsie, aktief die plaag van geweldsmisdaad in die provinsie beveg.

Dinsdag het ons die misdaadstatistiek van die Wes-Kaap vir Kwartaal 3 van die 2024/2025 finansiële jaar bekend gemaak. Die provinsie het nie net 'n afname gehad in die moord statistieke nie, maar daar was ook 'n afname in geweld teen vroue en kinders. Ek gee toe dat die statistieke niks is om te vier nie, want misdaadsyfers bly steeds onaanvaarbaar hoog. Dit is wel 'n teken dat ons die regte skuiwe maak om misdaad te bekamp.

Ongelukkig is dit 'n realiteit dat kriminele, veral bendes en georganiseerde misdaadgroepe, hoogs gemotiveerd en innoverend kan wees. Die doelpale skuif dus voortdurend, wat beteken dat ons ons benadering gereeld moet aanpas.

Vir hierdie doel, agb lid Herron, is ons besig om ons Provinsiale Veiligheidsplan te wysig. Jy kan nie nuwe probleme met ou oplossings aanspreek nie. Dalk 'n beginsel wat GOOD moet aanleer aangesien hulle suksel om relevansie te vind in ons moderne samelewing wat van moddergooiery aan beweeg het.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, contrary to what is accepted generally, I can tell this House today that the South African Police Service, with the assistance of other law enforcement units in the province, are actively fighting violent crime in the province.

On Tuesday we published the crime statistics of the Western Cape for Quarter 3 of the 2024/2025 financial year. The province did not only experience the

decrease in the murder statistics, but there was also a decrease in violence against women and children. I concede that the statistics is nothing to celebrate, because crime figures remain unacceptably high. It is indeed a sign that we are making the right moves to counter crime. New

Unfortunately it is a reality that criminals, especially gangsters and organized crime groups, can be highly motivated and innovating. The goal posts are therefore shifting continuously, which means that we have to regularly adapt our approach.

For this purpose, hon member Herron, we are busy amending our Provincial Safety Plan. You cannot address new problems with old solutions. Perhaps a principle that GOOD should learn as they struggle to find relevance in our modern society that has moved on from mud slinging.

Contrary to the misleading statements made by hon member Jacobs, the Western Cape Government is investing extensively in the safety of communities most affected by gang violence. With our LEAP officers we place an additional 1 000 officers on any given day in our gang priority areas.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens in die provinsie kry dit dikwels reg om op die maat van nuwe musiek te dans. Om net 'n paar voorbeelde te noem:

- Gedurende Kwartaal 3 van die 2024/25 finansiële jaar, het die SAPD op 613 vuurwapens beslag gelê.
- Lede van die Kleinvlei Polisiestasie het net die afgelope naweek beslag gelê op ses gewere en 'n besending ammunisie.

Hulle het verhoed dat daardie gewere in die hande van bendes in ons gemeenskappe beland, wat verantwoordelik was vir 263 bende-erwante moorde in die laaste kwartaal. Ek prys hulle goeie werk.

Die SAPD het ook daarin geslaag om een beskuldigde met 26 huisbrake te verbind deur DNS tegnologie te gebruik. Ons beweeg beslis saam met die tyd.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, die SAPD in die Wes-Kaap maak 'n verskil, maar hulle kan dit nie alleen doen nie, hulle het die ondersteuning van gemeenskappe nodig om misdaad te bekamp. Ek wil dus my opregte dank uitspreek teenoor elke GPF lid wat seker maak dat gemeenskappe 'n aktiewe rol speel in polisiëring en die skep van 'n veiliger Wes-Kaap.

Aan elke buurtwag en gemeenskap in blou patroleerder, ons sien julle opofferings, jou tyd en moeite om jou gemeenskap te beskerm gaan nie ongesiens verby nie. Ons sien jou, ek sien jou.

Die Departement van Polisie-Oorsig en Gemeenskapsveiligheid sal voortgaan om buurtwagte en plaaswagte te ondersteun en te bemagtig. Julle is 'n

belangrike kragvermenigvuldiger vir die SAPD. Patrollies deur buurt- en plaaswagte is ook 'n belangrike manier om sigbare polisiëring te verhoog, wat as afskrikmiddel teen misdadigers dien. Waar die SAPD, GPFs, buurt- en plaaswagte, asook die privaatsektor saamwerk, vorm dit 'n stewige bolwerk teen misdaad.

Net gister het ons fietse en ligte aan buurtwagte in Beaufort-Wes Munisipaliteit oorhandig om hulle doeltreffendheid te verbeter. Ons departement beoog om plaaswagte ook beter te ondersteun. Hulle behoeftes is dikwels anders as buurtwagte in dorpe of stede.

Plaaswagte speel 'n baie belangrike rol om landelike gebiede te beveilig, veral omdat die SAPD nie die nodige sigbaarheid in groot landelike gebiede het nie.

Die Provinsie het in Kwartaal 3 van die 2024/25 boekjaar 191 gevalle van veediefstal gehad. Die Sentrale Karoo ondervind dieselfde probleem. Daarom is die bemagtiging van plaaswagte een van my prioriteite.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek wil hiermee die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap verseker dat die stryd teen misdaad nie verlore is nie. Veiligheid bly een van die Wes-Kaap Regering se hoof prioriteite en ons doen alles in ons vermoë en tot ons beskikking om veilige gemeenskappe te skep. Veilige gemeenskappe het die vermoë om ekonomiese groei te stimuleer en werkskepping te bevorder.

My ernstige beroep op gemeenskappe is dat ons 'n nuwe sosiale eenheid vorm, een wat geweld aan die kaak stel en die gees van toewyding en menslikheid implementeer. Polisiëring alleen sal nie ons misdaadkwessie oplos nie. Die Wes-Kaapse Regering doen sy bes vir jou, werk asseblief saam met ons om 'n veiliger Wes-Kaap te skep. Ek dank u. [Applous.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, the South African Police Service in the province often succeeds to dance to the beat of new music. Two mention just a few examples:

- During Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 financial year the SAPS confiscated 613 firearms.
- Members of the Kleinvlei Police Station have just the past weekend confiscated six rifles and a consignment of ammunition.

They prevented that those rifles end up in the hands of of gangs in our communities, which were responsible for 263 gang related murders in the lost quarter. I commend the their good work.

The SAPS also succeeded in linking one accused with 26 burglaries by using DNS technology. We are definitely moving with the times.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the SAPS in the Western Cape makes a difference, but they cannot do it alone, they need the support of communities to counter crime. I therefore want to express my sincere thanks to each CPF member making sure that communities play an active role in policing and creation of

a safer Western Cape.

To each neighborhood watch and community in blue patroller, we see your sacrifices, your time and effort to protect your community do not pass unseen. We see you, I see you.

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety will continue to support and empower Neighborhood Watches and farm guards. You are an important power multiplier for the SAPS. Patrols by neighborhood and farm guards are also an important way to improve visible policing, that serve as a deterrent to criminals. Where the SAPS, CPFs, neighborhood and farm guards as well as the private sector work together, it forms a steady bulwark against crime.

Only yesterday we handed over bicycles and lights to neighborhood watchers in Beaufort West Municipality to improve their efficiency. Our Department aims to support farm guards better. Their needs are often different to Neighborhood Watches in towns and cities.

Farm guards play a very important role to safeguard rural areas, especially because the SAPS does not have the necessary visibility in large rural areas.

In Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 financial year the province had 191 cases of stock theft. The Central Karoo experiences the same problem. Therefore empowering farmguards is one of my priorities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to assure the citizens of the Western Cape that the fight against crime is not lost. Safety remains one of the Western Cape Government's main priorities and we do everything in our power and available to us to create safe communities. Safe communities have the ability to stimulate economic growth and promote job creation.

My serious call to communities is that we form a new social unit, one that exposes violence and implement the spirit of commitment and humanity. Policing alone will not solve our crime issue. The Western Cape Government does it best for you, please cooperate with us to create a safer Western Cape. I thank you.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now see the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the State of the Province Address reaffirmed what many of us already knew. Building a transformed and equitable society is being neglected, sacrificed to maintain an illusion of prosperity, but illusions do not save lives, build futures or serve the people of this province.

Let us begin with safety. The Safety Plan, a multi-billion rand initiative, was developed without any public participation. How can it be effective if those it aims to protect were never consulted? Hon Premier Winde says this

province is built on robust dialogue and listening. Then why not engage with the crime-affected communities through a crime summit before spending any more money on a plan that is not working?

The crime stats speak for themselves. With one quarter left:

- Murder stand at 3 399.
- Attempted murders at 3 397.
- Rapes at 3 465.
- Sexual assaults at 1 077.

If this trend continues the murder toll could reach 4 703, and this is not an anomaly, it is an escalating crisis. Over the last three years murder numbers climbed from 4 109 to 4 150 and then to 4 544. We need a new plan. One that directly addresses gang violence and treats it as the epidemic it is. We must invest in under-resourced communities and offer alternatives to gang life. Our youth deserve opportunities, not violence.

Now let us talk education. The hon Premier says he cares about teachers, but the evidence begs to differ. The brutal teacher post cuts and the increasing student-teacher ratio is a direct attack on the quality of education. The education budget was either a massive miscalculation or it was a fabrication.

A R3,8 billion shortfall over three years, just months after a balanced budget was tabled and adopted in Parliament, is unacceptable and inexplicable.

[Interjections.] Hon member Van Minnen suggests we should give up our salaries to fund a teacher. What she carefully avoids is that the Province was allocated R93 billion in the MTEF towards the education demand, but only allocated R85 billion to education. It was your Government that defunded education by cutting R8 billion, and who bears the brunt of these cuts? Schools in poorer communities where teacher posts are being slashed despite already struggling large class sizes. This is an injustice to our children and their futures.

Furthermore, education is not just numbers. It is about quality and accessibility. We need more investment in Early Childhood education, proper infrastructure in our schools and support for teachers who are stretched beyond capacity. We cannot allow a generation of students to be let down by a failing system.

The third issue we must confront is affordable housing. Just two weeks ago the Province was dragged to the Constitutional Court because of its failure to leverage public land in the inner City of Cape Town to provide access to affordable housing. Premier Winde says this province is built on robust dialogue and listening. Well, instead of demonising those who are campaigning for affordable housing, why not engage with them?

We have a Government with a commitment issue and communities who are abandoned. In 2011 six sites were earmarked for redevelopment in the inner City of Cape Town as part of the Central City Regeneration Programme, but

that programme, the Constitutional Court was told, was very quietly abandoned.

Public assets like these and Tafelberg must be used for housing that serves the people and not left to stagnate. These locations symbolise a broken system where potential solutions remain locked because of your own nimbyism and thus inaction. Housing is about dignity, security and economic mobility. Where people live closer to economic opportunities they have better access to jobs, schools and healthcare.

It is astounding that the hon Premier can still only point to the Better Living Model, one of Premier Helen Zille's Game-Changer projects which was started in 2016. The hon Premier could not even announce one new Better Living Project. A free house is not necessarily an affordable house. A free house on the peripheries means nothing without affordable transport.

Rail recovery should not be a wish, a vague long-term ambition, nor a slogan, it should be an immediate priority. The Provincial Government must start working meaningfully with PRASA to recover the rail services and remove the blockages in order to restore it to full capacity. Without it people are stranded, cut off from opportunities and left to navigate an unreliable system.

The people of this province deserve better. We deserve a province, a government that prioritises safety, education, housing and transport not as political talking points, but as fundamental rights. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Premier, hon Minister, hon members, to the people of Beaufort West. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is an honour to participate in this debate of the opening address of the Premier for the Western Cape Parliament today.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, en dit is lekker om hier in die warm Karoo te wees saam met mense met 'n warm, gasvrye mense van die Karoo.

Agb Premier Winde, ek wil vir u dankie sê vir u visie vir die provinsie, en dankie vir die omgewing wat u skep sodat u Kabinet, u Ministers, hulle werk kan doen.

Die ANC en die opposisie lede is vol halwe waarhede, want hulle het niks om te bied nie. Hulle kan net afbreek. Die Wes-Kaap bly uitstaan in Suid-Afrika, dis 'n feit.

Die laagste werkloosheidsyfer in die land. Agb Premier, maar wat ons nie sê nie is met die hoogste populasiegroei in die land. Die mense vlug uit die Oos-Kaap want hulle werkloosheidsyfer is oor die 50% [Tussenwerpsels.], want hulle het 'n kans om werk te kry in die Wes-Kaap.

Die provinsie wat jaar na jaar met die beste finansiële bestuur na vore kom deur die Ouditeur-Generaal, onafhanklik – dankie vir ons kollegas in Finansies vir hulle harde werk om munisipaliteite se hande te vat.

Ek nooi die opposisieledes uit om met die R62 die Langkloof in te ry. Agb Premier, jy kan dadelik sien waar die grens is tussen die Wes- en die Oos-Kaap. Nie oor die borde nie, oor die gehalte van die pad. Die mooi geteerde pad in die Wes-Kaap kant, strepe wat geverf is. Die vaal gekraakte slaggate in die Oos-Kaap kant. Vol slaggate, want daar is ANC Regering. Ek wil hulle aanraai om sommer aan te hou ry en nie weer om te draai en terug te vlug Wes-Kaap toe nie.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, die mense van Beaufort-Wes ken hierdie storie. My advies aan 'n vorige burgemeester, nieteenstaande die feit dat die ANC wil voorgee ons kies kant, want hulle staan agter die deur. Ons advies is altyd dieselfde, want ons ken die verskil tussen party en Staat. My advies aan hierdie vorige burgemeester was, "Kry die basies goed in Beaufort-Wes reg. Kry die basiese dienslewering in die Karoo reg, kry die water reg, kry die elektrisiteit reg, kry daai toilette wat so ver is van die mense se huise af terug tot teenaan die huis," waarvoor die Wes-Kaap Regering *by the way* geld gegee het, maar nee, hulle kom toe met 'n visie om 'n Dubai te skep. Bou toilette wat nog nooit gespoel het nie met geld wat ons nie weet waar dit is nie, want ons geld wat die Provinsie gegee het, het verdwyn.

Mense in die Karoo soek werk, agb Premier, maar u sien, agb Premier, dat die

vorige regerings kon dit nie skep nie, want hulle kop was op korrupsie. Die Regering moet die omgewing skep vir besighede om na die Karoo te kom.

Agb Premier, laat ek vir u 'n simpel voorbeeld gee wat ek vanoggend gekry het. In my munisipaliteit in Swartland het die munisipaliteit R12 miljoen ingesit om 'n hospitaal en om 'n *mall* te kry. Die R12 miljoen het vir hulle 611 werksgeleenthede geskep, en 500 werksgeleenthede met die bou van die projek, met ander woorde 1 111 werksgeleenthede. Hulle kon R10 miljoen gevat het en *EPWP* werk geskep het wat die ANC sou gedoen het. Hulle sou vir 354 mense vir een jaar werk gegee het. Die R10 miljoen sou weg gewees het. Die munisipaliteit kry vir sy R12 miljoen nou R20 miljoen 'n jaar, met ander woorde hulle kan die *EPWP* ook skep.

So ons moet verstaan dat regering moet die omgewing skep vir werksgeleenthede.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, as ek kyk na ons land, na 30 jaar van ANC bestuur raak ek warm onder die kraag. Eskom was eens van die beste kragverskaffers in die wêreld en die ANC Regering het dit geërf. Kyk waar is hulle nou. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ons Nasionale Lugdiens, SAA. In 1990 was die SAA 'n trotse lugdiens met 60 vliegtuie wat na 40 bestemmings toe gevlieg het. Vandag het hulle net 20 vliegtuie oor wat net na 15 internasionale bestemmings vlieg.

Die ANC raas want hulle verstaan nie die kern van besigheid, hulle verstaan

nie hoe jy werkskepping kry nie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Ons het 'n funksionele Spoornet gehad. Passasiersgetalle het met 93% gedaal. In 2009 tot 2016 verteenwoordig spoorvrag 27%. In 2024 16%. Agb Adjunkspeaker, hoe skep ons werk in so 'n land?

Ons het hawens gehad wat gewerk het. Volgens die Wêreldbank is Durban en Kaapstad die swak bestuurde hawens in die wêreld. Durban 341 uit 348, en Kaapstad 344ste op dieselfde lys. Ons is die beste in alles wat sleg is. [Tussenwerpsels.]

ANC Regering, dankie.

Behalwe dat die ANC Regering [Tussenwerpsels.] omtrent alles wat gewerk het afgebreek het, het hulle vir ons 'n klomp nuwe probleme geskep, agb Adjunkspeaker.

Ons is volgens die Wêreldbank een van die ongelykste lande in die wêreld danksy ANC Regering. Ons het ernstige misdaadprobleme. Ons moord statistiek 38 ek elke 100 000 mense, dis van die hoogste in die wêreld. Dankie, ANC Regering. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Korrupsie. Ons is volgens Transparency International 69ste op 'n lys van 180 lande, gemeet van die minste na die meeste korrupte lande. Danksy ANC Regering.

Ons sit met 'n onbekostigbare Staatskuld. 75,5% van die Bruto binnelandse produk en 'n uiters lae ekonomiese groei, 0,8% in 2024, danksy die ANC Regering.

Amptelike werkloosheid staan op 31,9%, maar die uitgebreide definisie vir werkloosheid is skokkend, oor die 42% danksy ANC Regering. In die Wes-Kaap het ons die laagste werkloosheidsyfer, onder 20%. Dankie, agb Premier Winde, dankie DA Regering, en ons weet dit is nog steeds te hoog.
[Applous.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, and it is pleasant to to be here in the warm Karoo with warm people, hospitable people of the Karoo.

Hon Premier Winde, I want to thank you for your vision for the province, and thank you for the environment that you create so that the Cabinet, your Ministers, can do their work.

The ANC and the Opposition members are full of half truths, because they have nothing to offer. They can only destroy. The Western Cape stands out in South Africa, it is a fact.

The lowest unemployment figure in the country. Hon Premier, but what we don't say is with the highest population growth in the country. The people flee from the Eastern Cape because their unemployment figure is more than 50% [Interjections.], because they have a chance to find work in the Western

Cape.

The province which year after year produces the best financial management through the Auditor General, independent - thank you to our colleagues in Finances for their hard work to take the hands of municipalities.

I invite the Opposition members to drive in two drive into the Langkloof along the R62. Hon Premier, you can immediately see where the border is between the Western and Eastern Cape. Not because of the signage, the quality of the road. The lovely tarred road on the Western Cape side, lines that are painted. The grey cracked potholes on the Eastern Cape side. Full of potholes for there is ANC government. I want to advise them to just keep on driving and not turn around and flee back to the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the people of Beaufort West know this story. My advice to a previous Mayor, in spite of the fact that the ANC pretends that we take sides, as they stand behind the door. Our advice is always the same, because we know the difference between party and State. My advice to this previous Mayor was, "Get the basic things right in Beaufort West. Get the basic service delivery in the Karoo right, get the water right, get the electricity right, get those toilets that are so far away from the people's houses back to adjoining the house," for which the Western Cape Government by the way gave money, but then they came with a vision to create a Dubai. Build toilets that have never flushed with money which we do not know where it is because the money that the Province gave, has disappeared.

People in the Karoo are looking for jobs, hon Premier, but you see, hon Premier, that the previous governments could not create it because their heads were on corruption. The Government must create the environment for businesses, to come to the Karoo.

Hon Premier, let me give you a simple example that I got this morning. In my municipality in Swartland the municipality put in R12 million to get a hospital and a mall. The R12 million created 611 job opportunities for them and 500 job opportunities with the building of the project, in other words 1 111 job opportunities. They could have taken R10 million and created EPWP work that the ANC would have done. They would have provided work for 354 people for one year. The R10 million would have been gone. The municipality now gets for its R12 million, R20 miljoen a year, in other words they can also create the EPWP and.

So we have to understand that Government should create the environment for job opportunities.

Hon deputy speaker, if I look at our country, after 30 years of ANC government I get very angry. Eskom once was one of the best power suppliers in the world and the ANC government inherited that. Look where they are now. [Interjections.] Our National Airways, SAA. In 1990 the SAA was a proud airways with 60 aircraft that flew to 40 destinations. Today they only have 20 aircraft left that only to 15 international destinations.

The ANC is making a noise raas because they do not understand the core of business, they do not understand while you get a job creation. [Interjections.]

We had a functional Spoornet. Passenger numbers decreased by 93%. In 2009 to 2016 rail freight represents 27%. In 2024 16%. Hon Deputy Speaker, how do we create work in such a country?

We had harbours that worked well. According to the World Bank, Durban and Cape Town are the worst managed harbours in the world. Durban 341 out of 348, and Cape Town 344th on the same list. We are the best in everything that is bad. [Interjections.]

ANC Government, thank you.

Apart from the fact that the ANC Government [Interjections.] has destroyed just about everything that functioned, they have also created a lot of new problems for us, hon Deputy Speaker.

According to the World Bank we are one of the most unequal countries in the world thanks to our ANC Government. We have serious crime problems. Our murder statistics, 38 out of 100 000 people, it is of the highest in the world. Thank you, ANC Government. [Interjections.]

Corruption. According to Transparency International we are 69th on a list of 180 countries, measured from the least to the most corrupt countries. Thanks to the ANC Government.

We are stuck with unaffordable State debt. 75,5% of the Gross Domestic Product and an extremely low economic growth, en 'n uiters lae ekonomiese groei, 0,8% in 2024, thanks to the ANC Government.

Official unemployment stands at 31,9%, but the extended definition for unemployment is shocking, more than 42% thanks to the ANC Government. In the western cape we have the lowest unemployment figure, below 20%. Thank you, hon Premier Winde, thank you DA government, and we know that it is still too high.] [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot ignore and sugarcoat the fact that the ANC Government has done this country and its people a terrible, cruel injustice over three decades. Fortunately we now have a Government of National Unity. There is a lot of hard work, but at least there is hope. President Cyril Ramaphosa said he wants to focus on efficient Local Government and water infrastructure for this term. I agree with that and support that. He must just tell the colleagues in the Western Cape also that efficient government comes with discipline.

There is currently a process of reviewing the White Paper of Local Government in the Legislature. We need to improve government and save

our 257 municipalities in South Africa.

Just a word of caution. In the Western Cape almost all 30 municipalities are functioning very well with the current legislation. Could it be that the problems in Local Government are political and we all need to look in the mirror and ask ourselves that question?

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to suggest, let us have independent audit units in our municipalities to look and sign off on financial matters. These auditors are paid by the National Treasury and report to Provincial and National Treasury as well as the National and Provincial Ministers of SCOPA. Hon Premier, I really think that will clamp down corruption in municipalities. That will protect officials that should be apolitical to do their job.

Hon Deputy Speaker, water is life. Without water security we cannot sustain communities and we cannot have economic growth. We are currently in a water-scarce region, but climate change is set to make it even worse. A hotter and drier climate is predicted for the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also expect another 1,2 million people moving to the Western Cape because there is hope for a job in the Western Cape, but that means in the next eight years we must find 241 million extra litres of water a day and therefore the Premier leads the Water and the 15 year Water Plan.

We appreciate President Cyril Ramaphosa's commitment to invest in water infrastructure, but the Western Cape is far ahead. With our CDAF programme with our international partners, we have identified 17 projects which meant that we will invest in R2,2 billion of water and sanitation projects. Grant funding of R72 million was secured by the Swiss State Security Economic Affairs Agency and R35 million from Danida Sustainable Infrastructure System. These financial contributions are helping to get our projects from feasibility to bankability, and hon Premier, if people tell you we cannot eat a clean audit, this is why people invest in the Western Cape. They know we are not going to steal their money. That is why they invest in the Western Cape.

†Ek weet hier in Beaufort-Wes herwin hulle reeds drinkwater en ons het lekker water gedrink van die toilet na die kraan gisteraand, en ons almal staan gesond vanoggend hier, maar munisipaliteite moet leer by Beaufort-Wes, ons moet ons water meer as een keer gebruik.

So, ja, daar is baie uitdagings, Beaufort-Wes, maar Beaufort-Wes is ook 'n leier in 'n seker opsig. In water van die toilet na die kraan is hulle 'n leier en ons moet leer. Agb Adjunkspeaker, dis belangrik dat ons water meer as een keer gebruik.

[I know here in Beaufort West they already recycle drinking water and we enjoyed water from the toilet to the tap last night, and we are all standing here healthy this morning, but municipalities should learn from Beaufort West, we should use water more than once.]

So, yes, there are many challenges, Beaufort West, but Beaufort West is also a leader in a certain respect. In water from the toilet to the tap they are a leader and we should learn. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is important that we use water more than once.]

Hon Premier, currently the general rule is that our indigent households are entitled to 6 kilolitres of water. The hon Premier instructed me to do a study to look at dignified life. †Hoe gee ons vir mense 'n menswaardige lewe, en daardie studie het gewys dat arm mense het 10 kiloliter water nodig en 'n 150 eenhede krag. Dit is die agb Premier se droom vir die provinsie.

Terwyl Eskom en die ANC gesels oor 40% kragverhogings, gesels die agb Premier met ons hoe kry ons 'n 150 eenhede krag in 'n arm huishouding, want dit skep geleenthede vir kinders, dit sit kinders deur die skool, dit help arm mense om hulself uit armoede op te lig. Ons kan dit regkry, ons kan dit regkry, nie deur *taxes* te verhoog nie, om die korrupte ANC Regering uit regering te kry. Dis hoe ons dit sal regkry, agb Adjunkspeaker.

Ons sal aanhou droom vir ons mense, want ons mense verdien dit. Die 65% [Tussenwerpsels.] mense wat vir die DA gestem het in hierdie provinsie. [Tussenwerpsels.] Julle is oppad uit, so hou aan ry, moenie omdraai nie. [Applous.] [How do we give people a dignified life, and that study showed that poor people need 10 kiloliter water and 150 units of power. It is the hon Premier's dream for the province.

While Eskom and the ANC are talking about 40% power increases, the hon Premier talks to us about how do we get 150 units of power into a poor household, because it creates opportunities for children, it puts children through school, it helps poor people to lift themselves from poverty. We can achieve it, we can achieve it, not through increasing taxes, but to get the corrupt ANC Government out of power. That is how we will achieve it, hon Deputy Speaker.

We will keep on dreaming for our people, because our people deserve it. The 65% [Interjections.] people that voted for the DA in this province. [Interjections.] You are on your way out, so carry on, do not turn around. [Applause.]]

Hon Deputy Speaker, in this province we manage the law. We manage the law. [Interjections.] If the ANC does not want the law, then change the law, but luckily the ANC does not have the majority vote, so they cannot do it alone anymore. So our country is in safe hands, it is in DA hands. [Interjections.]

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, ons is die enigste provinsie – *we are the only province with an inclusionary housing policy*. Insluitende behuising om gemeenskappe na mekaar te kry. Dis nie iets wat oornag kan gebeur nie, want ons sit met 30 jaar van ANC mislukte regering, maar die agb Premier se *step up* boodskap is kry mense nader aan mekaar. Kry gemeenskappe om te integreer in die stad.

Dis 'n lang proses, maar ons is die enigste provinsie wat so beleid het. Ons is die enigste provinsie wat 'n *housing market study* gedoen het. So ons verstaan die verskillende markte van behuising en nou kan ons met die privaatsektor [Tussenwerpsels.] om tafel toe te kom.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, aan ons munisipale bestuurders. Dit is moeilik om 'n munisipale bestuurder te kry weens ANC se inmenging in Plaaslike Regering. Daarom vlug hulle, hulle wil nie meer kom nie, maar ek is baie dankbaar ons is in die Wes-Kaap. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ons kyk vorentoe om die Wes-Kaap na volgende hoogtes te neem. Baie, baie dankie. [Applous.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, we are the only province – we are the only province with an inclusionary housing policy. Including housing to get communities together. It is not something that can happen overnight, as we are sitting with 30 years of ANC failed government, but the hon Premier's step up message is get people closer together. Get communities to integrate in the city. It is a long process, but we are the only province that has such a policy. We are the only province that has done a housing market study. So we understand the different markets of housing and now we can get around the table with the private sector. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, to our municipal managers. It is difficult to find a municipal manager due to the ANC's interference in Local Government. Therefore they flee, they do not want to come anymore, but I am very grateful we are in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] We are looking ahead to take the Western Cape to the next heights. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

†'n AGB LID: Gaan tel die *stront* [2:25:54] op in die strate. Hy moet die *stront* in die strate in Khayelitsha gaan optel. Die straat is vol *stront*.

[An HON MEMBER: Go pick up the *stront* in the streets. He should go and pick up the *stront* in the streets in Khayelitsha. The street is full of *stront*.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I recognise – before I recognise ...[Interjections.]

†'n AGB LID: [Onhoorbaar.] die strate is vol [Onhoorbaar.]

[An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] the streets are full of] [Inaudible.]

the DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon member Stephens – hon members, this debate is drawing to a close. I have observed two particular members. Both are not on the speakers list, but they are echoing so many words. I will caution hon member Kamfer together with hon member Rachel Windvogel at this particular time. Your running commentary for the last 25 minutes has been ongoing. So please refrain from the running commentary.

I see the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I hope I am rising for the

last time on this matter. It is quite serious. You are naming and shaming my members, but yet we have continuous noise from the gallery [Interjections.] that is not keeping the decorum of the House. [Interjections.] I really expect you now to act and not only to make a ruling. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I have looked at the gallery. I have not seen any specific person. [Interjections.] I will continue to monitor, but once again, hon member Windvogel, you are still carrying on. You are close to drowning out the speaker whenever you are making your comments.

I see now the hon member Stephens. Please proceed.

Ms D A STEPHENS (PA): I greet you all in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Amen. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members and a warm welcome to all the distinguished guests.

We welcome the Government's effort to ensure that basic education reserves priority in the Western Cape and throughout the country, but it is necessary to point out some of the concerns which must be addressed urgently.

We need the Department of Basic Education to assist our learners who are 10 years of age and we have not seen one day in a classroom yet. There are so many learners roaming the streets who have never attended school.

As the Patriotic Alliance we would like to know whether there is a budget for

these kids who need extra tuition or programmes to reintegrate them into mainstream schools. Many of the children have become victims of abuse and fallen prey to unscrupulous people who use them to work and engage in illegal activity, and these children are almost all drug users and very difficult to rehabilitate due to the social issues they experience at home.

The Skills Development Budget has been allocated for training of teachers and maintenance staff at school have been cut significantly. If the WCED is going through cost-cutting why are they reducing the training budget, because everyone pays skills levies every month? Where is the money being spent?

There is a reason why everyone pays the levies as it was set aside for skills levies. The WCED must focus on the maintenance staff at school as well. There is no mechanism to train staff, but they use budget to train educators. The budget is almost 70% allocated to teachers and not admin and maintenance staff. The funds are unevenly distributed. This must be remedied.

The scourge of bullying is overtaking our schools and the learners are suffering. We propose child and youth care workers be trained to intervene in schools. There must be training for the child and youth care workers to be in schools.

In recent days we have seen the rate of suicide increase tremendously and it

is not only sad and alarming, but a great concern for other children in our communities. The levels of violence are way too much for schools situated in very violent and unsafe communities. There must be a budget for this and we are losing kids to violence. Why is no one speaking about this? Safe Schools are not doing their work to assist the learners and parents. Help and intervention are needed in this regard urgently. We have read about suicide in the media and it is completely unacceptable for a learner to take his or her life because of bullying.

The formalisation of sports in schools must happen. It must be taken out of Life Orientation. We used to have specialist PE teachers in the past. We need to bring them back. Our Minister of Sports encourages all learners to participate in sports and I quote the Minister when he says, "A child in sports is a child out of court. "For

It is also of utmost importance that we bring God back into schools as it was in the past.

Bring in mentors to train the new teachers. Perhaps the teachers who have retired to voluntarily train the new teachers since the new graduates do not have sufficient training in the classroom.

Lastly, higher education is in a state of crisis regarding NSFAS bursaries and accommodation. This academic year has seen protests at campuses across various institutions of higher learning. The students need placement at

universities and urgent assistance from Government as they have also cut the subsidies to the universities.

Healthcare. The rural areas in and around Mossel Bay are dying because of inadequate services. Two ambulances cannot service the whole of Mossel Bay and its vast rural areas. Patients are dying because of inadequate services.

Patients, after being treated at casualty and discharged at night, it is said that some are attacked again, some murdered. Areas such as Friemersheim, Great Brak, Brandwag, Ruiterbos, Sonskyn, Herbertsdale, among others, are the most neglected and death is imminent. We need triple the size of current ambulance services.

Securities at the hospitals must do security work and stop doing health-related work, especially in crisis, etcetera. Communities are complaining a lot all over the Western Cape how badly they are treated. Health services staff have special training in respect of [Inaudible.] principles, securities not. DA is not caring, neither stepping up for our communities.

President Ramaphosa stated that since the dawn of democracy the Government has worked hard to reduce poverty. Too many households suffer from chronic poverty. The country spends 60% of our national budget on the social wage, according to President Ramaphosa. The social wage includes

grants, healthcare, education, community development and public employment programmes.

However, the system is financially unsustainable. I agree with Nicholas Woodward-Smith, an associate at the Free Market Foundation, who said that South Africa's tax base is too small to support such a vast social welfare system. Only 3 million South Africans pay 90% of income tax, which is an extremely narrow tax base.

He said further that the heavy tax burden which includes income tax up to 45%, VAT, fuel levies and estate duties, all while public funds are mismanaged. That is why it is necessary to uplift the small businesses in townships to ensure economic development for all.

Recently the Mining Indaba was held at the CTICC and I would like to quote what the website says it is all about:

"The premier meeting place for African and global mining leaders. Since its inception in 1994 the Investing in South African Mining Indaba Conference has become a pivotal event for mining professionals, investors and industrial leaders looking to capitalise on the vast opportunities in Africa's mining sector. With a focus on fostering long-term economic growth and sustainability, the event serves as a premier meeting place for networking, deal making and discussions on topics such as technological advancements in

mining, sustainable mining practises and investment opportunities in African mining projects."

As the event continues to grow and influence, it remains a crucial platform for shaping the future of mining in the African continent. This event is [Inaudible.] it is tailor-made for only the select few to divide the minerals amongst each other to the exclusion of others. South Africa has so many minerals and it is a shame to see that places like Beaufort West with plenty of minerals, people continue to suffer.

We are currently experiencing loadshedding. This is totally unnecessary. With more than 10 trillion cubic feet of gas in this region alone, so many jobs can be created, poverty [Inaudible.] and our energy crisis sorted. Environmentalists are too concerned about fracking and environmental issues which are minimal as opposed to what this could mean for our people. This needs to happen as soon as possible.

So please, Western Cape Government, step up to build a better Western Cape. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I see the hon Minister Meyer.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Eerstens dankie vir die agb Adjunkspeaker wat dit goedgevind het om die Parlement na die mense in die Karoo te bring. Ek sien ook een

van die plaaslike leraars wat ook by die NG Sendingkerk was in Nuwerus waar my pa ook by hom tuisgegaan het. Baie dankie ook vir u teenwoordigheid hier vandag in hierdie Parlement.

Dankie ook aan die agb Premier van die Wes-Kaap vir sy toespraak van hoop vir alle mense van die Wes-Kaap. Hier is 'n nuwe regering op Beaufort-Wes en ons het 'n nuwe regering in Suid-Afrika. Die doel van leierskap is om hoop te skep. Dankie aan almal, want dit is nie net die Regering wat hoop skep nie.

Vir die afgelope paar jare het ek tydens my begrotingsrede met 'n trekker gery vanaf Groentemarkplein tot by die Wes-Kaapse Parlement. Die koningin van die Karoo, tannie Poppie, het my ontvang by die Parlement toe ek van die trekker afgeklim het. Sy het spottenderwys vir my gesê, "Vandag ontvang die Karoo nou die Minister van Landbou by die Parlement." Die volgende jaar het ek weer 'n dame van die Karoo, Suster Ann van Murraysburg, genooi na die Wes-Kaapse Parlement. Soos tannie Poppie het Suster Ann van Murraysburg my ook ontvang by die trekker voor die Wes-Kaapse Parlement. Die simboliek van die Karoo is gevestig in die Wes-Kaapse Parlement.

Gister het nog 'n dame van die Karoo die agb Premier en die agb Speaker op Beaufort-Wes verwelkom. Toe die agb Speaker my nader het ek onmiddellik gedink aan Ansen de Peers [2:36:59] van Bakensrug. Onmiddellik het haar naam by my opgekom. Sy was ook 'n kategorie-wenner by ons landboukompetisie. Ek het haar en haar werkgewer verlede jaar besoek.

Wonderlike mense, hartsmense van die Karoo.

Die streekwenner in hierdie Sentrale Karoo vir landbouwerker van die Sentrale Karoo vir 2024 was mnr Ricardo Volminck [2:37:27]. Hy het die prys gewen in die Sentrale Karoo vir die kategorie middelbestuur. The Karoo Agri-sector is therefore already stepping up.

"Die Karoo het 'n bekoring en sy bekoring lê in sy eenvoud."

Skryf die digter [Onhoorbaar 2:37:48]. Sy gaan voort:

"Hier werk ons met wat ons het. Ons kom reg met wat ons nie het nie."

Sy gaan verder en skryf:

"Ons maak 'n plan met dit wat 'n krisis is...

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Firstly thank you to the hon Deputy Speaker who thought it well to bring the Parliament to the people in the Karoo. I also see one of the local ministers who had also been at the DR Mission Church in Nuwerus where my father stayed with him. Thank you for your presence here today in this Parliament.

Also thank you to the hon Premier of the Western Cape for his address of

hope for all people of the Western Cape. Here is a new government in Beaufort West and we have a new government in South Africa. The purpose of leadership is to create hope. Thank you to all, as it is not only the Government creating hope.

For the past few years during my budget address I traveled by tractor from Green Market Square to the Western Cape Parliament. The queen of the Karoo, Tannie Poppie, received me at the Parliament when I got off the tracktor. She said to me in jest, "Today the Karoo now receives the Minister of Agriculture at the Parliament." The next year I again invited a lady from the Karoo, Suster Ann [2:36:29] of Murraysburg, to the Western Cape Parliament. Like Tannie Poppie, Suster Ann of Murraysburg also greeted me at the tractor in front of the Western Cape Parliament. The symbolism of the Karoo is established in the Western Cape Parliament.

Only yesterday another lady from the Karoo welcomed the hon Premier and the hon Speaker at Beaufort West. When the hon Speaker approached me I immediately thought of Ansen de Peers [2:36:59] of Bakensrug. Immediately her name came up in my thoughts. She was also a category winners at our agriculture competition. I visited her and her employer last year. Wonderful people, heart people of the Karoo. .

The regional winner in this Central Karoo for agricultural worker of the Central Karoo for 2024 was Mr Ricardo Volminck [2:37:27]. He won the prize in the Central Karoo for the category middle management. The Karoo

agri-sector is therefore already stepping up.

"Die Karoo het 'n bekoring en sy bekoring lê in sy eenvoud."

So writes the poet [Inaudible 2:37:48]. She continues:

"Hier werk ons met wat ons het. Ons kom reg met wat ons nie het nie."

She continues and writes:

"Ons maak 'n plan met dit wat 'n krisis is..."

†DIE MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME:

"Ons maak 'n plan met dit wat 'n krisis is. Ons weet hoe om met min reg te kom."

Skryf die digter:

"En nog steeds genoeg te hê."

Die Karoo was vir baie jare die slagoffer van bitterbekpolitiek en politieke moddergooiery tussen verskillende politieke partye. Daarom step ek eenkant. Suid-Afrika het nou 'n Regering van Nasionale Eenheid en ons moet ons verskille opsy sit, platvloer sit en dat die mense van die Karoo luister.

Dit is nou tyd vir hande vat en saamwerk. Die agb Premier se visie is duidelik. Kom ons bou 'n regering wat ons kan vertrou, want in Suid-Afrika, in die Sesde Administrasie, het ons 'n regering gehad wat die mense nie vertrou het nie en daarom is hulle uitgestem. Ons bou 'n regering wat mense kan vertrou hier in die Wes-Kaap.

Die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid het nou drie kern prioriteite: inklusiewe ekonomiese groei, verminder armoede en skep 'n bevoegde of 'n bekwame staat. Die agb Premier en die Wes-Kaapse Kabinet doen alles in ons vermoë om te help om die doelwitte te bereik en nou saam te werk met die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid, want dit is ons enigste hoop.

Ek het vertroue in die Karoo, want in 2023 is R180 miljoen se produkte uitgevoer uit die Karoo en slegs R45 miljoen se produkte is ingevoer in die Karoo. Dit beteken dus dat die Karoo 'n positiewe handelsbalans, want hy voer meer uit as wat hy invoer. Die agb Premier het in sy toespraak verwys na die Wes-Kaapse Regering se Groei vir Werk Strategie. Een van daardie pilare van daardie strategie is om uitvoere te verhoog na verskillende streke, onder meer Zambië, Hongkong, Namibië, China, Verenigde Koninkryk, Mosambiek, Kanada, Denemarke en selfs Duitsland.

Die Karoo voer ook produkte in vanaf die VSA, Nederland en Frankryk. Daar is ook verwys na Karoolam. Ek sien van die agb lede lek hulle lippe af vir die Karoolam. ...[Laughter.] Meer daardie kant van die Huis. Dankie aan

die Karoo Lam Konsortium wat lank hieraan gewerk het om Karoolam te sertifiseer as 'n produk van geografiese oorsprong. Dankie aan Prof Johann Kirsten van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch en almal wat saamgewerk het om die projek te maak werk en nog steeds werk hier in die Karoo.

Ek is verlede week ingelig dat een van die internasionale lugdienste daarin belangstel om Karoolam op hul spyskaarte te plaas vir internasionale vlugte. Kan u vir u indink how the Karoo will be stepping up? ...[Applous.] [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: *"Ons maak 'n plan met dit wat 'n krisis is. Ons weet hoe om met min reg te kom."*

So writes the poet:

"En nog steeds genoeg te hê."

The Karoo has for many years been the victim of petty politics and political mudslinging between different political parties. Therefore I step aside. South Africa now has a Government of National Unity and we have to put aside our differences, sit flat on the floor and that the people of the Karoo listen.

It is now the time for taking hands and cooperation. The hon Premier's vision is clear. Let us build a government that we can trust, because in South Africa, in the Sixth Administration, we had a government that the people did

not trust and therefore they were voted out. We are building a government that people can trust here in the Western Cape.

The Government of National Unity now has three core priorities: inclusive economic growth, reduce poverty and create a capable or an inefficient state. The hon Premier and the Western Cape Cabinet are doing everything in their power to help to achieve their aims and closely cooperate with the Government of National Unity, because that is our only hope.

I have confidence in the Karoo, because in 2023, R180 million products were exported from the Karoo and only R45 million products were imported into the Karoo. It therefore means that the Karoo has a positive trade balance, because it exports more than what it imports. The hon Premier referred in his address to the Western Cape's Growth for Work Strategy. One of those pillars of the strategy is to increase exports to various regions including Zambia, Hong Kong, Namibia, China, United Kingdom, Mozambique, Canada, Denmark and even Germany.

The Karoo also imports products from the USA, the Netherlands and France. There was also a reference to Karoolam. I see some of the hon members are licking their lips for the Karoolam. ...[Laughter.] More that side of the House. Thank you to the Karoo Lam Konsortium that worked a long time to get Karoolam certified as a product of geographic origin. Thank you to Prof Johann Kirsten of the University of Stellenbosch and all who cooperated to make the project work and still work here in the Karoo.

I was informed last week that one of the international airlines are interested to put Karoolam on their menus for international flights. Can you imagine how the Karoo will be stepping up?] ...[Applause.] I hope those hon members on this side of the House and hon members of that side of the House, when they get on that plane with the menu, they will choose the Karoolam, Mr Grant Marais. That will be your choice. Ms Rachel Windvogel, Mr Fransie, that will be your choice from the Karoo because you help us stepping up.

†Daar is ook 'n webwerf in terme van gesertifiseerde Karoolam: www.karoolam.org. Ek is dankbaar vir my Voorsitter van die Staande Komitee, mnr Noko Masipa, want direk en indirek het hy sy invloed gebruik om hierdie goed te laat realiseer en wat 'n wonderlike toespraak het hy vandag hier in hierdie Huis gemaak.

Die Karoo gaan ook baat vind by NASA Ruimtetegnologie Projek by Matjiesfontein. Die Karoodorp gaan die tuiste raak van NASA se nuwe kommunikasie-antenna. NASA en die Suid-Afrikaanse Regering gaan dit moontlik maak. The Karoo is stepping up. Môre ontmoet ek die burgemeester van Prins Albert en ons vergader juis rondom plaaslike tourisme in die Karoo. Ek het onlangs met die nuwe Konsul-Generaal van Amerika ontmoet en gaan eersdaags die area besoek vir Ruimtetegnologie toerisme.

Ek wil graag die agb Minister van Mobiliteit, Isaac Sileku, en die Provinsiale Munisipale Verkeer gelukwens met 'n padveiligheid strategie, want ons het goeie resultate gesien hier in Beaufort-Wes en ook dankie aan ons Beaufort-Wes se verkeershoof en haar span wat vandag hier is. Ek wil die Provinsiale Verkeer Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie bedank want ek het saam met hulle 'n gesamentlike operasie gedoen, saam met my staatsveearts om bek-en-klouseer hier te voorkom. Op 5 en 6 November hou die agb Premier 'n internasionale investerings konferensie en ons soek asseblief projekte uit die Karoo want ons moet dit verwys na die investerings konferensie.

Ons weet ook dat die Karoo is groter as Beaufort-Wes, Prins Albert, Laingsburg. Daarom het die Kabinet en die Regering ook plekke besoek soos Merweville, Murraysburg, Leeu-Gamka, Nelspoort, Klaarstroom, maar die Karoo is ook groter as net daardie dorpe. Die Karoo is ook plase en omliggende dorpe. Almal is ewe belangrik. Die onderskeie agb Ministers gaan in hulle begrotingstoesprake meer inligting verskaf oor daardie programme wat in hierdie dokument na verwys word.

Laastens, die treine van die Karoo moet weer loop. Die Trans-Karoo moet weer terug kom in sy volle glorie! [Tussenwerpsels.]

[There is also a website in terms of certified Karoolam: www.karoolam.org. I am grateful to my Chairman of the Standing Committee, Mr Noko Masipa, because directly and indirectly he used his influence to realize these things and what a wonderful speech did he not make here in this House today.

The Karoo he's also going to benefit at the NASA Aerospace Technology Project at Matjiesfontein. The Karoo town will become the home of NASA's new communication antenna. NASA and the South African Government are going to make it possible. The Karoo is stepping up. Tomorrow I am meeting the Mayor of Prince Albert and we meet around local tourism in the Karoo. I recently met the new Consul General of America and will one of these days visit the area for aerospace technology tourism.

I want to congratulate the hon Minister of Mobility, Isaac Sileku, and the Provincial Municipal Traffic on a road safety strategy as we have seen good results here in Beaufort West, and also thank you to our Beaufort West traffic chief and her team that are here today. I want to thank the Provincial Traffic South African Police because I did a joint operation with them, with my state veterinary surgeon to prevent mouth and foot disease here. On 5 and 6 November the hon Premier is hosting an international investment conference and we are looking for projects from the Karoo as we have to refer it to the investment conference.

We also know that the Karoo is larger than Beaufort West, Prince Albert, Laingsburg. Therefore the Cabinet and the government also visited places like Merweville, Murraysburg, Leeu-Gamka, Nelspoort, Klaarstroom, but the Karoo is also larger than only those towns. The Karoo is also farms and surrounding towns. They are all equally important. The various hon Ministers will in their budget votes speeches provide more information about those programmes referred to in this document.

Finally, the trains of the Karoo should run again. The Trans-Karoo must come back in all its glory! [Interjections.]]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Die Trans-Karoo, dit is wat die hartland van die Karoo is. Die Wes-Kaapse agb Premier, agb Minister van Infrastruktuur en die agb Minister van Mobiliteit is reeds in gesprekke met Transnet asook met die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid.

Ek hoor die stem van die mense van die Karoo. Die stof aan my voete, die bloed in my are, die sweet op my voorkop sê ons gaan nêrens. Ons woon hier in die Karoo en die Karoo woon binne ons. Die agb Premier se toespraak het hoop gebied vir die mense van die Karoo. Die Karoo soek nie meer *handouts* nie. Die Karoo soek 'n klimaat vir ekonomiese ontwikkeling.

Ek wil afsluit met die mooi boodskap van die musikant van gister. She said:

[“When you step up, you see the future more brighter on the other side.”

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: The Trans-Karoo, that is the heartland of the Karoo. The Western

Cape hon Premier, hon Minister of Infrastructure and the hon Minister of Mobility are already in discussions with Transnet as well as the Government of National Unity.

I hear the voice of the people of the Karoo. The dust on my feet, the blood in my veins, the sweat on my forehead tells me we are going nowhere. We live here in the Karoo and the Karoo lives in us. The hon Premier's speech offered hope to the people of the Karoo. The Karoo are not looking for handouts anymore. The Karoo is looking for climate for economic development.

I want to conclude with the lovely message of the musician of yesterday. She said:

“When you step up, you see the future more brighter on the other side.”]

Stepping up is what this Government has been busy doing and we have great opportunities with the B20, as well as other dual political developments that are happening here. We are stepping up with you. Not for you, but with you. This is therefore, a government for you. I want to thank the hon Premier for visionary leadership because this is the only province that builds a strategy for a government that people can trust. Thank you. May God bless you. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I see the hon Ayanda Bans. [Interjections.] Hon member Bans, are you able to take your seat? Is that a point of order, hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, just a point of reminder, if such exists. [Interjections.] Again, just to remind you that after the hon Taiwanese doctor spoke, we found that there was clapping in the gallery, hon Deputy Speaker. So please, just be consistent. [Interjections.] We are not fighting, but we are calling for consistency. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Allow me to explain it in very clear terms. Members that are seated in the gallery below or on top, you are not allowed to participate. Participate effectively means even if you clap hands. So, please refrain from clapping hands. I trust that that will be in order. I see the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition, hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon Premier of the Western Cape, hon Speaker, Daylin Mitchell, the hon Leader of the Opposition, Khalid Sayed, the leadership of the ANC in the Central Karoo ...[Interjections.] the leadership of the ANC in the Central Karoo, especially the people of the Central Karoo to its entirety that have been forgotten.

My special guest, Marlen Hermanus, I am greeting you, seated that side. A

very young boy from Murraysburg that has been lobbying me for about six years for his School of Skills, as he is one of those struggling to access a School of Skills. Many of them are here in the Karoo. I said today is a special day for him to come and listen. The hon Premier was very generous yesterday. He said we must listen with compassion and take responsibility. So, I am taking the hon Premier to task to listen to what we have to say, by saying let us look into having a Skill of Schools within the Central Karoo. The children are travelling very far.

I am not going to speak, hon Deputy Speaker, of the DA corruption in the Western Cape. We know about the raiding of J P Smith's house just recently, and Malusi Booi's. I am not going to speak about that today. [Interjections.] The hon MEC's speech, hon MEC Bredell, clearly demonstrated that there is no plan outside the ANC. Wherever they have to speak, they have to capitalise on the ANC. There is no responsibility that they are going to take as a DA. They must also take the responsibility as managers of law, as hon Minister Bredell was saying.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this day marks a bittersweet moment of opening Parliament in the Central Karoo. It is a sweet one because we showcase Parliament to the people of the Karoo, yet bitter sweetness in the realities of poverty within the Karoo being left behind. Today's speech is dedicated to the people of the Karoo, from Murraysburg to Laingsburg. For once, let it be about you. The hon Premier said nothing about you. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

†Die HOOFSWEEP (ANC): Ek staan hier vandag nie net as 'n politieke verteenwoordiger nie, maar as 'n stem vir die ongehoorde, die onsigbare en die verwaarloosde. Ek staan hier as iemand wat die stofge vulde paaie van Beaufort-Wes bewandel het, in die huise van sukkelende gesinne in Hillside gesit het, en het stille trane van moeders gesien wat nie hulle kinders kan voed nie, of aan die dood afgestaan het deur dwelmmishandeling. Ek staan vandag hier om vir julle te praat.

Die agb Premier sê vir ons dat hierdie provinsie is een wat vooruitgaan. Vooruitgaan vir wie? ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I stand here today not only as a political representative, but as a voice for the unheard, the invisible and the neglected. I stand here and someone who has walked to dirt roads of Beaufort West, sat in the houses of struggling families in Hillside, and saw the quiet tears of mothers who cannot feed their children or whose children died due to drug abuse. I stand here today to talk on your behalf.

The hon Premier tells us that this province is one that is going ahead. Going ahead for whom? ...[Interjection.]]

An HON MEMBER: Hey!

†Die HOOFSWEEP (ANC): Maar laat ons dit duidelik stel. Is dit vir die

miljoene wat vasgevang is in armoede of is dit vir die mense wat in werkloosheid en ongelykheid sit? Die stygende werkloosheidskoste en die euwel van geslagsgebaseerde geweld. Is dit vir die bejaardes wat opsy geskuif is en vergeet is of is dit vir die werklose jeug wat van geleenthede en van hoop beroof is? Ek vra weer, agb Premier, vooruitgaan vir wie? Want dit is beslis nie vir die armes nie, die werkloses of die kwesbares nie.

Die DA-geleide Wes-Kaapse Regering het die Staat van die Provinsie Toespraak, SOPA, na Beaufort-Wes gebring. Maar watter tasbare voordele sal dit vir die mense van die Sentraal-Karoo inhou? Gaan die agb Premier bloot 'n toespraak lewer en terugkeer na die gerief van Kaapstad of gaan hy werklik die harde werklikheide van hierdie streek aanspreek? Die Sentraal-Karoo staar nie net 'n uitdaging in die gesig nie. Dit is 'n krisis.

Laat die statistiek vir hulself spreek want ek weet die DA hou van statistiek. Werkloosheid in die Sentraal-Karoo is op 29,9%, die hoogste in die provinsie. Voedselonsekerheid neem drasties toe met 42,2% van mense in Beaufort-Wes wat sukkel om kos te bekostig, op van 39,7% wat in 2022, 22% gestaan het. In Prins Albert is die situasie erger met voedselonsekerheid wat van 39% tot 43% in net een jaar gestyg het.

Dit is nie net syfers nie, dit verteenwoordig werklike gesinne en werklike kinders en werklike mense wat werklike leiding nodig het. Inkomste-ongelykheid bly ernstig. Met Beaufort-Wes waar dit die slegste vlakke van ongelykheid in die distrik toon byna die helfte van die bevolking, 44% van

huishoudings, word as behoeftig beskou en hulle kan dit nie bekostig nie. Ekonomiese groei bly gekonsentreer in die Kaapse Metro, terwyl klein dorpe en landelike gebiede soos Sentraal-Karoo tot verval toegelaat word. Infrastruktuur brokkel af. Plaaslike munisipaliteite is in nood. Ekonomiese geleenthede vir jongmense is byna nie bestaande nie.

Die Wes-Kaap bly 'n eksklusiewe ekonomie waar geleenthede vir 'n bevoorregte paar gereserveer word. Die agb Premier spog met die hoogste werksopname in die land, tog is werkloosheid in Beaufort-Wes en Murraysburg en Laingsburg en in Prins Albert op 'n krisisvlak. Waar is die werksbewyse vir die jeug van die Karoo?

[The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): But let us be clear. Is it for the millions caught up in poverty or is it for the people sitting in unemployment and inequality? The increasing unemployment cost and the scourge of gender based violence. Is it for the aged shifted aside and were forgotten or is it for the unemployed youth robbed of opportunities and hope? I ask again, hon Premier, progress for whom? Because it is definitely not for the poor, the unemployed or the vulnerable.

The DA-led Western Cape Government brought the State of the Province Address to Beaufort West. But what tangible benefits will it have for the people of the Central Karoo? Is the honorable Premier merely going to deliver the speech and return to the comfort of Cape Town or is he really going to address the harsh realities of this region? The Central Karoo is not only facing a challenge. It is a crisis.

Let the statistics speak for itself because I know the DA likes statistics. Unemployment in the Central Karoo stands at 29,9%, the highest in the province. Food insecurity is increasing drastically by 42% of people in Beaufort West who struggle to afford food, up from 39,7% that in 2022, stood at 22%. In Prince Albert the situation is worse with food insecurity that increased from 39% to 43% in just one year.

It is not only figures, it represents real families and real children and real people who need real leadership. Income equality remains serious. With Beaufort West where it shows the worst levels of inequality in the district almost half of the population, 44% of households are regarded as indigent and they cannot afford it. Economic growth remains concentrated in the Cape Metro, while small towns and rural areas like the Central Karoo are allowed to deteriorate. Infrastructure is collapsing. Local municipalities are in need. Economic opportunities for the youth almost do not exist.

The Western Cape remains an exclusive economy where opportunities are reserved for the privileged few. The hon Premier brags about the highest employment rate in the country, yet unemployment in Beaufort West and Murraysburg and Laingsburg and in Prince Albert is at a crisis level. Where is the evidence for work for the youth of the Karoo?]

The hon Premier must tell us where the economic interventions and opportunities for rural communities specifically, are. He must tell us that.

Deputy Speaker, the DA does not tackle poverty. It manipulates instead. Instead of investing in sustainable solutions, it channels resources to DA-aligned NGOs and ensures that only those that serve their political interests receive funding. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): This is nothing more than a cynical attempt to control and abuse the vulnerable. We cannot allow it. [Interjections.] The question again here: ...[Interjections.] for how long will this ‘divide and rule’ strategy be sustained? It is even dividing them amongst themselves in their internal corridors.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the cancer patient in that hospital of Beaufort West that gets picked up by an ambulance on a Sunday afternoon in Nelspoort, sits at the Beaufort West Hospital for hours, from the afternoon till the next morning hours on hard benches in the cold, waiting for an ambulance to come and pick that person up, that sick patient. That person leaves the following morning to go to Cape Town to go and sit on a bench another 24 hours. We have been telling the DA: that is uncalled for. It must stop. It must be corrected. It must never happen. [Interjections.] I hope you are listening today, hon Premier. [Interjections.]

† Die DA-geleide Provinsiale Regering het ook ons bejaardes versaak. Die sluiting van Murraysburg Ouetehuis het inwoners so ver as Ashton gevestig.

Hoe vat jy 'n oumens uit Murraysburg uit, dan loop sit jy hom in Ashton ver van sy familie af, en hulle is van hulle gemeenskap verwyder. In plaas daarvan om van permanente oplossings te praat, menswaardigheidsoplossings te vind, skuif hierdie regering ons oumense rond asof hulle 'n las is. Huis Johannes, net hier oorkant die pad, waar bejaardes in onnette beddegoed geslaap het, onhigiëniese toestande, hulle eet geen nutrisionele kos met voedingswaarde nie. Waar is die menswaardigheid waarin hulle moet leef? Waar is die aanspreeklikheid oor wat daar gebeur in Huis Johannes?

Die ANC sal nie rus totdat hierdie provinsie aan almal behoort daarin nie. Nie net die bevoorregte paar nie, maar van die Kaap van Storms af tot ons kant van die Goeie Hoop. Een van insluitende transformasie en geregtigheid. Die stryd is nog lang nie ver verby nie.

[The DA-led Provincial Government also neglected our aged. The closure of Murraysburg Home for the Aged accommodated citizens as far as Ashton. How do you take an old person out of Murraysburg and put him in Ashton far away from his family, and removed from their community. Instead of talking about permanent solutions, finding human dignity solutions, this government is shifting around old people as if they are a liability. Huis Johannes, just across the road where the aged slept in dirty bedding, unhygienic conditions, they do not eat nutritional food of value. Where is the human dignity in which they have to live. Where is the accountability for what happened in Huis Johannes?

The ANC will not rest until this province belongs to everyone living in it.

Not only the privileged few, but from the Cape of Storms to our side of the Good Hope. One of inclusive transformation and justice. The battle is far from being over.]

On economic drivers, hon Deputy Speaker, jobs at municipalities and Transnet and for Government are the only ways and sources of income, which are very few in this region. We must take responsibility as this Western Cape Government as to how is this Western Cape Government going to look at not only looking at Transnet where the Government is giving jobs. You are not taking responsibility. There are no economic drivers and opportunities.

Historically, Beaufort West is the economic hub of communities that are struggling to get to Beaufort West. Everything that is happening in the Central Karoo happens in Beaufort West. We have fortunately this time an MEC of Mobility, who is hon member Sileku. Hon member Sileku, rise, stand up to the task of making sure you are connecting our people. There is no way a person can drive from Merweville and spend R300 just to come to buy food in Beaufort West while you are here. That error must be corrected. We are going to be coming home without positions. Our people will be looking at us to step up. The bicycles will take them from Shoprite to the hospital, but it will not make them travel very far. That is an error that must be corrected. [Interjections.]

A special call to the hon Premier on crime [Interjections.]. Hon Premier, we cannot allow that this thing of funding CPFs and Neighbourhood Watches is

not balanced. You find the Neighbourhood Watches getting more than the CPFs. They need to complement each other. We must fight crime in a way that is collective. The DA Government must prioritise a special programme to deal with drugs and the selling of it, and rehabilitation in Beaufort West. We have seen that children are dying in Beaufort West, from the use of drugs. Gangsterism is happening because of drug use.

This is a task I am giving to yourself. I said, today, I am not going to come and complain since you have been generous yesterday. Let me tell you and take you to task on issues. Where is the 'boots on the ground army' you funded with almost more than R1-billion over the last term of administration of the Safety Plan? It is time for you to deploy the LEAP officers right here to the Central Karoo.

Then, you speak about fair share when we debate in the House. [Interjections.] Where is this fair share? We want a fair share for the Province. As you look into the Karoo, where is the fair share? People are struggling, people are suffering, people are hungry ...[Interjections.] People have nothing to eat. Where is the fair share? Can you demonstrate to those that voted for you outside, giving them temporary funding that actually the sustainability, there is a sustainable plan that you are looking at into working and moving forward.

There is a certain recovery plan to assist the local municipalities. We are very, very much happy that this plan is reported to be close to its end and it

is doing very well, although it took three years to get to that phase. However, one is still asking oneself when the DA is saying that there will be a fully operational municipality with no hurdles, the Plan B is to make sure that there is revenue collection. Where are you going to collect revenue from when people are unemployed or are we going to say that we are sticking to making sure that people's electricity is being cut? [Interjections.]

The DA proposing revenue collection, how is this possible when the population is unemployed? 6 800 households have been reported already blocked of electricity ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Not true!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...because of non-affordability. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Not true!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): In a meeting, a councillor stood up and said temporary workers' contracts ended recently because of unaffordability and shortage of R120 000 that could not be paid to temporal workers. Yet, at the same time, the DA council resolves on paying about a whopping R600 000 to a councillor as a payback to a salary. [Interjections.] Councillors reported certain trusts also that are paying no revenue. How can this be healthy while you are cutting electricity to people that even do not have an income? Members are coming to grandstand on social welfare here.

†Daar hoor ons nou van ja, die ANC, Minister Tolashe moet weggevat word. Die DA het nog nooit *Social Welfare gesupport* nie. Enige toelaag was nie in die beleid nie. Dit is 'n ANC-beleid. Dit is 'n ANC-beleid. Dit moet ons vandag kom korregeer. ...[Applous.] *Social Grant* was gebring van die ANC. Vandag wil julle kom spring en klim of vandag julle kom spring en klim. Julle moet spring en klim op die *social grant*. We are not short ...[Interjection.]

[There we now hear about yes, the ANC, Minister Tolashe should be taken away. The DA has never supported Social Welfare. Any allowance was not in the policy. That is ANC policy. That is an ANC policy. That we have to come and correct today...[Applause.] Social Grant was brought in from the ANC. Today you want to come and jump and climb or today you come and jump and climb. You must jump and climb on the social grant. We are not short ...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon member Bans, please proceed. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Pointing out a Minister of the GNU is typical of the DA. When the colour is not the same, they will deal with you. We are not short, hon Deputy Speaker, the DA never loved people of our colour. They do it even amongst those of colour. Recently, they called [Interjections.] Patricia van der Ross as MMC. They know the reason why Patricia van der Ross was recalled. They are marshalled to be like that.

Lastly, hon Deputy Speaker, †kinders van die skole is ongefinansier die crèches in die Sentraal-Karoo. Jy kry baie kindertjies wat buite stap en dan sien jy dat hulle is ongefinansier die crèches. [children of the schools are unfinanced, the crèches in the Central Karoo. You find many children walking outside and then you see they are unfinanced, the crèches.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I am about ...[Interjections.] as I am about to conclude ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bans ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): As I am about to conclude ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...please conclude.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...hon MEC Simmers promised the people houses. I hope he is coming now to tell them when they will be built, those houses, and I know the agenda ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...the DA would want to take over ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. ...[Applause.]

Thank you, hon member Bans. In the interest of being fair, based on the points of order that were raised earlier on, those that clapped hands. [Interjections.] Please refrain from doing so. [Interjections.] I can understand your excitement, but please refrain from doing so. I now see hon Minister Simmers.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Baie, baie dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*. Agb Premier of soos ons hom in die DA noem, die Jobs Kampioen. Lede van die Uitvoerende Raad, agb lede van die Wes-Kaapse Parlement aan albei kante van die Huis. Die inwoners van Beaufort-Wes, maar ook die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap wat ons aanlyn volg.

Dit is vir my 'n voorreg om julle almal hier vandag toe te spreek en ek is dankbaar vir die geleentheid om in Beaufort-Wes te wees vir die agb Premier se Provinsiale Rede 2025 en vir vandag se debat. In die laaste twee weke in 'n aanloop tot die agb Premier se Provinsiale Rede het my Departement, ons padwerkers, amptenare en inwoners ...[Tussenwerpsels.] Ja, agb member Bans, van Murraysburg, Nelspoort, Merweville, en Beaufort-Wes besoek en met hulle interaksies gehad.

Daarom wil ek graag hierdie gemeenskappe en die omliggende areas wat ek besoek het bedank vir die hartlike ontvangs en ook die hartlike gasvryheid, vir almal wat dit 'n blou munisipaliteit is, 'n DA-beheerde munisipaliteit. Laat dit insink vir die ANC in die Sentraal-Karoo.

Op pad na Beaufort-Wes het ons padwerkers by van ons projekte in Laingsburg en ook Leeu-Gamka besoek, want hierdie is hardwerkende spanne wat paaie verseker dat die provinsiale padnetwerk in die Karoo op topstandaard bly, en ook ons spanne in Beaufort-Wes. En ja, hierdie is 'n regering wat omgee vir al sy mense wat ook sy werkers insluit. En daarom het ek tyd gemaak om ons padwerkers te bedank vir die werk wat hulle so deeglik en getrou doen, want as die Wes-Kaapse Regering verstaan ons dat padinfrastruktuur 'n belangrike ekonomiese dryf hier is.

Om ons paaie veilig en in stand te hou, laat toe dat ekonomie groei sodat broodnodige werkseleenthede geskep kan word en dit is waarom, agb Bansk, en ek hoop u luister, as die ANC jaar na jaar nie die Sentraal-Karoo besteel het nie, sou daar ekonomiese ontwikkeling in die Sentraal-Karoo gewees het ...[Tussenwerpsels.] want die provinsie doen sy gedeelte. [Tussenwerpsels.] U het die koffers van die Sentraal-Karoo leeg gesteel. Laat dit insink. Die is nie 'n prioriteit ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier or as we call him in the DA, the Jobs Champion. Members of the Executive, hon members of the Western Cape Parliament on both sides of the House. The citizens of Beaufort West, but also the citizens of the Western Cape following us online.

It is a privilege for me to address you here today and I am grateful for the opportunity to be in Beaufort West for the hon Premier's Provincial Address 2025 and for today's debate. In the last two weeks leading up to the hon

Premier's Provincial Address, my Departement, visited our road workers, officials and citizens ...[Interjections.] Yes, hon member Bans, visited from Murraysburg, Nelspoort, Merweville, and Beaufort West and had interactions.

Therefore I want to thank these communities and the surrounding areas that I visited for the hospitable reception and also the wonderful hospitality, for all to which to which it is a blue municipality, a DA controlled municipality. Let it sink in for the ANC in the Central Karoo.

On the way to Beaufort West we visited our road workers at some of our projects in Laingsburg and also Leeu-Gamka, because these are hardworking that ensure that the provincial road network in the Karoo remains at top standard, and also our teams in Beaufort West. And yes, this is a government that cares for all its people which also include its workers. And therefore I made time to thank our road workers for the work that they are doing so thoroughly and loyally, because as the Western Cape Government we understand that our road infrastructure is and important economic driving force here.

To keep our roads safe and maintained, allow the economy to grow so that necessary job opportunities can be created and that is why, hon member Bans, and I hope you are listening, if the ANC had not robbed the Central Karoo year after year, there would have been economic development in the Central Karoo.....[Interjections.] because the province is doing its part. [Interjections.] You have emptied the coffers of the Central Karoo. Let that

sink in. It is not a priority ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Ons het ook geleenthede gebruik
...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: We also used opportunities
...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! You are drowning out the
speaker. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is the guests drowning out the speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you please take your seat.
[Interjections.] Hon member Bans, I see you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Minister is
addressing me, so I can respond here. Can you please call him to order to
address you. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister ...[Interjections.], I have not heard
you address hon member Bans directly. [Interjections.] If that was the case,
I trust that in future you will speak via the Chair. [Interjections.] Hon
members! Hon members, this is the final ...[Interjections.] this is the final

input on this particular debate.

Once again, members in the gallery, I trust that you have fully comprehended the understanding not to participate in the proceedings. [Interjections.] Let us please respect the decorum of the House. Seventeen and a half seconds left. You may proceed, hon Minister Simmers. [Interjections.] Seventeen minutes and 30 ...[Interjections.] Oh, okay, everyone is awake still. You may proceed.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Ons het ook van die geleentheid gebruik gemaak om die meer sagte dienste van ons Departement te lewer, die rekenaars, meubels en sorgpakkies aan skole en tehuise vir bejaardes te oorhandig. By van hierdie persele soos Huis Johannes, agb *Deputy Speaker*, deur u aan agb member Bans, alles wat u sopas uitgewys het is 'n totale, totale leuen want ek was self in daardie huis minder as 24 uur gelede. En die koshuis by Laerskool Nelspoort, het ons ...[Tussenwerpsels.] opknappingsprojekte van stapel gestuur as deel van ons EPWP werksgebaseerde loodsprogram.

En u vra wat los ons agb Premier na as deel van ons besoek as die Wetgewer en die regering van die dag. Ons het dit moontlik gemaak deur die hele Beaufort-Wes munisipale area. Daar was 'n loodsprojek geloods, deur die EPWP program was 210 voormalige werklose jong mense van die Beaufort-Wes munisipale area ...[Tussenwerpsels.] werk aangee vir die volgende twee maande en ons gaan seker maak dat hulle ons hulle ook kapasiteer vir die

vaardighede. Dit is wat hierdie Regering nalaat. Wat het die ANC hier nagelaat? Niks, behalwe verdriet en swaarkry. Dat dit vir u insink as die voormalige party wat hier regeer het.

Hoewel die Wes-Kaap ...[Tussenwerpsels.] by verre beter vaar as die res van die land, wanneer dit by ekonomiese groei en werkskepping kom, het ons steeds baie werk om te doen. [Tussenwerpsels.] Daarmee stem ons saam en infrastruktuur sal hier 'n massiewe rol speel. Deur strategiese beplanning, verantwoordelike bestuur en doelgerigte fokus op dienslewering verseker ons dat infrastruktuurontwikkeling die kern van ekonomiese groei en werkskepping bly ...[Tussenwerpsels.] selfs vir die Sentraal-Karoo.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die infrastruktuursektor in die Wes-Kaap bly 'n baken van groei en hoop. In die Derde Kwartaal van die huidige finansiële jaar, is 24 000 werksgeleenthede by die sektor gevoeg, wat beteken dat die sektor verantwoordlik is vir amper 56% van alle werksgeleenthede wat in die Wes-Kaap geskep is vir daardie kwartaal. Dit demonstreer die kritieke rol wat infrastruktuur in ons ekonomie speel en bevestig weereens ons provinsie as 'n voorkeurbestemming vir 'n belegging, iets wat ook vir die Karoo moontlik is deur goeie regering. Die jongste arbeidverslag opname het 'n bestendige jaar tot jaar verhoging van 1,5% getoon en ons wil beoog om hierop voor te bou.

'n Verdere bewys van die vertroue wat daar in hierdie Provinsiale Regering onder leiding van ons agb Premier is, agb *Deputy Speaker*, is PPC Cement se belegging van R3 miljard sementaanleg in die Wes-Kaap, om spesifiek te

wees, aan die Weskus-area van die Wes-Kaap. Om voorgesette groei in infrastruktuur te verseker, is die Wes-Kaapse ministeriële Komitee van Infrastruktuur gestig en tot die lewe geroep deur die agb Premier en ek as sy voorsitter het alreeds toegesien dat ons ons eerste vergadering kon saamroep. Hierdie komitee verskaf 'n platform wat deur ons as die Regering die suksesvolle implementering van ons Wes-Kaapse Infrastruktuurraamwerk 2050, die Growth for Jobs strategie, asook die Provinsiale Strategieplan 2025 tot 2030 sal help dryf om ons agb Premier se visie tot lewe te bring.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die lewering van bekostigbare behuising aan begunstigdes is 'n top prioriteit vir hierdie Regering, ongeag wat ons Opposisie sê. In my Departement bly ons daartoe verbind om waardige behuising vir ons mense te verseker. Verlede jaar het ons behuisingseenhede en titelaktes aan begunstigdes, en die agb Premier was saam met my daar, by Metro-gronde in George gelewer. Dit is die eerste van sy soort waar ons 'n sleutel en 'n titelakte op dieselfde dag vir 'n begunstigde kon gee. Ons het hulle weereens waardigheid gegee, maar ook ekonomiese potensiaal ontsluit in daardie gemeenskap.

En in totaal vir die huidige finansiële jaar, ek moet benadruk daar is nog vier weke oor vir die ANC want hulle verstaan nie mooi, hulle het die einde van ons finansiële jaar blykbaar, nè, is daar 5 721 behuisingshede gelewer tot op laas week, 1 184 eerste huisfinansieringsgeleenthede. [Tussenwerpsels.] 451 nie-krediet gekoppelde individuele subsudieë. 3 200 titelaktes is oorhandig, maar waarom is daar nie in die Sentraal-Karoo en Beaufort-Wes nie? Kom,

ek sê vir u.

Wanneer jy nie wil goed beplan nie en jy belê nie in infratruktuur nie, maar almal wil vreet by die trog, dan kan daar nie huise gelewer word nie. Daar kan nie nuwe projekte goedgekeur word nie en daarom moet julle ophou vreet by die trog [Tussenwerpsels.] en begin doen wat 'n regering moet d you'll subsidy oen. Trogvreeters hoort nie in die Wes-Kaap nie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

By die Metro-gronde in George, by Melkhoutfontein, by Railton, Vredewes en Klawer, agb *Deputy Speaker*, het ons 1 387 sonkraggeysers oorhandig aan huishoudings wat ook kwalifiseer as deernisbegunstigdes in daardie munisipale areas. Dit is die omgee van Infrastruktuur onder leiding van hierdie agb Premier in sy regering.

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: We also used the opportunity to deliver the more soft services of our Department, the computers, furniture and care parcels to schools and old age homes. At some of these sites like Huis Johannes, hon Deputy Speaker, through you to hon member Bans, everything that you pointed out just now is a total lie because I myself was in that house less than 24 hours ago. And at the hostel at Laerskool Nelspoort, we ...[Interjections.] launched renovation projects as part of our EPWP based in launch programme.

And you ask what does our hon Premier leave behind as part of the Legislature and government of the day. We made it possible throughout the entire Beaufort West municipal area. There was a pilot project launched

through the EPWP programme; 210 former unemployed youth of the Beaufort West municipal area ...[Interjections.] received work for the next two months and we will ensure that we also capacitate them for the skills. That is what this Government leaves behind. What has the ANC left behind here? Nothing, except sorrow and suffering. Let it sink in for you as the previous party that governed here.

Although the Western Cape ...[Interjections.] is doing way better than the rest of the country, when it comes to economic growth and job creation, we still have a lot of work to do. [Interjections.] With that we agree and infrastructure will play a massive role here. Through strategic planning, responsible management and purposeful focus on service delivery we ensure that our infrastructure development remains the core of economic growth and job creation ...[Interjections.] even for the Central Karoo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the infrastructure sector in the Western Cape remains a beacon of growth and hope. In the third quarter of the current financial year, 24 000 job opportunities were added to the sector, which means that the sector is responsible for almost 56% of all job opportunities created in the Western Cape for that quarter. That demonstrates the critical role that infrastructure plays in our economy and confirms again our province as a preferential destination for an investment, something that is also possible for the Karoo through good governance. The latest labour report survey shows a steady year to year increase of 1,5% and we want to build on this four cough.

A further proof of the confidence in this Provincial Government under the leadership of our hon Premier is PPC Cement's investment of a R3 billion plant in the Western Cape, to be specific, in the West Coast area of the Western Cape. To ensure continued growth in infrastructure, the Western Cape Ministerial Committee of Infrastructure was established and brought to life by the hon Premier and myself as chairman has already seen to it that we convene our first meeting. This committee provides a platform that will help us as Government to drive the successful implementation of our Western Cape Infrastructure Framework 2050, the Growth for Jobs Strategy, also the Provincial Strategy Plan 2025 to 2030 to bring our hon Premier's vision to life.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the delivery of affordable housing to beneficiaries is a top priority to this Government, irrespective of what our Opposition says. In my Departement, we remain committed to ensure worthy housing for our people. Last year we delivered housing units and title deeds to beneficiaries, and the hon Premier was with me there, at Metro grounds in George. It is the first of its kind where we could give a key and title deed on the same day to a beneficiary. We again gave them dignity, but also knew unlocked economic potential in that community.

And in the total for the financial year, I have to emphasize there are still four weeks left for the ANC because they don't understand very well, at the end of our financial year 5 721 housing units were delivered until last week, 1 184 first house financing opportunities [Interjections.], 451 non credit coupled

individual subsidies, 3 200 title deeds were handed over, but why not in the Central Karoo and Beaufort West? Come, let me tell you.

When you do not plan properly and you do not invest in infrastructure but everybody wants to eat at the trough, then houses cannot be delivered. New projects cannot be approved and therefore you need to stop feeding at the trough [Interjections.] and start doing what a government should do. Trough eaters do not belong in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

At the Metro grounds in George, at Melkhoutfontein, at Railton, Vredewes and Klawer, hon Deputy Speaker, we handed over 1 387 solar geysers to households that also qualify as compassionate beneficiaries in those municipal areas. That is the care of Infrastructure under the leadership of this hon Premier in his Government.

But we are also making significant progress in unlocking well-located land for housing, a topic which came out through the ANC and the GOOD parties. But contrary to what they have stated here, they actually know some of the facts because just a week ago I actually appeared before the Standing Committee and I am proud to announce to the citizens of the Western Cape that in March, two of our four inner-city projects are actually going to market. We will be going out to tender. †So, daardie meter eindig vandag oor die inner-city met goeie effek. [So, that meter ends today over the inner-city with good effect.]

With the Tafelberg site, we are now moving forward with the delivery of affordable houses, with the addition of much needed social services on the site in collaboration with our sister Department, the Department of Social Development. Hon Deputy Speaker, but I must pause and focus on the Tafelberg matter itself because the Tafelberg matter specifically and the provision of inner-city housing in general, has been a contentious issue for more than a decade in our province.

Not only in Cape Town, but in all other provinces and metros across our country, the issue of inner-city development. For some reason, hon Deputy Speaker, not only is this Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town targeted for attack, but we are also deliberately obstructed to deliver, actually, on our mandate, and I ask you and the House to consider this, hon Deputy Speaker. There is no 'Reclaim the City' unlawfully occupying public property in Gauteng or in KwaZulu-Natal where housing delivery is actually much poorer than it is in this province. That is a fact.

Hon members of the Opposition on this side [Interjections.] ja, of this very same House who spend money and time on travelling to the Constitutional Court when it deals with Western Cape housing matters, do not do this in the case of other provinces. [Inaudible.] †wonder waarom [wonder why.] These same political parties do not join activist groups and actively participate in protest where they attempt to unlawfully invade public properties in other provinces.

No, no, hon Deputy Speaker, they do it here in the Western Cape which is why I am happy that it is on record that the hon Leader of the Opposition, when he opened up, he affirmed that they stand with these organisations that actively invade and have invaded our land and buildings in our province. [Applause.] They do it in a province, ironically, with a government that has tangible plans in place with accelerated delivery of housing opportunities. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, the drowning commentary is continuing. [Interjections.] I have paused the clock and another reminder. We are in the final ten minutes of this particular debate. Hon Minister Simmers, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: So, I believe and I hope that the Western Cape citizens do realise everything that these parties on this side do, it actually reeks of political opportunism. † Hulle gee niks om vir die massas nie. Hulle verarm die massas. [They care nothing for the masses. They make the masses poorer.] I am, however, very excited, hon Deputy Speaker, that we are making progress with Tafelberg and that it will unlock several other inner-city projects to which I have just alluded.

Two of the four will go to market in March. †weereens dat almal die feite regkry vir Maart. [again that everybody get the facts right for March.] And again, I wish to implore those activists †of hulle noem hulle self ‘activists’ [or they call themselves activists.] †Ek weet nie wat hulle eindelik is nie I

[don't know what they actually are.] And those Opposition parties here today, let petty politics go, hon Opposition. Work with us. Do not work against us. †Julle gaan die pyp baie, baie lelik verkeerd rook aan die verkeerde kant van die toekoms. You are going to smoke [the pipe very, very badly on the wrong end of the future. Four.]

We have the exact same goal in mind, so why can we not work together? Let us actually work together in terms of affordable housing.

†Maar agb Deputy Speaker, die Wes-Kaapse Regering bly ook onwrikbaar in sy verbintenis om 'n veilige en betroubare padnetwerk in ons provinsie te lewer. Daarom moet ek hierdie Huis daaraan onthou dat ons het gesien met die vloede van laasjaar, die McGregor-brug is in rekordtyd herstel. Die Citrusdal-pad in rekordtyd herstel. Waarom doen ons dit? Sodat ons gemeenskappe weer verbind kan word om te verseker dat besighede veilig hulle bedrywighede kan voortsit.

En ek dink vandag ook aan die Malmesbury-ompad, die N7-kruising, die Van Schoorsdrif-pad, die Baden Powell opgraderingsprojek, die Louis Fourie-pad in Mosselbaai en talle andere projekte waarmee ons tans besig is. Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die R640 miljoen Malmesbury-ompad bestaan uit vyf nuwe brûe. Dit is net een projek waarvan ek nou praat en ons is seker ook dat ons werk skep vir 'n totaal van amper 280 werksgeleenthede. Ons gee alreeds 24 plaaslike ondernemings werk en 10 opkomende kontrakteurs. Dit is die verskil as 'n regering wat omgee sy werk doen wat hy moet doen.

Maar, agb *Deputy Speaker*, hierdie en ander multi-miljard rand projekte trek verder as die wêreldklas innovasie wat daarmee gepaard gaan, of bloot nuwe padinfrastruktuur. Hierdie padinfrastruktuur verseker dat, en dit is nou agb Minister Meyer, dat ons produsente hulle goedere vinniger en veiliger by die markte kan kry. Dit is hoekom ons die roetes wil korter maak vir u in die landbousektor.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ons investering in ons padnetwerke het 'n direkte positiewe impak op ons plaaslike ekonomieë wat eindelik tot die skepping van duisende werksgeleenthede lei. En dit is ook duidelik soos wat die agb Premier ook in sy Provinsiale Rede beklemtoon het, dat die Wes-Kaapse Regering amper op sy syfers met werksgeleenthede en die skep van 'n omgewing, 'n provinsie is wat bevorderlik is met ekonomiese groei, wat lei tot meer werksgeleenthede.

In terme van energie en daar is ook daarna verwys. Dit speel 'n kardinale belang om investering moontlik te maak in ons provinsie. En nou hoewel *loadshedding* skielik weer opgeskort is, is dit en besef ons al weereens dit is 'n realiteit. Maar ongelukkig, en maar gelukkig, was die Wes-Kaap se Regering nie selfvoldaan nie en is ons gereed. Ons agb Premier het 'n plan wat geïmplementeer word want ons se twak is nie nat nie. Ons weet wat gedoen moet word op tyd.

Ons energie veerkragtingheidsplan is goed op dreef en ons sien reeds die

resultate. Vroeër vanjaar was ek en die agb Premier op Riversdal waar ons die Riversdal 'n hernubare energieveerkrachtigheidsprojek geloods het. Nou, wat is die impak van daardie enkele projek vir die gemeenskap in Riversdal? Met die aankondiging, ons het nog nie eers die sooie gaan spit nie, agb Premier, en hy het twee groot kettingwinkels alreeds aangedui. Hulle wil hervestig in Riversdal. Dit, as jy vat hoe groot Riversdal is, is per winkel wat daar oop gaan maak meer as 'n honderd werkseleenthede per winkel wat geskep kan word en ons het nog nie eers die sooie gaan spit nie, toe is dit al gedoen. So, hierdie is 'n groot projek vir Riversdal, 'n groot projek vir die Tuinroete Distrik.

†But hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government also remains firm in its commitment to deliver a safe and reliable roads network in our province. Therefore I have to remind this House that we saw that with the floods of last year, the McGregor Bridge was repaired in record time. The Citrusdal road repaired in record time. Why do we do it? So that communities can be linked again to ensure that businesses can resume their activities safely.

And I think today also of the Malmesbury detour, the N7 crossing, the Van Schoorsdrif road, the Baden Powell upgrading project, the Louis Fourie road in Mossel Bay and many other projects that we are busy with currently. Hon Deputy Speaker, the R640 million Malmesbury detour consists of five new bridges. It is just one project I am speaking of now and we are sure that we create work for a total of almost 280 work opportunities. We already give work to 24 local enterprises and 10 emerging contractors. That is the difference when a government that cares does the work that he has to do.

But hon Deputy Speaker, this and other multi-billion rand projects go further than the world class innovation that goes with it, or merely new road infrastructure. This road infrastructure ensures that, and this is now to hon Minister Meyer, that our producers can get their goods to the markets quicker and safely. That is why we want to shorten the routes for you in the agricultural sector.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our investing in our road networks has a direct positive impact on our local economies which eventually leads to the creation of thousands of job opportunities. And it is also clear as the hon Premier emphasised in his Provincial Address, that the Western Cape Government on its figures with job opportunities and the creation of an environment, is a province that is conducive to economic growth, which leads to more job opportunities.

In term of energy, and that has been referred to as well. It plays a cardinal role to enable investment in our province. And now although now loadshedding has suddenly been suspended, it is and we again realise it is a reality. But unfortunately, but fortunately, the Western Cape Government was not complacent and we are ready. Our Hon Premier has a plan that is implemented because *ons twak is nie nat nie*. We know what should be done on time.

Our energy resilience plan is well in place and we already see the results.

Earlier this year, the hon Premier and I were in Riversdal where we launched the Riversdal renewable energy resilience project. Now, what is the impact that single project has on the community in Riversdal? With the announcement we have not even yet turned over the sods, hon Premier, and he indicated two large chain stores. They will relocate to Riversdal. That, if you take the size of Riversdal, is per shop that is going to open there, more than 100 job opportunities per shop that can be created, and we have not even turn the sods then it was already done. So this is the big project for Riversdal, a big project for the Garden Route District.

But hon House members, this is not a pipe dream. A pipe dreams makes this community of Beaufort West in the Central Karoo who are actually well aware of the Dubai in the Karoo. I do want to ask, hon Deputy Speaker, through you to hon member Petrus. He has asked about the V3 report, just like the ANC has asked about the V3 report. Why am I linking this to Dubai?

The High Court in June last year found the PA President, Gayton McKenzie, not Minister Gayton McKenzie, the PA President Mackenzie. He is supposed to come and report to the court. †Hy is gesê, hy het iets verkeerd gedoen, hy moet kom antwoord gee. Hoekom wil hy nie net sy bankstaate wys nie? Waar is die R3 miljoen of is dit dalk [Onhoorbaar.] [He was told he did something wrong, he has to come and account for that. Why does he not just show his bank statements? Where is the R3 million or is it perhaps [Inaudible.]]

†Agb *Deputy* Speaker, wat ons as die Wes-Kaap Regering doen is waar, dit is 'n realiteit, 'n realiteit van wat ons sê gaan ons doen en daardie plan is alreeds in aksie. [Hon Deputy Speaker, what we do as the Western Cape Government is real, it is a reality of what we say we are going to do and that plan is already in action.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Simmers, are you able to take your seat? I see the hon Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, unfortunately, the hon McKenzie, the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, does not have the opportunity to defend himself in this House. So, the hon Simmers must withdraw that or he must come with a substantive motion [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Or he must ask his members in Cabinet in the GNU to raise this with Minister Mckenzie. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Sayed. Hon Minister Simmers, please continue. In terms of the debate, I will definitely not adjudicate on the content that is being shared. Please continue. This is a political debate. Four minutes and 44 seconds.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Again, if a court makes a judgment, you must abide by it. If you do not want to abide by it, deal with the consequences.

Then, in terms of the V3 report. Again, the first people who were on site after our hon Premier ironically are the same two parties that are demanding it come to this House. But they are the same parties who spewed lies and actually tried to incite xenophobia in the community of George. †Julle moet julle vrek skaam, man. Mens doen nie dit nie. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Maar dan, agb *Deputy Speaker*, ek en die agb Premier het 'n verslag oorhandig aan die polisie. Die polisie het 'n mandaat wat die polisie moet uitvoer. Dit is nie my taak nie. Dit is nie die agb Premier se taak nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] En wanneer die polisie sy taak afgehandel het en die inkwisisie is klaar, dan gaan dit deur die res van die proses. So, julle in die Huis moet kalmeer. Gee die polisie hulle spasie om te doen wat hulle moet doen. Dit is hoekom hulle daar is.

So, agb lede, ons is hier in Beaufort-Wes, maar ons het ook vroeër genoem van die EPWP. [You should be ashamed of yourselves, man. One does not do that. Julle moet julle vrek skaam, man. Mens doen nie dit nie. [Interjections.]

But then hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Premier and I handed over a report to the police. The police has a mandate that it must execute. It is not my job.

It is not the hon Premier's job. [Interjections.] And when the police have finished its task, and the inquisition is finished, then it goes through the rest of the process. So, you in the House should calm down. Give the police their space to do what they have to do. That is why they are there.

So, hon members, we are here in Beaufort West, but we have also earlier mentioned the EPWP.] I mentioned the Extended Public Works Programme and the way that we are busy implementing it across our province. I have spoken about our endeavours in this region, and I can add that our province in Phase 4 was only one of four provinces that actually exceeded our five-year target. We are currently in Phase 5, and we are currently the only province who is already exceeding our annual target as well. Why do I say this?

Nearly 84 000 work opportunities. Yes, it is temporary, but our youth have to start somewhere in life. Nearly 84 000 work opportunities were already created. That is over 140% of our annual target and nearly 23 000 fulltime equivalent jobs were created, which is 114% of our target. These figures demonstrate this Provincial Government's commitment in creating opportunities and to expand upon our employment opportunities for our vulnerable communities across our province.

To conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, as the Western Cape Government, all data sets in every sphere on the governing side of this House here said we are stepping up and we are working hard to build a resilient Western Cape with a

growing economy that is rich with job opportunities for all who seek it. Yes, even those who live in the Central Karoo. But they will see this through effective stable local governance. †Nie mense wat trogvreTERS wil wees nie, mense wat werklik hulle kiesers wil dien in belang van almal van die mense.

Duur strategiese investeringe in infrastruktuur, bekostigbare behuising, paaie en verdedigheidsontwikkeling belê ons as die Provinsiale Regering, 'n DA-geleide Provinsiale Regering, lê ons die grondslag vir inklusiewe ekonomiese groei. Ons bou nie net infrastruktuur as party van 'n regering in 'n provinsie nie.

En nou vra ek vir almal van u, die inwoners wat hier sit, die inwoners van Beaufort-Wes, die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap wat ons aanlyn volg: bou saam met ons 'n Wes-Kaap as 'n provinsie wat gevul kan wees met hoop in elke huis, in elke hoek, in elke distrik, in elke munisipaliteit. Dit is nie 'n pypdroom nie, dit is 'n droom wat 'n realiteit kan word as diegene wie ons verkies net doen wat hulle moet doen op plaaslike regeringsvlak.

Saam kan ons 'n provinsie bou wat na beter hoogtes kan gaan. Ja, want ons het 'n hele treurige geskiedenis om te herskryf. Ons kan saam op ons voorspoedige toekoms vir almal beloof wat hierin saam met ons werk, en die agb Premier het vir ons gevra ons moet 'step up'. En nou vra ek die kiesers van die Sentraal-Karoo, die kiesers van die Wes-Kaap, ja, ons gaan *step up*, *but now you need to step up* en stem reg in 2026. Stem blou en ons gaan julle wys ons saam weer saamstap om oor te kan vat. Baie, baie dankie.

...[Applous.] [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Not people who want to be trough feeders, people really want to serve their voters in the interest of all the people.

Expensive strategic investments in infrastructure, affordable housing, roads and defense development we invest as the Provincial Government, a DA-led Provincial Government, we lay the basis for inclusive economic growth. We do not only build infrastructure as a party of a government in a province.

And now I asked all of you, the citizens sitting here, the citizens of Beaufort West, the citizens of the Western Cape following us online; build along with us the Western Cape as a province that can be filled with hope in every house, in every corner, in every district, in every municipality. It is not a pipe dream, it is a dream that can become reality if those who have been elected only do what we have been elected to do at local government level.

Together we can build a province that can go to better heights. Yes, because we have a whole sad history to rewrite. Together we can promise a prosperous future for all that cooperate herein with us, and the hon Premier asked us that we must ‘step up’. And now I ask the voters of the Central Karoo, the voters of the Western Cape, years we are going to step up, but now you need to step up and vote correctly in 2026. Vote blue and we will show you we can walk together to take the road ahead. Thank you very much ...[Applause.] [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order! [Interjections.] Die dame met die mooi rooi rok ... [The lady with the nice red dress ...] That concludes the debate on the hon Premier's State of the Province Address. Business will now be suspended. Hon members and guests are invited to enjoy some refreshments outside under the tents. Guests should please exit right in front of me, the main gates, and hon members to please use the door to my right. The hon Premier's reply to the debate will commence exactly one hour after we have concluded, which is 12:25. The bells will be rung at 12:15 to indicate that hon members and guests should take up their seats. Thank you.

[Business suspended at 12:25.]

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

The House met at 12:25.

The Speaker took the Chair.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER: Order hon members! The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Reply to the debate on the Premier's State of the Province Address.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I will now afford the hon Premier an opportunity to reply to the debate. Hon Premier, I recognise you.

Reply to Premier's State of the Province Address debate

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, as I stand here today after yesterday tabling of the speech, and today listening to the debate with intent, and if you remember yesterday I asked us all to "step up", and I am very happy to see that stepping up became quite a common theme across all of the speakers. Thank you very much for that. [Applause]

Can I also say that I want to thank every single speaker in the debate, for your inputs, for your, I will say constructive criticisms, for your questions asked, for some of the data you put on the table. I really appreciate those inputs. Thank you.

Speaker, I also want to say that throughout today, obviously we listened to those inputs, but in this province we remain resolute and focused on making sure that we are enabling the economy to grow. We are enabling entrepreneurs and businesses to grow. We are enabling them to create more and more and more jobs, and we are enabling our citizens, every single one of our citizens, we are enabling them to be able to step up and get hold of

those jobs, and take those jobs, and get those jobs, because that is how we really start to change this province exponentially.

I also want to say that we must use this platform to be absolutely honest, always. Speaker, I am really looking forward to the day that we have an AI Bot sitting on the side of the screen there that continually checks the data that we use when we stand here and make our speeches, and it turns red when we are not telling the truth, or it turns red when we are very economic with the truth. Because we have to be honest, and unfortunately we do not have that AI facility just yet, so I am going to have to today correct some of those untruths, and I know I am not allowed to use the word lies. So I am going to correct some of those untruths, because they must be corrected. They cannot be left hanging.

Speaker, I think first of all it was very interesting to listen to a number of the speakers, and initially I will deal with some of the themes, but to listen to some of the speakers and how they are talking about DA corruption, and DA failed Government, and DA this and DA that, and it was quite interesting because while they were speaking, I was looking at them thinking, but which party do you represent, and where are you in Government, and what does your track record look like, and it was very, very interesting, because every single time I got that feeling that this was a cover up. This was trying to obfuscate what was actually happening, and quite frankly the election last year, our citizens in our country stood up and said, †genoeg is genoeg [enough is enough] , and they brought about change, and that is why we have

a Government of National Unity.

Because we have got to understand the ANC lost power after 30 years of that constant decline, whether it was a decline in growth rate, or a decline in employment, a decline in hope, the only things that went up in the last 30 years were corruption and thieving, and exactly the opposite of that theme, that cross theme that seemed to come through quite often, and I want to say in the context of Beaufort West and the Karoo, and where citizens of this region find themselves, in that context. Where they too have experienced years and years and years of that kind of government here, they experienced the kind of government under ANC rule and then under ANC / PA coalition rule; and what happened during that time was that continual decline in the ability of their municipality to deliver the services that they deserve.

Turn around takes a long time. It is not a switch. You heard Minister Bredell talk about it. Turn around takes a while. In this Government, the Western Cape Government, we took ten years, the DG sitting there, and our officials are sitting there, because of course politicians have to set policy and direction, but it is the officials that spend day and night focusing on it. It took us ten years to get to that space where we can stand here at the start of a year and say, *†ons departemente het nou weer ‘n jaar waar hulle in totaal, oor die hele departemente en al die entiteite, oudits gekry het wat ongekwalifiseerd is* [our departments now again have a year where they in total, across whole departments and all the entities, received audits that are unqualified.].

That took years and years of focus, dedication, and really hard work. †Dieselfde ding gebeur in ons munisipaliteite, en dit is baie interresant want as jy kyk en jy luister na die President, en wat hy sê oor die Plaaslike Regering, oor ons land wat in krisis is [The same thing happens in our municipalities, and it's very interesting, because when you look and listen to to what the President says about Local Government, about our country that is in a crisis,] then you go and look at the data, and 60% of South Africa's top performing municipalities happened to be in one province, †hierdie provinsie [this province.] 87% of the municipalities in this province are in that unqualified audit space, and that is because of the help that Treasury and the Department of Local Government give to our municipalities. That is how it happens and it takes time and it takes investment, and yes, no government is perfect, and when Malusi Booi gets found to be wanting, we enable the investigation, and we are waiting for that court case, because we allow that to happen, but how many of your politicians post a billion Rand spent [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The PREMIER: ... a billion Rand spent on the Zondo Commission have actually had their day in court [Applause.]. Have actually had their day in court? So do not come here and mention one name, I think you should mention all of those ANC cadres whose names have been mentioned inside that Zondo Report, because that is where the big problem lies in our country,

and that is why the voters decided †dat julle kan nie meer regeer in hierdie land nie [Tussenwerpsel.] [that you can no longer govern in this country anymore [Interjection.]]

†Die SPEAKER: Orde!

[The SPEAKER: Order!]

†Die PREMIER: Julle kan nie meer dit doen nie, [The PREMIER: You cannot do it anymore,] we will make that change and that is exactly what the voters did. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, before you continue, please take your seat. Hon members on my left hand side, you have had an opportunity during the debate to make your points, it is now as per the Rules the opportunity for the Premier to reply. This is not your opportunity to get into a debate with the Premier from the floor while the Premier is on the podium. Hon members, I ask that you allow the Premier an opportunity to respond. There is not just one or two members that made inputs, and it is the right of those members to get the reply from the Premier. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker, thank you. It is interesting to see that those provinces where the municipalities are the worst performing, the ones that have the disclaimers, the worst, absolute worst audit qualification that you can get, a disclaimer, which provinces are the worst performing, the Eastern Cape, the Free State and North West Province, who

runs them? I will leave it there, I will leave it there. [Interjection.]

I want to also say and I said it yesterday, but I am going to repeat it again, I am very proud of this Government's track record on how we operate with open and transparent government. How we believe in taking documents to the people, engaging with those documents and policies and talking about those policies. It is interesting sometimes how many people actually do rock up and add to those policies, especially people who are elected by the citizens and sit on this side of the House and what kind of interaction we get.

But those policies and priorities, the G4J, months and months and months of consultation with our universities, with businesses, with political parties, with citizens to get to a document that is actually showing results and I will get to that shortly.

I look at our Rural Safety Plan and going out across the province engaging with citizens, with CPF's, with the police themselves, with our businesses and agricultural businesses in rural areas, on how we develop those plans.

Our Provincial Strategic Plan, I mentioned it yesterday. You know, when the Provincial Strategic Plan was being formed, we held a PCF, and I am proud of the PCF's that we hold where we bring about a gathering of Provincial Government and every single municipality in this province and we sit together and we talk about the issues that we all face, and we bring National Government into those platforms as well, and when we spoke about our

Provincial Strategic Plan, and Minister Meyer you said we are the only province that has one already finished, finalised, printed, and handed out, at this stage because our other provinces are not doing it, the National Government plan is not even ready yet, I believe on 7 March they will take it to Cabinet for final resolution and hopefully then the National Plan can also be tabled.

But in this very town we held the public consultation on our Provincial Plan, and we got the National Plan to be presented at the same time, and what did we do, we also invited, not only our municipalities across all municipalities of our National Government, we also invited the leaders of the political parties that sit on this side of the House to come and engage, and I am sorry to say that in actual fact only Mr Petrus rocked up and came and gave input into that platform. I did not see any of the other leaders of the political parties in this. But they have a lot to say when they stand here in a debate about the shutting down or not enabling public comment or participation. It does not exist.

We create those spaces and we make them work, and then of course as I have said, First Thursdays, you name it, our open and accessible Government, I gave a long report on it yesterday. I will not be doing anymore now. There were large cross cutting themes and I think the two more themes that I want to talk about, one is crime and the other is jobs.

So crime, it is a big issue, it was raised by many, many members of this

House who were elected by the citizens of this province to represent them and their needs and their will and their understanding of what we are busy with, and perhaps opposition to it, and this is their chance to raise those issues, and I just want to remind the citizens of this province, the citizens joining us here today, but probably more so those members of Parliament who were elected, who swore allegiance to the Constitution, †die mense wat eintlik moet weet wat in ons Grondwet aangaan, hoe prosesse uitgeoefen word [the people who actually should know what goes on in our Constitution, how processes are executed.]

†Julle verstaan nie dat polisie hoort by 'n Nasionale vlak. [You don't understand that policing belongs at a national level.] We have got a National Minister of Police and that is in charge of police, not us. You do not seem to understand that. [Interjection.] So I have to explain it again, again. Ja, it is even not even 101, it seems to be more basic than that [Interjection.] But we do support, we do support the MOU.

I must say that in the previous term we never got anywhere with Minister Bheki Cele, and I am so happy that he was removed. I really want to say that Minister Mchunu, we must give him a chance, he has stepped up immediately and entered into that MOU with us, with the Province, with the municipalities, and National Government with the police, with our criminal justice system, and we have got to give this MOU a chance. We really have to. He has come with a whole new breath of fresh air and we will really work hard.

But the question is and I heard the jargon and we have heard it so many times, sometimes someone will stand up here and go, “crime is out of control and you need to do more and stop spending money on LEAP. You should not be spending money on LEAP, but crime is out of control and you need to do more, and you need to fix crime.”

Again less than 101, you need to understand that this Province is stepping up into that space because our citizens are hurting, our children are getting shot every single day due to gang violence. It is totally unacceptable and I cannot believe that this House is still saying in these interjections, “so what are you doing about it?” That exact same person said, “stop spending the money on LEAP.” [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon members, this is the last warning to the members on both my left and right hand side. Interjections are allowed, but this is now becoming running commentary. It is the opportunity for the Premier to reply to the debate. It is not only just for the members in this House. There are citizens waiting and watching for the reply of the Premier. We have an obligation to ensure that the citizens are able to hear the reply from the elected representatives that are representing them here in this House. Hon Premier, you may continue and my apologies for the interruption.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, perhaps what I must

say is just put a few facts on the table.

So first of all in our province, as of today we have 16 224 SAPS police officers on duty in our province. Those are the police officers that are assigned to fight crime in this province. If you look to police to population ratios, what we should have is 26 000 police officers, 10 000 more, not because of the province, because of National Government, because of the ANC at National Government, but I said we will give that Minister a chance.

We heard from members about police to population ratio, and I absolutely agree, it is totally unacceptable when the areas of our province with the highest crime rate get the lowest police allocation. Unacceptable! Will the members of this House, please through their members that are elected at the National Assembly space, raise those specific issues, because it is there at a National level where those divisions are made, where those allocations are made.

I have said it year after year after year, do you know they can change it in one hour. They can say, "from one hours' time we will not have 1 to 1 200, 1 police officer to 1 200 citizens in Cloeteville, we will change that and we will move police officers from Claremont to Cloeteville." They can do it immediately. We cannot do it, but National can do it. So please raise it there, I know you raise it here year after year, I also raise it nationally year after year, let us get it done there. Stand up, you were elected to represent the citizens of this province, you make a lot of noise about how crime is hurting

our citizens, do your job, get the data and facts in your hands and go and deal with a problem where it lies. That is your responsibility, just as much as it is mine.

“So what are you doing?” they say. So let us just draw one or two of these statistics. I spoke yesterday about the Institute for Security Studies, an international organisation that measures our Safety Plan. Not us measuring our own Safety Plan, not a provincial organisation measuring the Safety Plan, an international organisation measuring our Safety Plan. There it is. I did not have the document, I only had it in soft copy.

But you know what, Hanns Bühler from the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Germany drove here yesterday and sat in this very House, I did not see him unfortunately; I wish I had seen him, because I would have really thanked him for the work that they are doing. I did not see him, but yesterday evening he brought me a full printed copy of that ISS Report, and this report says what works for hotspot patrols in Cape Town, promoting higher performance policing.

What we have been talking about from the beginning, data and evidence, and that data and evidence allows you to, as Minister Marais said, “change your mind, try something new, move from 10 areas to six areas, put a roving group of 120 LEAP officers so you can send them into hot spots, you got to keep doing different things to stay ahead of the criminals, trying new things”, and this document...

Those members who raised those questions on policing, call for this document, call for it in your Standing Committee, interrogate the document, ask for the detail, ask these international people who came here and monitor our crime hot spots, walked on the streets in our crime hotspots, ask them the questions. Yes, let us actually get those committees.

But I will just draw one page out of it, and this one page you can see two graphs, and of course if you are measuring something you will know in statistics you have got to have a control, somewhere where you do not intervene, and then somewhere where you intervene. So we only intervene in certain areas in this province where crime rates and murder rates are the absolute highest.

We do not intervene or send LEAP officers to areas where crime is low; we send it to the worst areas where our citizens suffer every day because their kids are getting shot. That's where they are, and we also run next door, in a next door neighbourhood, a control to see what happens when you do nothing, and what happens when you do something, and it is interesting, this strategy reduced contact crime five times more than business as usual policing.

This is where LEAP officers are deployed and we do data led policing evidence and dispatch, and putting officers on the ground where the data says, at 11:00 at night and not at 8:00 in the morning, at a certain street

crossroad because that is the highest crime rate area of that specific area. We monitor those vehicles with GIS mapping to see who is in the area and who is out the area. They get a radio call to say you have moved out of the patrol area, why?

We make sure, and all of that is in this document, you will see how our plan is being effected, and this is the real data, so in the control we did get a lower rate and we all know, and Minister you spoke about it, and two days ago the crime stats for this province were released, where crime did come down in this province. We are no longer the murder capital of South Africa, although 4 000 murders every year is just totally, totally unacceptable, that is why I really would love devolution of policing powers so we can take real control of policing and do what we are doing here on a grand scale across this province.

But where we intervened with our programmes the drop was 15% in those hotspots, not 3%, 15%. So is the LEAP programme working? Yes, and here is the data to back it up. Do your homework as Members of Parliament before you come to debates. Get the data, get the evidence, because then we can really engage meaningfully with proper, proper oversight, and not just saying things randomly. This is the graph that shows what I have just spoken about, about deployment of SAPS officers, this is the graph that shows you the 16 224 SAPS officers that are deployed to our province.

But perhaps at the same time another international organisation called the

Global Initiative draws this document, global initiative against transformational organised crime, gangsters at war. Get this document; get it in your Standing Committee. Read it, so that when we get into these parliamentary debates we do so with proper evidence, with proper data that backs it up.

Look at the *Africa In The World – Thematic Futures*, another document given to us by the ISS, a really interesting document that talks about policing and the change of policing globally and referencing us here in this region. That is how we need to engage, proper data led evidence.

Speaker, the next theme before I get to individuals, oh perhaps maybe the last one, and I did mention this yesterday on crime statistics, and the question was asked, and I will reference the individual members just now, but I think it was the Hon Cassiem that said we only send our LEAP officers to the leafy suburbs, not to the crime hotspots, she is absolutely 100% data incorrect, and if I look at those areas that we send the LEAP officers to add extra reinforcements to the SAPS officers, and the increase in drug arrests directly getting to gangsterism in our region – in Khayelitsha, the increase in drug arrests after the changing of the concentration of extra LEAP officers into those areas, the arrests went up by 62%, in Philippi by 333%, and in Delft by 43%, and in Gugulethu by 114%, ...[Interjections.] not in the leafy suburbs. We need to get the data correct.

Hon Speaker, then I need to talk about jobs and also, it was a theme that ran

through many of the inputs and as I said right in the beginning, we will be focused. We will be, I think hon Minister said, we will be obsessed with jobs, and we are obsessed with jobs because we have to be.

I remember the President standing up, proudly announcing how we had gone from 19 million citizens on grants to 20 million citizens on grants. Of course, we must have a social net and if a citizen cannot make ends meet, we must actually have that grant to support them. But it is nothing to brag about when your country is going up in grants. We should be going down in grants because people are going up in jobs. In this province, no matter what, we will remain obsessed on making sure we build an ecosystem that more and more people can get a job in this province.

And there again, go and have a look at the data. Go and have a look at province by province across and it is STATS SA data. Go and have a look at the changes in province by province. It is glaringly obvious which province makes the biggest difference in South Africa when it comes to employment. Go and have a look at the changes in unemployment rates in South Africa and who sits right at the top and a broadening or widening gap. In other words, it is getting better and better, year after year in this province compared to any other province. Which province is getting better and better? It is this province, and it is exponentially getting better in this province. That is why more and more people come here. That is why more and more people want to come here for healthcare, for education and to try and get a job.

If you have a look at the Western Cape which has now the highest average household income in South Africa, that red line is the Western Cape. It is streaking ahead of Gauteng which in actual fact, Gauteng should be the engine room of the economy in our country. That is why the DA should be running Gauteng and not the ANC.

I saw a photograph the other day of Gauteng, years and years after that explosion in the middle of the city with that gas explosion. Looking at it what it looks like and thinking about years later, they have not repaired a main road in the middle of the engine room of the economy of our country. We are welcoming the G20 to come and visit us, and you cannot even get down the road, let alone the litter and whatever else lies around, as opposed to hon Minister Simmers, within days on site, within days building new bridges after they get washed away. Fixing the problem quickly, efficiently without corruption, getting the job done as opposed to the supposed engine room of our economy in our country.

We have the highest household income; we have the highest human development index and all of these statistics you can see the province exponentially getting better and better. That is why the citizens in this province decided, unlike in the rest of South Africa or South Africa itself saying to the ANC, you do not get a majority anymore. In this province, they said to the DA, 'ons hou van wat julle doen. Gaan maar aan. Hou by die blou' [we like what you're doing. Carry on. Stick to the blue] and they gave us that mandate once again. We will go to work every single day, moving

those needles, growing exponentially more and more and making the biggest difference that we can.

I did hear mention, and I generally talk about just the unemployment rate or the employment rate, or the 2 million more people in jobs, or the 62 000 more people who got jobs in our country. You look at this graph and you can just see again: I wonder which bar, that top bar is on the graph? Which province is it? [Interjections.] Which province ...[Interjections.] wait a second, which province is the province that is delivering on it where in every single one of those graphs it is just an unbelievable story.

This is the one that tells the best story, and it is very interesting at the National Cabinet Lekgotla, when Treasury is talking about ...[Interjections.] the country and they put this slide up. You hear how every other province is trying to make excuses of why this province is doing what it does. But look, narrow and expanded, both of those are less than the closest other province's narrow. [Interjections.] Both of them and every other province which is ANC run just gets exponentially worse and worse and worse and worse. [Interjections.]

I did hear a comment about the youth. The Western Cape was the only province to reverse youth unemployment in South Africa. [Interjections.] The Western Cape province was the only province to reduce youth unemployment in South Africa. [Interjections.] Have a look how exponentially it changes in this province because of our policies, because of

our programmes, because of our interventions, because of the opportunities that we give to young people in this province. No other province managed to get anywhere near this kind of report, only this one ...[Applause.] And it is only this province †wat blou is! Net hierdie provinsie! ...[Applous.] Die ander provinsies is nie blou nie. [that is blue! Just this province! [Applause.] The other provinces are not blue!] [Interjections.]

The Western Cape has the highest percentage of dwellings with piped water. The Western Cape has the highest percentage of dwellings that have refuse removal. The Western Cape has the highest percentage of residents with flushed toilets and every single one of these indicators across the board, show that there is only one province that stands out and that gets better every single year. It is this province and not the provinces of the people that spoke on this side of the House in this debate.

Hon Speaker, before I get to the hon Leader of the Opposition, I just wanted to refer to a number of the speakers, primarily on this side of the House, to thank them very much for their inputs. As I said in the beginning, we have to make sure we listen to every single person. We take what people have said and we have written down all of these. I have written them down in my own hand, but I was having a look at a spreadsheet that has already been created by my office that shows every single input from every single hon member in this debate, what they spoke about, so that we can actually have a look and see how we can have even a more considered response to this debate. Not just one hour while you were having a break, me going to have a look at how

I could answer some of those questions.

But the hon Van Minnen, thank you very much. Specifically, a fair share of the budget. We will keep fighting for that. You spoke about the hotspot strategy. Thank you very much for your inputs and we have got to keep focusing on our people, as you say, making the biggest difference we can.

The hon Bryant, thank you very much for your input, specifically linked to poaching and the message that we have just had about crime. It is integrated in the criminal activities of our province. The gangsters on the Cape Flats that are peddling drugs to our kids are actually linked through to the poaching syndicates and we have got to break the back of that specifically.

You spoke about the City of Cape Town paying back R55 million to its citizens for electricity bought and I cannot wait for this municipality to also be in that position. After they have stabilised their financial system, and after they have got all of that good governance in place, I am pretty certain they will then be the next town that is going to get investment into solar panels, that is going to get investment that they can start paying their citizens for power. I really look forward to that day.

You also spoke about recycling of water which is critical, and this municipality leads in that space. The next municipality that is investing, in actual fact, is Cape Town in the biggest recycling plant on the African continent, but I believe, actually maybe in the world. The World Bank is

partnering with them. So, what you have done here and pioneered in this municipality, they are going to be rolling out in the City of Cape Town as a mega plant of making sure. As hon Minister Bredell says, 'we use the water more than once.' We will not go into how that gets used, but we use it more than once.

The hon Sileku, thank you very much. You spoke about bikes, and I heard some comments about cycling. I would very much like maybe a couple of you to join me and let us cycle back to Cape Town. That probably would be quite a good call. I would really enjoy that. [Interjections.] I really would.

But mobility is about everything. It is about walking and how we are safe on our roads. So many people that get killed on our roads are actually pedestrians. Pedestrians walking on our roads. We have got to be safe whether we are walking, whether we are catching a train, whether we are in a taxi or in a car or on a bike or on a horse, as you say. We have got to get safe and thank you very much for your programmes of road safety. You said mobility: the essence of freedom! I absolutely agree with you on that.

The hon Nkondlo, thank you very much for your inputs. You spoke about jobs per household. Go and have a look at that data. You will see that this province has the most jobs per household out of any province in South Africa. I also really liked the part that you spoke about Ghandi and his statement about how we treat the most vulnerable in society, and I agree with you 100%. It is how we treat the most vulnerable in our society.

While you were saying it, I just thought: SASSA. The most vulnerable people in our society rely on SASSA and what a disaster that is. I mean, such a disaster! I know the hon Londt is really working hard at trying to expand the hours in our ability to get cards. I know we are trying to expand the number of places to change it, but now it is cards. Last time it was just failure to pay. It is just a total mess!

I think about not only SASSA and the most vulnerable, I think about our students and NSFAS. Yesterday, and I see the hon Benson is not here, but yesterday we were. But the hon Leader of the Opposition was there where young people were talking about NSFAS and how that impacts them unbelievably. Quite frankly, when you were saying about how we treat our most vulnerable, NSFAS also comes to mind. I will talk just now about how I think we should remedy that.

The hon Marais, thank you very much for the role that you play in dealing with crime, getting our rural Safety Plans also linked to the City and knowing that it is not only in the City. The more we put focus on the City, it bleeds out into our rural areas. You also mentioned the crime stats of coming down. So, thank you very much for the daily work that you put in to building a safer society.

The hon Bredell, thank you very much. Maybe I should not go to the Dubai corruption, but you know, you really spoke. You spoke about State Owned

Enterprises and their efficiencies versus bailouts. You also spoke about water, water issues, climate change. Real critical issues. You spoke and I also mentioned earlier, about the recycling of water. But critically, I think the most important thing that you mentioned is the work that is busy happening at the moment. We are not ready to announce it because of course again, we are waiting for budgets, and it does cost money to do it. But what you call the 'dignity basket'.

I really like that and thank you very much for the work that you are already doing on it. The 50 kilolitres is not enough. It is not enough for poor households. How can we lift that to 100 kilolitres or 150 kilolitres? I know that Stellenbosch has already put it to 100 kilolitres and that is really nice to see. So, that is a municipality that is proactively looking after the poorest of the poor. I wonder who runs that municipality, but anyway. Looking after the poorest of the poor and it is going to be good to see and see what that does in households, how that protects households.

But of course, electricity is the big thing. We know that over the last ten years, 650% has been the increase in the electricity prices. We know that the hon Minister of Finance, hon Minister Baartman sent me some detail on this municipality's electricity plan on monitoring, on payment. I think you said to me 84%. National Treasury want us to get to 95%. We are way short still in this municipality, but that means you have got to get the processes right.

You cannot get a payment from an indigent household. It is not possible.

But then you must go through the process of applying for your indigent status and you will then be excluded from the programme, or you will be. Hopefully, the dignity basket kicks in and we can say well how do we give you. The suggested is can we move this up to 150 units per household per month. We really will work hard on seeing whether that is a possibility but thank you for the work on that.

†Ek weet jy is baie passievol as dit kom by treine en ek weet as daardie treine gewerk het, seker die helfte van ons sou hier opgedaag het saam met die trein en weer terug gegaan het saam met die trein. Ek sien uit na die dag wanneer dit gaan gebeur. Die agb Minister sit net agter jou wat dit gaan help uitsorteer. Hy is besig om daarmee te werk saam met ons nasionale Minister en ons munisipaliteite. [I know you are passionate when it comes to trains and I know that if those trains were working, perhaps half of us would have arrived here with the train and have gone back with the train. I look forward to the day when that is going to happen. The hon Minister is sitting right behind you who is going to help sorting that out. He is busy working on that along with our national Minister and our municipalities.]

Hon Minister Simmers, thank you very much for your input. Your statistic, 56% of jobs come out of the infrastructure sector. That is a really nice number. So, we know, in the last 62 000 jobs, the majority of those 62 000 jobs were actually in the infrastructure sector. It is a critical component of building an economy. If you do not get the infrastructure right, the economy fails. Just ask South Africa. When the electrical infrastructure fails, we have blackouts and a downturn in the economy, and we get negative growth rates

until we get to a 0,4 or a 0,8 GDP growth rate which does not give us the money for education and health because our taxpayers cannot carry the burden.

Of our tax income, 60% comes from less than 1 million taxpayers in South Africa! I mean, that is just an unbelievable, unsustainable number. We have got to change that, and we do that by investing properly in infrastructure.

You also spoke about the rule of law. The Tafelberg site, the rule of law. I will say a little bit more about that just now. But if we do not base everything we do in the rule of law, that has got to be your fundamental bottom line: the rule of law. So, you should not be leading illegal land invasions because that does not stick with the rule of law. When you break that, you break the whole system. We have got to have the rule of law as the basis.

Then, the next level up on the pyramid is good governance, safety, energy, water. It is interesting how when you look at that, that is where the failures sit and that is where this Government intervenes. That is why we get all of those statistics and data that you see behind me.

But let me give some of the individuals one or two inputs. So, the hon Leader of the Opposition, thank you very much for your input today. I do not know. I mean, you have got to be, we have got to be humble here. I wanted to say that I thought your press statement leading up to this State of the

Province Address, sorry. I thought that your press statement was excellent. It was a very good press statement. Your speech should have carried in the same trend, but ...[Interjections.] but we will ...[Interjections.] but I value it and I thank you very much for it.

I wanted to say that, and I have said it earlier, that you had a lot to say about corruption. But you know, while you were speaking, I was looking at you thinking wow, you know. The party you come from is almost the party of corruption and so, I, it was a bit difficult for me, but I take it from where it comes. I must say that, and I have spoken about it already, but that is exactly what our Treasury and our Local Government do specifically in our local governments where we do have corruption. We really work hard to try and get rid of it.

Of course, it can happen in any municipality. In any municipality, but when it happens, we need to deal with it, we need to get it into a court of law, we need the law to follow through. I have spoken about that bottom line of the rule of law and then actions must happen, and there must be consequences wherever it raises its head.

I also want to say that where those municipalities are working, for example in this very municipality and thank you to Treasury and the Local Government in working with Eskom in writing off some of that debt. So, R25 million worth of electricity debt owed by this municipality to Eskom has been written off. That means, this municipality has been given a little gap, †n gaping.

Hulle kan 'n bietjie asemhaal [a gap. They can breathe a little.] Do not waste that opportunity, do not waste that gap. Use that gap to get this municipality to that next level again because we want every single one of our municipalities to be high-performing municipalities with good governance. The rule of law as a base. So, then, they will, over time, get to the good governance results.

I told you it took us ten years. Hopefully, it takes only a few years in this government, in this local municipality to get your governance right, to make sure that you have got the right people doing the right job for the right people in the right place. Not stealing the money. Making sure the services are being delivered and then what happens is you change everyone's lives. You give better service delivery and that really makes a difference.

You had a lot to say, the hon Sayed, about well basically, about the Gini coefficient, about the gap between rich and poor. Again, as I said earlier on, we must always base what we say on data and evidence. Go and just Google Gini coefficient by province in South Africa. You do not have to do anything else. Just Google Gini coefficient by province in South Africa and the Google will tell you in the first AI component of Google reply, it will say the Western Cape has got the lowest Gini coefficient in South Africa. [Applause.]

That means the gap between rich, and poor is the best in this province. Why? Because of all of that data on how we create a better economy, jobs and

opportunity for people. That is how you narrow the Gini coefficient. Not the way you do it in North West, not the way you are doing it in the Eastern Cape. It is not working. You have been doing it there for 30 years: it is not working. Follow some of these recipes. We are not perfect yet and it is still a very high Gini coefficient, but it is way better than any other province. [Interjections.] That is not spinning. That is ...[Interjections.] No, it is not spinning! It is true, correct data. Go and have a look at it for yourself. [Interjections.]

Then, thirdly, and I think the hon Simmers in his reply, did deal with you on the George building collapse, but let me say it again. Let me say it again. When a building like that collapses and it is such a major horrific disaster, when that happens the law is quite specific on who should be investigating such a failure of construction. It should be SAPS, number one, because people lost their lives. They are the now apex responsible entity for that George building collapse investigation. They remain apex. Because what has got to happen and I am saying it now, consequences for that collapse must happen through the courts of law and people who failed our citizens must go to jail. [Interjections.] Must go to jail. So, SAPS is apex.

Then, of course, the Department of Labour has a very critical role to play here. Where is the Department of Labour? Where is their investigation? Have any of you ever asked for that investigation, ever? Where is the NHBRC? Where is their investigation? These are statutory bodies who should be investigating this. [Interjections.] †Niks nie! [Nothing!] Zippo!

But when I got there on day 1, and say what was happening, the shock and horror of that collapsed building, I really got super concerned. Then, I looked at what was happening on the site and that was quite interesting.

Hon Minister Bredell at one stage standing next to the PC with the Department of Labour walking onto the site saying, 'okay guys, this is our site. All of you guys, off site. We are now managing it.' And SAPS said to them, 'we will arrest you. These guys are rescue workers and disaster management, and they are saving lives on this site. You shut up and go and stand on the side.' They did not even know what they were doing when they arrived at that site, let alone ever getting to some kind of investigation. Straight away that evening, I said I think we need to put in an investigation.

Hon Minister Simmers, †baie, baie dankie vir jou departement [thank you very much for your Department.] They jumped up, they stepped up, they procured the services of an engineering firm who started then immediately testing the concrete, testing the reinforcing, photographing. Calling for outside players to bring photographs. Looking at plans, the changing of plans. They went into a super deep investigation. That investigation report, not all the documentation, just the report is this thick. They really did produce an outstanding report that will give us the consequences in the court of law, that people must go to jail. People who are responsible wherever they lie. I do not care. If they were responsible for a failure, they need to be charged, they need to go and have their day in court and if they are found wanting, they must go to jail. That is what has got to happen out of this

report.

Now, I promise you, it will not help at all if we suddenly hold an open public hearing and Standing Committees and start interrogating the veracity of this report before it has even gotten into a court of law. That does not make any sense to me ...[Interjections.] at all. That does not make any sense to me at all. We engaged. In actual fact, I promise you, I would have loved to have said, 'we have done the report and we are now going to make it public, and we are going to go to town on it.' As a politician, that would have been wonderful, but that would have been so stupid because we would have really sabotaged the proper process which is a legal court of law process.

So, that is why we asked for legal counsel when the report was finished. And remember, it was not just the report of those that were procured. They then went and had it peer-reviewed and then on that report we had legal counsel. What do we do with the report? They said that apex entity, because people died, is SAPS. They have to do the investigation and the best thing to do is to hand that report to SAPS. That was our legal advice, and we followed that legal advice.

SAPS advice to us was exactly the same: please give us that report. When we handed it over to General Patekile, he had the whole investigation team in the Cabinet room, and hon Minister Simmers and I handed over that copy to SAPS who have now taken it away and added it to their investigation. I cannot wait for those charges to be laid.

Once that has happened and it is a public document in court, then you can interrogate us on how it was procured, what the results were, whether the investigation was proper or not. I have no problem with that whatsoever. Then, you will play your role as oversight, and I will give every single one of you a copy of that document. No problem at all, but I will not allow the investigation to be sabotaged.

I will give you something else that no-one knows here. [Interjections.] The Human Rights Commission have also said, 'we want a copy now of this report.' So, what I have done is I have said to them our advice was we hand it to SAPS. Please ask SAPS for that as the Human Rights Commission. They have come back and said, 'no, no, no, we want it.' Our legal advice again said we cannot give it and what we have done now is we have asked SAPS to please let us know whether we can give it to the Human Rights Commission.

I would say to you, if you really want it as a political party, or if you really want it as a Standing Committee, write to SAPS and ask them can you have a copy. Let us get out then. Try the process. Let us see what happens. [Interjections.] I will not jeopardise a legal process where we want to have those responsible in court ...[Interjections.] and making sure that they get their day in court.

Hon Speaker, I know I am trying to answer this debate, and I know people

want to get back to Cape Town, but I have just had a jibe, and I think I must answer it like I did with Fritz. I promise you, every single day the Fritz report burns me like anything because I gave my word to the individuals who said to me, 'we will come forward.' They went and there was an independent investigation. I cannot wait for those individuals to say, 'let us go to court' because then, it becomes a public document. Right now, it is not a public document, and you can do whatever you like. You can summons me. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No.

The PREMIER: Try and get it.

An HON MEMBER: I am not saying that.

The PREMIER: Try and get it through a summons. I would gladly give it to you if the courts say 'hand it over'. [Interjections.] But you know very well that cannot happen.

With Mnqasela, of course, I had to hand all of that. Well, I did not. In actual fact, hon Minister Simmers handed Mnqasela's documents over to the police. Quite frankly, you should ask your very own Parliament of the money that he took, how much has he repaid. I have already given those details to this House. [Interjections.] He is already admitted guilt by repaying the money that he had taken.

The hon Petrus, thank you very much for your inputs. I do want to say something about illegal foreigners and there is a big difference between illegal foreigners and legal foreigners. Of course, illegal foreigners are illegal. They should not be here. They need to be managed through Border Management Control. [Interjections.] They need to be sent home if they are illegal. [Interjections.]

But, but what I do not approve of is when we just sweep it all up into random statements and start promoting xenophobia because that does not help our country one bit. [Interjections.] In actual fact, many, many foreigners who are here legally play an immensely important role in our economy and we welcome them. We welcome them. But that is the big difference between legal and illegal foreigners.

Again, I said it earlier, the rule of law is where it all sits. As long as the rule of law is always applied, we will then be able to build and go forward.

You also spoke about †hulp vir munisipaliteite [support for municipalities.] I can say that we obviously try to help wherever we can. I have spoken about how local government and Treasury help out. †Ek kan selfs sê in daardie een munisipaliteit waar jou party en regering is, waar julle totaal opgemors het in Knysna. Ek gaan nie meer iets sê daaroor nie, behalwe die R40 miljoen van provinsiale belastingbetalers se geld wat ons eindelijk daar ingepomp het om dinge reg te maak sodat mense kan ten minste water en [Onhoorbaar.] kry, dat

die mense te minste die basiese dienste kan kry want jou party ongelukkig het die hele plek opgemors. [I can even say in that one municipality Ek kan selfs where you party is in government, where you have totally messed up in Knysna. I'm not going to say anything more about it, except the R40 million of provincial taxpayers' money that we eventually pumped in there to rectify things so that people can at least get water and [Inaudible.], that the people at least get the basic services because your party unfortunately made a mess of the whole place.] So ja, we do try and help local governments where we can.

Then, the hon Johnson, thank you very much. You spoke about the Financial Recovery Plan and I have already mentioned that in our province, it took us ten years to get the audits right. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication, †en die selfde gaan gebeur hierso in hierdie munisiapliteit. Dit gaan nie oor nag gebeur nie. Dit vat tyd om jou sisteme in plek te kry, om die mense in plek te kry wat gaan sorg dat die sisteme werk, dat die dienste kan gegee word. Dat die geld wat moet in, moet inkom en waar dit moet betaal word, dit word betaal. [And the same is going to happen here in this municipality. It is not going to happen overnight. It takes time to get your systems in place, to get the people in place that are going to see to it that systems work, that services can be delivered. It is critical that we get that right. That the money that must come in, must come in and where it must be paid, that it is paid.]

Of course, between you and perhaps the input from the hon Bans who also spoke a lot about this municipality and people in this municipality. So, I

think between your input and the hon Bans' input, I do want to say that we have to ask ourselves the question why. †Hoekom is hierdie munisipaliteit in die posisie wat hulle nou in is? [Tussenwerpsels.] [Why is this municipality in the position it is in now?] [Interjections.] How did it get here? [Interjections.] I will tell you if you do not know. I hope you do know, but I will tell you because it seems as though you do not know.

When you have years and years of ANC corrupt management [Interjections.] where you put †vriende en maatjies in plek wat nie die werk kan doen nie, waar jy geld steel [friends and mates in place who cannot do the work, where you steal money.] Where you do not do the right thing in the interests of the citizens, where you really mess up year after year after year, never really taking your responsibility and your allegiance and your swearing to the Constitution honestly and affectively, the municipality does this. The problem is †hoe dieper dit gegaan het, hoe langer gaan dit vat om by die ander kant van die drif uit te kom [the deeper it went, the longer it is going to take to get to the other side of the drift.]

But luckily ...[Interjections.] and †ja, te danke aan die kiesers. Hulle besluit genoeg is genoeg in hierdie munisipaliteit en hulle het verandering gebring! En so, dankie vir hulle. Dit gaan tyd vat. Ons sal definitief vir julle op hoogte hou van alle prosesse hoe dit verander. Die ekstra hulp wat ons gaan gee as Provinsie om hierdie munisipaliteit te help voorentoe gaan want dit is baie belangrik dat ons hierdie mense van die Karoo daardie kans gee, daardie hulpstootjie gee om hulle volle potensiaal te kan uitlewe. [yes, thanks to the

voters. They decide enough is enough in this municipality and they brought about change! And so, thank to them. It's going to take time. We will definitely keep you posted of all processes how it's changing. The extra assistance that we will provide as Province to help this municipality go forward because it's very important that we give these people of the Karoo that chance, that little push to live to their full potential]. That is what we have got to do.

But we have got to ask ourselves the question why. Why did that happen? I know why because of bad, horrendous government. You know, the hon Bans I think, also spoke about it, about electricity. I think the previous speaker and hon Petrus also spoke about it. I think about this town and its ability to have solar power into the grid. You know, I saw a press release once with a whole lot of solar panels being delivered in the desert. [Interjections.] It was unbelievable! †Hierdie munisipaliteit gaan die eerste wees ...[Tussenwerpsels.] die eerste wees met hulle eie kragopwekking. Ongelooflik! Groot persvergadering, pers van regoor die land, trokke, [This municipality is going to be the first [Interjections.] the first with their own power generation. Unbelievable! Large press meeting, press from all over the country, trucks,] solar panels. Unbelievable! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: A weekend special!

The PREMIER: A weekend special. †Die volgende week kom daardie trokke weer terug, laai weer op en gaan huis toe. [The next week those trucks come

back again, load again and go home.] [Laughter.] †Dololo! Nothing! That is not how you govern. You cannot do it like that. You have got to be honest; you have got to have integrity and you have got to deliver with meaning because that is what changes peoples' lives. You cannot come here with false promises of Dubai in the desert and tar factories †en ek weet nie wat anders nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] [and I don't know what else.] [Interjections.] †Dit werk nie so nie. Maar ek sien die mense van hierdie dorp het bymekaar gestaan en daardie trawante uitgejaag uit die dorp uit. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dankie! [Applous.] Ek hoop my stem gaan nog hou. Ek weet julle wil ry, maar, [It does not work like that. But I see the people of this town stood together and chased those henchmen out of town. [Interjections.] Thank you! [Applause.] I hope my voice will still hold. I know you want to take off, but] the hon Cassiem.

Thank you very much for your input. I said we have got to be truthful. We have got to make sure we have the correct data. I spent a lot of time on that data. I promise you, your input: you need to go and have a look at Hansard. We do not have that AI test yet, but maybe I should just run your speech through AI and see what it says. But your speech was very data poor. Your research is very short on facts and quite frankly, I think the racist stance of your speech is actually not acceptable in this province. We should reject those kinds of speeches in this province.

We need to be honest with each other. We need to point out where things are failing, but we also need to be truthful [Interjections.]. We need to make

sure we say the right things.

What you were saying about your crime stats were totally misleading and unacceptable. Please, please, please, ask you researcher to have a look at this document so that they empower you with the right facts. [Interjections.]

I also want to say one other thing that I thought was unacceptable. You cannot ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...stand here in a parliament where the Constitution has asked you to swear allegiance to it, where you are elected as an hon member and actually stand here and promote unlawful activities of crimefighting with PAGAD. You cannot do that! PAGAD is absolutely welcome to help the police and make sure we do the right thing, but you cannot promote unlawful activity. The rule of law is the basis of any performing economy and any performing citizenry. We have got to make sure we stick to that and stick to the Constitution and what the Constitution enables us to do. A state that has the rule of law.

The hon Jacobs, †ek is jammer dat jy is nie nou hier nie, maar [I'm sorry that you are not here now, but] the same thing. I am sorry. You were very data poor in your speech. I mean, the high lying things, as you talk about the murder rate of 3 000 people. It is over 4 000 people which is totally

unacceptable, and that number is the number that drove me in this province to say we cannot be a province with only oversight over policing. We must intervene in different ways, and that is where the Safety Plan comes from. So, we cannot have fabricated stats. We need to have real stats, and I think that is overall, one of the general messages here.

And then of course, we must tell the truth. That is always something now. Of course, I cannot give you the exact areas where you were very economical with the truth. I do not have that AI tool yet. But where I can tell you categorically and honestly that my children definitely did not go to a private school. They went to government schools.

Then, the hon Philander, thank you very much for your inputs. I think again what I said earlier about NSFAS and thank you very much for the agitation and the drive, along with the Minister, put into the most vulnerable citizens in our system, in our province. Thank you, thank you, for what you do there.

I think here is where, as the Chair in the Committee, this is where I think we should actually, with the support from this side of the House in the Committee, I think we actually need to get the Minister responsible for SASSA to come and report to our Standing Committee on what is happening. What are they going to do to fix it? It cannot happen again. The most vulnerable in our society as hon member Nkondlo said repeating what Ghandi's words were. It is how we treat them and how SASSA and the way that SASSA is rolling out is exactly how we should not be treating the most

vulnerable in our society.

And while you have got them here talking about SASSA, I think at the same time let us get the Minister here to come and report on NSFAS as well because those are also very vulnerable citizens in our society. I look forward to attending that Standing Committee while the two Ministers are explaining their way out of why they are not supporting our citizens in those two very, very key areas.

The hon Brinkhuis, thank you very much for your support. Thank you for calling for working together. Thank you for bringing investors into this region and you said specifically, investors from the Muslim world. I value that. I think specifically of getting companies in to run our harbours. I think harbours out of Dubai are some of the best run in the world and I would 100% support that we get some of those companies tendering for the privatisation and running of our harbours or our airports.

Qatar and their sovereign fund, and specifically, as I spoke earlier, the engagements we have had with them on green hydrogen and other investments in our area. Or, whether it be agri-processing investments into halaal foods into South East Asia. We have already gone up to in excess of R10 billion in exports in halaal foods, but how can we take that to R20 billion and R30 billion. So, absolutely, we would support you in that 100%.

Then, of course, you mentioned that I should have the ability to sign

Executive Orders. But, hon member, I am sorry. We are a constitutional democracy, and I believe in our Constitution, and the scope that that Constitution gives us to run a government which is exactly what we do, and how we do it. I do not think we should venture into that arena that you were suggesting because that would then move into 'might is right', which is what I said yesterday. It is the arena we do not want to venture into. We believe in democracy. We believe in the say of the people and we must stick to that absolutely. Thank you.

Then, the hon Christians, thank you for your input. Here, I wanted to just say a little bit about AGOA. Of course, yesterday I mentioned the impact globally on elections and election outcomes, and of course, AGOA specifically now talking to the US. We have already had indications of the loss of USAID and PEPFAR. We might have been given a little bit of reprieve, but I honestly believe that that is something that is going to be cut. But I do want to say and exactly in your words: what are we going to do about it?

So, hon Minister Wenger and her team have already done a lot of work on what we have done, how we have already mitigated risk by migrating our purchase of antiretrovirals into our own budgetary items. Not using aid for that. But unfortunately, what happens is the aid is going to affect our NGO sector. So, we will fight this, and we are busy putting detail together. Exactly the same on AGOA. So, we will engage, and we are engaging with our national counterparts. Of course, this is led by Parks Tau at our national

level. We will engage, but at the same time, we will do our provincial. We will exercise our provincial mandate.

Hon Minister Meyer and Wesgro are already in the process of engaging with the US businesses that are invested here. You know, there are more than 600 US businesses invested here. They are engaging with the AGOA exporters and the exporters who are not AGOA. So, we are busy putting work together.

Two days ago, I was engaging at the B20 with AmCham, the American Business of Chamber and their delegates that were at the B20. We will pull them into the room. We have already spoken to BLSA, and they were speaking to Wesgro because they were busy talking about how that is going to be set up. We will bring our national counterparts in, but we will definitely, we will definitely. Understand it. This is a massive risk for us as a province and we will mitigate that risk in whichever way we can, obviously, within our constitutional mandate. But hon Minister Meyer and his team are already very active on that and hon Minister Wenger and her team, very active on that.

The hon Herron. You spoke about us not having a crime summit. I draw you to 13 and 14 November 2018 when I first became the MEC for Community Safety. It was before it became Police Oversight and Community Safety. Exactly that, a two-day crime summit. We had international speakers and that is where the Bavarian team actually then came in. They brought their Chief of Police to that summit and the Bavarians started to then say, 'we will

support you if you build the Safety Plan.’

At that very same summit, the National Police Commissioner, the National Police Minister, Provincial Police, our Department, the municipalities, private sector, the CPFs, the Neighbourhood Watches, even the businesses who are involved in crime fighting and in safety, they were also there. All of them. We had that summit, and that summit led into the development of the Safety Plan a year later. If you remember, I purposefully took that job because I was wanting to put up my hand to become the Premier, but I thought one of the issues that face us as citizens in this province, is safety. It is a massive issue and that is why I was involved in it. We set it up. Exactly the opposite to what you have said.

And another thing on policing. There is a document that this Department produces every single year. It is called the Policing Needs and Priorities. There is no document like it in any other province in this country. An absolutely outstanding piece of work. If you really want to engage and you are serious about policing as a Standing Committee, you should engage in that document and use that document as a foundation and a basis to really ask those questions of the shortfalls, specifically where policing happens in our province. Then, over and above that, it is our Safety Plan. I do not need to say any more about that.

I do want to mention one other thing and that is you said that I should engage with and speak to Ndifuna Ukwazi. I can tell you that in the last year, I have

had five meetings with them. So, you need to also there get your facts straight. But I also want to caution you. I saw that and I do not know whether you did step over the line and you are going to be arrested or not, but you are trying to play a role in all of these funny little things and platforms to keep relevance for your party or one-man party. ...[Laughter.]

I saw you leading the charge to try and illegally invade a piece of state land. You swore an allegiance to this Constitution. So please, I am cautioning you there. Do not do that kind of thing. That really does not help anybody. I spoke about the rule of law. We have got to have the rule of law specifically amongst us as elected politicians in this room.

Then, the hon Stephens. There, again, I have already mentioned. You spoke about †sonplase [solar farms.] I have already spoken about the †sonplaas [solar farm] here in this municipality †en ek weet nie nou waar dit is nie, maar dit was daar vir 'n naweek. Maar nou is hy weer weg [and I don't know where it is, but it was there for a weekend. But now it is gone again.] You need to ask other people, specifically leaders in your party, as to what happened to that †sonplaas [solar farm.]

The hon Bans. I think specifically, I have already answered you in why. Why are you able to quote all these failures? Look to yourself. Look to your political party and the failures that you have brought upon the citizens of this municipality year after year after year after year. [Interjections.] †Maar dankie, dankie, dankie, dankie vir die munisipale mense hier, vir die kiesers

hier in hierdie munisipaliteit. Julle is die mense wat besluit genoeg is genoeg en vir julle sê ek, baie dankie. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ek vra net om geduldig te wees want dit gaan nog 'n tydjie vat. Maar ons sal almal instaan en inspring om te help dat hierdie munisipaliteit die munisipaliteit word ...[Tussenwerpsels.] en waar dit moet hoort. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[But thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you for the municipal people here, for the voters here in this municipality. You are the people who decide enough is enough and to you I say thank you. [Interjections.] I only ask to be patient because it is still going to take some time. But we will all step in and jump in to help that this municipality becomes the municipality...[Interjections.] where it belongs. [Interjections.]]

It is unbelievable in this place. You know, this morning I went into your museum. †Ek was in 'n plek waar die eerste munisipaliteit was in hierdie land. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dit was hierdie munisipaliteit, die eerste een in Suid-Afrika. Trots! Ons bring daardie trots terug. Dankie! [I was in a place where the first municipality was in this country. [Interjections.] It was this municipality, the first one in South Africa. Proud! We are bringing back that pride. Thank you.] This municipality, the first municipality. ...[Applause.] The first municipality in our country ...[Applause.] [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Sorry ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...with a town hall.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Hon Premier, my apologies. [Interjections.] Can I just remind the members in the gallery to please not participate in the proceedings of the House and that includes clapping. I know that you are excited, or you agree with the comments made by the hon Premier, but I would like to caution you that you cannot participate in the proceedings. Hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I was just saying that it is the first municipality in our country. The first town hall in our country †is in hierdie munisipaliteit in hierdie dorp. ...[Applous.] En hierdie is 'n plek van baie eerstes. En ek dink die uitdaging vir almal van ons is om vir julle te help om die nommer een munisipaliteit in ons land te word. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [is in this municipality in this town ...[Applause.] And this is a place of many firsts. And I think the challenge to all of us is to help you to become the number one municipality in our country. ...[Interjection.]]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

†Die PREMIER: Ek dink julle kan. Julle het al graag gewys in jou geskiedenis en ons, as die Wes-Kaap Regering, staan direk agter julle om julle te help om daardie top munisipaliteit in ons land te word. Baie dankie, agb Speaker, dat ons hier kon gewees het nou vir hierdie twee dae. Dankie vir almal wat hulle bydrae gegee het in hierdie debat.

Dankie vir Koko en my baie netjiese *haircut*. Baie dankie vir die gastehuse,

vir die gasvryheid, vir die koffiewinkels. Dankie vir die klerewinkel want ek het vergeet om 'n broek in te pak en ek kon 'n nuwe broek hier kom koop. Baie dankie vir almal hier in Beaufort-Wes en in die Karoo. Dit was so 'n lieflike opening van 'n Parlement hier in die Karoo. Ek sê vir almal baie, baie dankie. Veilig ry huistoe en dankie, agb Speaker, vir die geleentheid. Dankie. ...[Applause.]

[The PREMIER: I think you can. You have already shown in your history and we, as the Western Cape Government, stands directly behind you to help you to become that top municipality in our country. Tank you, hon Speaker, that we could have been here now for these two days. Thank you to all who contributed to this debate.

Thank you to Koko and my very neat haircut. Thank you to the guesthouses, for the hospitality, for the coffee shops. Thank you to the clothing shop because I forgot to pack a pair of pants and I could come and buy a new pair here. Thank you to all here in Beaufort West and in the Karoo. It was such a lovely opening of a Parliament here in the Karoo. I say to all thank you very, very much. Drive home safely and thank you, hon Speaker, for the opportunity. Thank you. ...[Applause.]]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, to the hon Premier. Hon members, that concludes the Debate on the hon Premier's State of the Province Address. Before I conclude or adjourn the House, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the community of Beaufort West for the wonderful opportunity to host the State of the Province Address and the

official opening in this beautiful town of Beaufort West.

Hon members, thank you very much for your cooperation over the last two weeks. The Standing Committees have been hard at work doing oversight for the last couple of weeks leading up to the State of the Province Address. So, thank you very much to the Standing Committee. Hon members and guests, I request that you please remain standing in your places or your seats while the procession leaves the Chamber. Hon members and guests, colleagues, that concludes the business of the day, and the House is officially adjourned.

The House adjourned at 13:40.