
THURSDAY, 27 MAY 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

[Virtual online sitting held through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. My apologies! Good afternoon hon members, Premier and any guests that are online or in the House. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. Today we will be using the hybrid model for the sitting of the House and I trust that all our members have been connected to participate without any technicalities.

Our sitting today will be conducted in terms of the Standing Rules and Directives issued by the Speaker on 17 April 2020 and when we talk about the sittings, we are referring to hybrid means, so remember that you have to ensure that as members you have enough data connectivity in order for a good quality audio and video link and that there are no disturbances. The hybrid system has been functioning very well and poor audio or video is not attributed to this system but rather the quality of your data connectivity participating in the sittings.

Members who are present both in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by the law, and members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and being called to order.

In instances where the Directives do not cover a particular eventuality the Standing Rules must apply. In instances where the Rules cannot be applied the ruling by the Presiding Officer will be final. [Interjection.]

Order! Please mute your microphones, and when an hon member present in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order please, hon members may address the Presiding Officer as normal, but must mute their mics when they have completed speaking, and to just remind you that we do have language translation services which are available both in the Chamber and as per normal for those members online using a second device.

Finally, hon members, as ruled by the Presiding Officer in the Sitting of the House on 23 April 2020, no interjections shall be permitted during the debate. If there is one, which we know there is not today, but in this regard I also wish to draw the attention of the hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Order! We will now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon, the Minister Bredell.

INTERPELLATIONS

Local government and the Constitution

1. Mr B N Herron asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

With reference to the reply to Question 13 of 20 November 2020:

- (1) Whether he was obliged to answer the question, and many others like it, regarding local governments, consistent with Section 155(6) and 133(2) of the South African Constitution;
- (2) whether local governments are obliged to provide him with information in order for him to comply with the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Subsequent to the reply in question I received correspondence from the City of Cape Town addressed to my head of my Department in which it is indicated that, and I quote:

“The City of Cape Town has received a number of questions emanating from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The City has been responding to such questions and providing information on Local Government actions to Provincial Ministers for responses to their parliamentary questions as a courtesy, but it is not a legal obligation. Parliamentary questions are meant to hold Ministers accountable for their official decisions and it does not extend to holding Local Government accountable for its decisions and actions. The Executive Mayor and the City Manager are accountable to the City Council for the exercise of their duties, and not to the Provincial Parliament. The Provincial Ministers are accountable collectively and individually to Parliament for the exercise of their powers and performance of their functions, Section 133(2) of the Constitution and Section 43(2) of the Provincial Constitution.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, furthermore the procedures for members of the Provincial Parliament putting questions to the Executives is one of the ways in which Parliament holds the Executive to account and therefore parliamentary questions are a means for the representatives of the people to

hold Ministers to account on behalf of the people, not a means for members of Parliament to hold Local Government to account. That role is allocated to Council. There is no statutory requirement for municipalities to provide answers to questions from members of Parliament or the Legislature.

Furthermore the City acknowledged that Section 155(6) of the Constitution compels Provincial Government to monitor and to support municipalities through legislative and other measures. On the other hand, Section 155(4) of the Constitution gives National and Provincial Government legislative and executive authority to regulate and exercise of the executive powers of municipalities in order to ensure that municipalities effectively perform their functions in respect of matters listed in Schedule 4(B) and 5(B) of the Constitution. This however cannot be interpreted to the extent of providing Provincial Government with the authority to impede on the autonomy of municipalities.

It must be borne in mind that the City does not account to the Provincial Government in this manner. It conducts its affairs in the manner that it conducts its affairs. Section 151(4) of the Constitution provides that power of National Provincial Government must be exercised in a manner that does not compromise or impede a municipality's ability or right to exercise its powers to perform its functions. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Minister. I now recognise hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Sorry, Deputy Speaker, I was struggling to get it connected. Deputy Speaker, thank you, and thank you to the Minister for the response, a rather unfortunate response, because there is something very odd going on in the Western Cape and if this is left untreated it will spread across the country with profoundly negative affects on the principles of State accountability to citizens.

Over the past six months instead of answering written questions relating to governance in Cape Town, the MEC has taken to responding on behalf of the City of Cape Town that “the questions are effectively none of my business.”

According to the MEC the City says it does not have to answer to the Province. By simply passing on this message the MEC appears to agree with the City’s strategy to avoid accountability. We have done some research looking at the questions relating to municipalities’ posts by members of Parliament and MPLs across the country. We found dozens of questions and dozens of replies. Most of the questions were posed by members of the Opposition and in the National Assembly for example, between May 2019 and April 2020 the DA MPs asked 35 questions about operations and decisions taken by municipalities across the country. But the Western Cape and the City of Cape Town, where the DA leads, appear to have engaged in a pact to stonewall scrutiny. As far as we can find the only Minister or MEC in the country that is unable or unwilling to answer parliamentary questions, is our MEC for Local Government and as far as we can see the only municipality in the country that is refusing to answer questions is the City of Cape Town.

Deputy Speaker, I was hoping to avoid a debate devolving into a technical discussion about powers and duties under the Constitution, or various legislation. It is more important than that. It is about whether this Government believes in service transparency and accountability. The real question is what right does the Government have to withhold information from the public it taxes and is meant to serve. If this Province and City refuse to be held accountable their truancy will infect the rest of the country.

In whose benefit will it be for no municipalities to have to account to anyone besides themselves? Surely we all know by now that transparency and accountability deficiencies are the jet fuel of corruption and maladministration.

Deputy Speaker, allow me to quote a document you might recognise:

“The Government is accountable to the people. Its purpose is to enable South African people to use their freedoms. It has no power except that which is assigned to it by the people and the Constitution. The Government must reflect the will of the people and our elected representatives must be directly accountable to the people. To those to whom we entrust our nation’s highest offices had a sacred duty to live up to that trust. Government must always act honestly, transparently, and in the best interest of all South Africans.”

This is what we are debating today – accountable government that is elected

to serve and not be served. The MEC and the leadership of the City of Cape Town might recognise those words too, because they are part of what the DA calls its official values and principles. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Finished?

Mr B N HERRON: I am finished, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now recognise hon America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Let me just get connected quickly. Sorry. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. It is rather concerning that the hon Herron who is a law graduate chooses to cherry-pick excerpts from the Constitution when attempting to justify his political agenda. I would like to bring members attention to Section 41(1)(g), Chapter 3 of the Constitution, in which it clearly states that all spheres of government must, and I quote from Chapter 3:

“All spheres of government must exercise their powers and perform their functions in a manner that does not encroach on the geographical, functional or institutionary integrity of government in another sphere.”

Deputy Speaker, it must be made clear that the Department of Local Government neither exists as an ancillary of municipal councils, nor has the mandate to unduly interfere. Instead the Department is mandated to deliver

its own programmes and basket of services. For that it should be held accountable.

As a former councillor the member is very much aware of the fact that any local government is accountable to its council and that that would be the place where proper oversight is being exercised, but as we all know hon Herron's party lacks representation at most municipalities in the province, so the apparent desperation for alternative channels is understandable.

If I may propose a solution for the member, through you, Deputy Speaker, it might be fair to ask its alliance partner, the ANC, who is represented in various councils, for some guidance there. There are, however, legitimate issues of National Departments not responding in time or not responding at all to Provincial Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member America, your time is up.

Mr D AMERICA: Sorry. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. It is ironic that MPL America, who chairs a committee which is supposed to do oversight, has actually refused our request to discuss

a dossier affecting Local Government and he has the audacity to stand up here today and basically defend the indefensible. This is essentially about oversight, Deputy Speaker. It is about cooperative government and it is about accountability but what we have seen is a cesspool... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, can you take your seat please. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you Deputy Speaker. I would like to ask if it is parliamentary for the hon member to say that a member is being or has the audacity or is audacious.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I do not want to limit free speech to that degree. Audacity I do not believe is unparliamentary, but I will tell you what I will do is I will make a ruling for that at the next sitting, if that is okay. Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja. Thank you, Deputy Speaker, just as audacious as the Chief Whip may be audacious as well. But essentially this is about oversight. It is about accountability and there is a cesspool of allegations and corruption emerging in the City of Cape Town. One of their councillors has been charged in court. There are serious allegations about money-laundering to provide food parcels. Those allegations point towards the Mayor. Let alone the incredible lack of service delivery in the poorer areas of this City and it is essentially about this City

of Cape Town not wanting to have the spotlight on them and I think we must be very clear that our Premier, who is here today, has called on his MECs and everyone to be bold.

He was not bold, Deputy Speaker, when the City set up the Strandfontein concentration camp. It was hands off! We call on MEC Bredell, through the Speaker, to be bold and tell the City of Cape Town where to get off. Deputy Speaker, the MEC should say to you: "I am being principled on this matter, municipalities are going to be accountable and you need to answer these questions."

We ask him to be bold. Why listen to Mayor Dan Plato and his MM? Do the right thing, MEC Bredell. The reality is that if this continues, we as the Official Opposition here, the African National Congress, will consider court action. We will also consider approaching CoGTA for an investigation into the MEC and into the City of Cape Town.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, earlier this

year I wrote to Minister Bredell to object to his failure to respond to my questions and the Minister replied with a lengthy explanation, much of which is repeated today, citing all the different laws and sections which basically claimed the autonomy of the Municipal Council as a separate sphere of government which can exercise executive and legislative authority, and this is not in dispute.

The Minister wrote to me that the Provincial Executive's duty to monitor and support municipalities, and I quote him, "cannot be interpreted to the extent of providing Provincial Government with the authority to impede on the autonomy of municipalities." That is the end of the quote.

The Minister confuses monitoring, accountability and transparency with impeding. Asking questions is how monitoring, accountability and transparency is conducted. Nothing in the question impedes the Municipal Council from exercising its authority. The question invariably asked, is about the manner in which that authority has already been exercised. The question does, however, hold a democratically elected government to account for the exercise of that power and this is where the Minister and the City and hon America's argument starts to unravel. No government is above being held to account and no government is an island. If we start with Section 41 of the Constitution, which requires all spheres of government to cooperate with one another, this is carried through to Section 3 of the Municipal Systems Act, which, whilst acknowledging the executive and legislative authority of the municipality council, still requires that council to exercise

the authority within the constitutional system of cooperative government and Section 154 of the Constitution makes provision for cooperative government between municipalities and the National and Provincial Governments, whilst Section 155(7) of the Constitution makes it absolutely clear that the National Government and Provincial Governments have the legislative and executive authority to see to the effective performance by municipalities of their functions by regulating the exercise by municipalities of their executive authority. The failure in this province is the Minister. He has failed to implement an effective mechanism to give effect to his duty to support and monitor the Western Cape Municipal Councils as he was obliged to do in terms of Section 155(6) of the Constitution and Section 105 of the Municipal Systems Act.

The Minister's 2014 Western Cape Monitoring and support of Municipalities' Act is simply a lame document. Section 105(3) of the Municipal Systems Act specifically empowers the MEC to make reasonable requests to municipalities for additional information and that is what we are asking for, reasonable requests for additional information.

The Minister, I submit, is in breach of his constitutional obligations, and Deputy Speaker, the City of Cape Town has simply gone rogue. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise hon Bredell. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, Minister. Can I please ask members to mute their microphones? You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: In the City's reply and stance I approached the Legal Services Branch, because obviously oversight is for us also very important. Regarding our monitoring and support role to municipalities, I think it is high time that we do get clarity on exactly what we can and cannot do. So unfortunately you do not get this overnight. You need to talk to the legal experts and we are busy with that process.

Section 151(2) of the Constitution, it is a pity that the hon Herron just quotes the sections that suits his case. Section 151(2) of the Constitution, read with Section 11 of the Municipal Systems Act, rendered municipalities autonomous and make them accountable primarily to the Municipal Council. So if a municipality does not answer there is also the IGR Act that will need to kick in and we cannot, because we are not a big daddy, we have three equal spheres of government. We obviously promote and we understand the importance of an open and clean government and we will do everything possible to work with our municipalities. The municipalities are accountable to the Provincial Government only to the extent that such accountability required by it... [Inaudible – connection problems]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, municipalities are so expected by legislation to be accountable to the Provincial Government, then the Provincial Minister would be obliged to answer any questions posed in relation thereto. There is somebody...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...seeing if IT can just make sure that all microphones are muted. Thank you. Sorry about that.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, where however municipalities are not required to be accountable to the Provincial Government, the Provincial Minister would have no basis to question the internal affairs of the municipality unless it can be shown that there has been some type of impropriety.

Now the hon Dugmore knows, the hon Herron knows that if there is any evidence of corruption or maladministration they can go to the police. It is actually their obligation to go to the police. Lay the charge! But if I read to you the questions that the hon Herron posed it is about the tender and how was this company identified, what procurement processes were followed, et cetera, et cetera. The municipalities – his councillors can ask them. It has nothing to do with Province. It is a system within the municipality and we do

not just take this lightly. I have asked with the permission of the Premier's Legal Department to get a senior advocate's opinion on the roles and functions so in future we can get this right. We will work with them and obviously if I receive and when I receive this because it is when I receive the opinion from the legal services I will then share it with this House. Nothing is to be hidden, but we need to respect the spheres of government and we picked up the tendency of people trying to misuse my office to try and get certain questions out of municipalities and unfortunately this was also sent to all 30 municipalities, so the municipalities are aware of this opinion of the City of Cape Town. We need to counter it with a senior advocate's opinion and then we will have the workshop so that everybody in this province is on the same page because at the end of the day I think we all want the same. We want accountable government but we need to respect our different roles within the Province. I thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That brings an end to the first interpellation. We will now move over to the second interpellation.

I recognise – Order! I recognise the hon Minister Maynier.

SSME Development Strategy

- 2. Ms N D Nkondlo asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:**

Whether the Western Cape Government has a dedicated SMME development strategy?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you Deputy Speaker. The Provincial Strategic Plan of 2019 to 2025 is the guiding document for growth and development in the Western Cape. It outlines the priorities of the Western Cape Government which of course include growth and jobs.

Flowing from the Provincial Strategic Plan we of course will focus our efforts on delivering five priorities that will improve the competitiveness of the province and creating an enabling environment for the private sector, and that includes, of course, accelerating the ease of doing business, growing exports, promoting investments, dealing with skills gaps, and of course developing resource resilience.

Our support for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises is delivered across these five priorities and seeks to create an enabling environment for people to create and grow their small businesses by tackling the main constraints on SMME development, which include a range of issues, limited access to markets, limited access to finance, onerous red tape, a poor support ecosystem and of course a weak culture of entrepreneurship.

To give some specific examples, to improve access to markets and create

opportunities for small businesses, we have for example through Wesgro supported businesses to export their products to international markets and meet buyers and distributors and importers through outward missions. To improve access to financing for small businesses, we have worked in collaboration with Pick n Pay, the Small Enterprise Finance Agency, the City of Cape Town and other partners to successfully run the Pick n Pay Market Store Programme which finances the conversion of spaza shops in townships to independently owned mini markets.

To remove red tape that prevents entrepreneurs from starting and growing their businesses we have through our Red-Tape Reduction Unit helped thousands of businesses; tackled inefficient Government bureaucracy that restricts growth and in this financial year alone we have dealt with 1 270 cases with an overall resolution rate at about 80%. To support the ecosystem for small businesses, we have launched the SMME Booster Fund, which will distribute about R20 million to organisations and municipalities for programmes that focus on supporting small businesses in the Western Cape, and then of course to encourage a culture of entrepreneurship we have hosted the annual Entrepreneurship Awards for the past eight years where we celebrate the hard work of entrepreneurs and their contribution to driving economic growth and creating jobs in the Western Cape.

This, Deputy Speaker, is a very brief outline of some of the incredible projects and the hard work which has been put in by the Department to enable an environment for small businesses so that more entrepreneurs will start

businesses and grow their businesses so that we can drive economic growth and create jobs in the Western Cape. I thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Let me welcome I think the response of the Minister as it relates to the question and just remind him what the submission here was, whether the Western Cape Government has a dedicated SMME Development Strategy and that, I think, was not in any way trying to seek a report and the grocery list of the different interventions and projects that the Department is involved in, and we raised this considering what the National Small Business Act requires as it makes provision for organs of State to promote small businesses and therefore the understanding what is being done in terms of the Small Business Booster Fund and all the other things that the projects, as the Minister has related. Our caution in this regard is that a vision without a strategy is an illusion, I think, as stated by Lee Bolman, so indeed once again it is clear that we are dealing here with the DA that creates an illusion for SMMEs, rather than actually putting up a dedicated strategy that is going to help us to collect all of these different

interventions that have been mentioned towards a clear outcome of where we want to see SMMEs in the Western Cape going.

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of global value chains, we have been able to set up this initially as local supply chains became open for locally manufactured products. These were the words in court by the President in his 2021 State of the Nation Address as he announced that his Cabinet approved the SMME Focused Localisation Policy Framework, which identified a thousand locally produced products that must be procured from the SMMEs. This was part of the Government commitment to create a larger market for SMMEs following the devastating impact of COVID-19. The MEC must tell us why the Western Cape is opposed to localisation.

Studies have showed that SMMEs remain in the eye of the storm and continue to fight for survival. The Small Enterprise Development Agency's Quarterly Update for the third quarter of 2020 showed that the number of SMMEs in the country declined by 11% or 290 000 year-on-year from 2,65 million to 2,36 million in Quarter 3 of 2020, of all jobs lost in the economy...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, are you done?

Ms N D NKONDLO: [Inaudible – connection problems]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Ms N D NKONDLO: ...it was the hardest hit, both in absolute and relative terms. Moreover, it says the Western Cape witnessed a decrease in the formal SMMEs over the period under review whilst Gauteng experienced an increase. It is therefore not by accident that SMMEs in the province...
[Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hello, Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is Deputy Speaker. Your time is up, hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Oh, Deputy Speaker, sorry.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No problem.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you.

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

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker, our Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises in the Western Cape are the foundation of our entire economy, and unfortunately member Nkondlo, via you, is going to hear it, because that is what we deliver. We deliver groceries. It is the entrepreneurs who build themselves up or create employment, meet consumer demands and are the engines that drive the Western Cape economy and it is the Government's role to create a business-friendly environment that offers opportunities to residents and this is what this Government is doing.

The work by the Department of Economic Opportunities, Development and Tourism has been critical in the creation of this environment and has been the lifeline to many businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The key initiative that the Minister mentioned is the red tape. We support SMMEs by cutting red tape and promoting the ease of doing business and this unit assisted hundreds of businesses. The City's Business Unit that was launched in 2019 has worked to cut red tape, hosts Product and Supply Development Workshops and connects businesses with funding opportunities and the City has taken the support for SMMEs directly to communities through the Mobile Business Hub who just this past week, by the way, was in Bellville and will visit Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain soon.

The Department has also allocated R13,7 million in the 2021/2022 financial year for different ease-of-doing-business interventions in order to realise its goal of creating a business-friendly environment.

These interventions aim to pave the way for economic growth by eliminating visa regimes, poor tariffs, trade barriers and planning delays. This will make it easier to not only start the business but also to expand the business in the best-run province in the country.

The Minister also recently announced his application is open for the SMME Booster Fund which aims to distribute R20 million to support the growth and sustainability of SMMEs and I want to ask the Minister to actually perhaps expand on the SMME Booster Fund what plans are in place to distribute the R20 million and how can entrepreneurs and SMMEs access that Booster Fund. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon member Mackenzie. I now recognise hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I think the grocery list is welcome as long as it indicates towards the diet that I think the Department is seeking to realise for the SMMEs because I think this is where I think the importance of a strategy dictates what exactly we seek to achieve instead of just collating a lot of projects all over and we cannot be able to say where in the bigger scheme of developing SMMEs in the Western Cape this is what we seek to achieve. How we are ensuring that we are taking them in the current priority sectors or industries like agriculture industries, like the financial sector industries, like in agro-processing because as we continue to mention all of these different grocery items the reality of the matter is that we

continue to observe that whatever these small interventions that we are dealing with are not making necessarily an impact required in the profile and in the outlook of the economy by ensuring that there is access to exactly that particular destination.

Having said that, Deputy Speaker, that the biggest challenge for SMMEs indeed are skill shortages, the lack of access to funds, the red tape. In this regard the Minister of Small Business stated in her budget speech that most small businesses are struggling to access finance due to perceived risk identified by the lenders, the Department will soon table the draft SMME Funding Policy of South Africa for public comment. This draft policy seeks to make proposals on the coordination of SMME funding across the public and private sector.

In addition to this, the National Government assists municipalities with the rolling out of the Red Tape Reduction programmes. So these are some of the interventions that we believe that are important to be harnessed as part of a strategy so that also some of the challenges that are in the interventions that are already being invested in, can actually be corrected and improved.

In 2019 the National Government adopted the SMME Support Plan towards the attainment of Vision 2030 which consists of ten programmes. This includes the SMME Focused Localisation Programme, Informal Business Support, the Township and Rural Entrepreneurship Programme, Incubation and Digital Harvest Rollout, Start-up Nation Young Entrepreneurs, amongst

others. What we are requesting is that we would like to see the Department's plans to support the growth and sustainability of the SMMEs, the township enterprises, the small and rural towns where specifically the kind of challenges that they are experiencing. The informal trade, these are issues we raised with the Minister, the kind of issues that you find as infrastructure and lacking in the townships so that they can run their businesses, the kind of crime issues that are experienced by small businesses in the townships of Khayelitsha and Manenberg and other communities.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Ms N D NKONDLO: So those are the issues, when we speak about strategy, we are looking to find in addition to the different initiatives that are there.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I wish to assure the hon member that we do have an SMME Development Strategy and that it is not an illusion. As I reminded the member, it is a function of our provincial strategic plan, which focuses on growth and jobs. What flows from our Provincial Strategic Plan is five focus areas, including ease of doing business, growing exports, addressing the skills gap, promoting investments and energy resilience and I made the point that our support to Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises is delivered across

these priorities and deals with the impediments to SMME development, including, as I pointed out, limited access to markets, limited access to financing, red tape, the ecosystem and, of course, the culture of entrepreneurship. The SMME Development Strategy is clearly set out in the Department of Economic Development's Annual Performance Plan 2021/22 on page 48 to 55. It includes five focus areas. As I have said, access to markets, access to finance, improving business support, developing township-based businesses and of course contributing to the entrepreneurship.

The hon member mentioned the grocery list. I omitted a large number of initiatives which the Department is taking to support small business. The grocery list is much longer. It includes an export, advancement in promotion training for small businesses. It includes an app for entrepreneurs who want to potentially start businesses or expand businesses just to mention a few.

The other hon member made a reference to the SMME Booster Fund, which of course has been launched and the aim of the fund is to distribute up to R20 million to organisations and municipalities for programmes that focused on small businesses to grow and of course improve their sustainability so that they can create more jobs in the Western Cape and this is aimed at supporting a business, particularly in rural areas, township-based businesses, youth and women-owned business.

If we look back the SMME Booster Fund in 2020 supported 16 beneficiaries

which ultimately were able to provide support to 350 businesses across the Western Cape.

A great example, hon Deputy Speaker, two weeks ago I visited Glynn Mashonga. She is the CEO of Globescope Security and was a beneficiary of the support through the SMME Booster Fund. She was assisted to increase her turnover, open new offices, hire more employees and adapt to the pandemic. Through the Innovator Trust she received workshops, a dedicated mentor and coach, accounting services certification training, computer training and business linkages.

Through beneficiaries like Edge Growth and the Innovator Trust we have been able to provide boot camps to support small business, provide mentors to support small business and provide assistance, for example, with digital marketing. The SMME Booster Fund to which the hon member refers is of course just one of the many ways that we are supporting small businesses in the Western Cape and I would encourage all qualifying institutions to apply before the closing date on 7 June 2021.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

[Interpellation 3 withdrawn.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That brings us to the end of Interpellations. We will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper. If I can just remind the hon members to use the Chat facility for the sitting to indicate that they want to ask a follow-up question and just to remind you that there are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who posed the initial question will be given the first opportunity for a follow-up. Thereafter hon members can raise their hand function on the screen for us to note you are wanting to speak. I now recognise the hon, the Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

SIU investigations in the Western Cape: corruption

1. Mr C M Dugmore asked the Premier:

With regard to the claims made by the Head of Special Investigation Unit (SIU) in a portfolio committee meeting in Parliament on 11 May 2021 that the Western Cape was among the top hotspot provinces for corruption in the country:

(1) What role has his Government played in these SIU investigations;

- (2) whether his Government referred any cases to the SIU for investigation in the previous financial year; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Dugmore for the question. With regard to (1), I am informed by various Western Cape Government departments that in the 2020/2021 financial year the SIU requested information from certain departments which has been provided to them. In terms of what role our departments played, those departments which were reached out to, gave their willing cooperation and assistance to the SIU teams. Quite frankly I am confused by the alleged statement of the head of the SIU when we all know that the Western Cape is the cleanest province in South Africa.

This is proven year after year with our audit results against which other provinces cannot even compare. In the 2019/20 financial year 70% of the Western Cape departments and entities received clean audits compared to the next best province Gauteng, with 30% clean audits and the worst performing, the North West with just 4% in clean audits.

We achieved these results because we do not tolerate any form of corruption. That is why for instance our Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning assisted the SIU when it launched an investigation there in respect of the procurement of three thermometers to monitor the COVID-19 totalling R8 910. This matter was resolved.

The Western Cape Education Department similarly complied with the request of the SIU to provide all the documents and information related to the procurement of COVID-19 PPE with the service provider and this is the Mascom Trading CC.

If the hon member Dugmore has any further questions relating to specific departments he is welcome to direct them to those relevant Ministers, and then number (2). No cases were referred to the SIU during the period 2020/2021 by any of the departments of the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore, and then I recognise hon member Mackenzie.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, given that the information provided by the head of the SIU related to the number of complaints that they have received, and the further information that the Western Cape was one of the highest, they were the highest, one of the highest numbers of complaints coming from people in the Western Cape, does the Premier believe that there is a problem with the whistleblowing facility that members of the public are making complaints but there are not adequate responses from the various Provincial Governments otherwise why would so many relative to other provinces be making complaints to the SIU?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, Premier.

The PREMIER: No, and I believe the SIU to be competently resourced and our interactions have been professional, and we have given them every detail that they have needed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. I now recognise hon member Mackenzie. His hand has been up. Over to you, hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and just if I can ask my question. Deputy Speaker, I actually went to find out, I could not find this report from the SIU. I have listened to the tape ...[inaudible.] comment made there that they made in jest, but I just want to find out from the Premier, did they receive any information from the SIU on this matter and then also what programmes does the Western Cape Government have in place to combat corruption?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you to the hon member for the question. I think first of all I must say I also did see the article post, that presentation. I have actually asked the DG who has had a number of interactions with the SIU and the head of the SIU and we are actually busy compiling a whole process of complaint versus investigation versus outcome and we are waiting for that to be tabled at Cabinet and then of course you must understand this SIU Unit is now being set up at a National level to deal with the mass corruption that we saw around the whole PPE procurement

processes, and quite frankly the hon Dugmore should be hanging his head in shame, and just even thinking about asking this question because the ANC really does not look good in it. In our Province we have proper processes on procurement. We have proper processes on internal audit and on making sure that we run the systems correctly. Wherever there is a complaint or an anomaly we go in and investigate it because of course in a procurement process with the billions that are being put through the system of procurement you have always got to be making sure that you are on top of your game, and then of course that gets verified every time it comes through when the external auditors come and then again verify our own processes as well as our own internal audit processes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Arising from the Premier's reply I would like to ask him given that the Filcon Company which essentially failed to deliver up to R100 million in this Province, having been successful in procurement, would it indicate seriousness or lack of seriousness from the Provincial Government that that no civil action has been taken by this Provincial Government against Filcon resulting in many smaller black-owned contractors still not being paid almost ten years later, and is this an indication of the fact that Filcon is a DA funder?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: The hon Dugmore, if he wants to get answers to these kind of questions and be serious about being an Opposition member and the Leader of the Opposition, he should put the question properly, but the answer is no, and no, and perhaps he should ask questions about whether we did business with Digital Vibes or companies that belonged to or are partnered up with family members of the National Minister of Health. But we need to be able to be answering these questions and if he is serious I say to him he must put those questions properly to us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Dugmore, your final fight, yes.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. So does the Provincial Government have no intention from bringing civil action against Filcon to recover money so that those small black contractors can be repaid or do you just allow corruption to continue?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier?

The PREMIER: Once again, as far as I know I do not think we are busy with any kind of civil claim, but if he wants to get a proper answer, he will ask a proper question. Then we will deal with that properly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We now move over to Question 2. I recognise the hon Premier.

Israeli Government

2. Mr M K Sayed asked the Premier:

What relations, if any, does his Government and the Western Cape municipalities have with the Israeli Government?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Sayed for your question and with regards to the Western Cape Government we have no formal relations with the Israeli Government and the Department also has no information in respect to any of our municipalities with any formal relation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much to the Premier for the response. I just wanted to then get a sense, noting that the Premier says that there are no formal relations, but what we do know, and it was discussed last year in the House that one of the departments in this particular Province, Education, to be specific, ensured that staff in the Department and teachers, particularly those responsible for the teaching of history, went to Israel on a paid-for trip. I just wanted to get a sense as to within the context of what the United Nations had said in terms of the war crimes, also in terms of the ongoing expansion, illegal expansion of Israeli settlements. Will the Premier consider engaging with departments that do have those types of links, not

necessarily relations, but where there are those links happening, with municipalities for example, such as the City of Cape Town also. We know about the desalination plant. Will the Premier consider ensuring that there is a downgrade of such type of relations or visits and exchanges within the context of what is happening? I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and the hon Sayed. It is almost more like a statement than a question and I want to say that of course those kind of downgrades or upgrades, we talk about national relations between National Government and other countries, but he also mentioned the United Nations and quite frankly I support the United Nations statement and I also even add my own statement to say that quite frankly, first of all with what is going on in the Middle East between Palestine and Israel we condemn violence and we need to find a peaceful solution and we support the search for that peaceful solution urgently.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Mackenzie first, over to you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I just want to find out from the Premier what is the value of relationships with other provincial governments globally and how does this benefit the citizens of this province?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute Premier, before you answer. Yes, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Let me stand quickly. My point of order is that the question by hon member Mackenzie has nothing to do with the question that has been asked by member Sayed. It is a completely different question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, that is for the Premier to decide. Remember, it is his prerogative of how he wants to respond to that question.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: He is talking about international relations, Deputy Speaker.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and I mean it is quite interesting because the follow-up question from the hon Sayed started talking about relations and municipal relations and then...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: He talks about international relations with an international country and of course the follow-up was not necessarily countries but talking about regions or provinces, and of course I think relations, inter-provincial relations with other provinces are really critical. So much has happened in

the last year because of our partnership with other provinces, so I think of course all international relations have importance and specifically I think where we have found over the last few years those partners in partner provinces have been really beneficial and of course I think even just in general in relationships with countries. I have just come off a meeting with five African states, those that are based with Consul Generals based here in the Western Cape, really working on how we build on our relationship with our neighbouring countries and Sub-Saharan African countries and how we use that to the benefit of our respective populations but also the continent as well.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Premier. Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Sure, but within that context and we thank the Premier for the further response. Is the Premier willing as the head of Western Cape Provincial Government to unconditionally state that the illegal expansion as per international law by Israel ought to be condemned? We are not talking here about violence on both sides and tied to that, is the Premier willing to ensure that if there are any type of relations even with the City of Cape Town and the purchasing of drones and cameras and those types of things, if there are any of those kinds of elements that if those products are purchased from the illegal territories that those are stopped. Is the Premier willing to go that far? Is the Premier willing to go the route of National Government wherein which it has downgraded relations so I just wanted to get a sense of that particularly given the context of trade that the

Premier spoke about in terms of relations with provinces and with cities, and could the Premier possibly elaborate on the current status of the relationship between the City of Cape Town and the City of Haifa, in the context of what is now happening. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier, if that has got to do with Provincial Government, and whether you are willing to answer that, over to you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: Are we discussing national politics and we allow it in the provinces? Are we discussing foreign affairs now?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, yes, exactly what I just said...one minute. I have just [Inaudible.] just one minute. What – I have just heeded hon member Sayed around that because I have said that this is Provincial Government and we must be careful that we are not completely off track, but once again to the Premier, he can decide how he wants to respond to that question.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Just on a – is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon member Sayed. Yes, one ...[Interjections]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Okay, maybe let the Chief Whip [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will, thank you. Hon Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To my knowledge the Rules only allow one follow-up question, but from what I could hear, it sounded like the hon member asked several follow-up questions in one go, and I wonder if you could perhaps have a look at that, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, yes, I will – I do not think there is much time yet, but I would leave that to the Premier to choose the one question he wants to answer, but, hon member Sayed, over to you, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, it is just a point of correction and context, to say that the mere fact that the question was printed on the Paper and the Premier responded, and the question immediately spoke to Provincial Government and to municipalities.

So the hon member Marais, if the Western Cape becomes a federal government and a federal state, it will be having relationships with other governments. So I just wanted to correct ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... the former Premier there ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...[Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... but certainly we can engage with the former Premier at a later stage. Thank ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, you are stretching the future here. Yes, I hear you, but that was a very clever political way of expressing, but once again I hand over to the Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So that was five questions altogether in the last follow-up question of the previous question which had, I think, three questions in it, but I will deal with the last one first, and wonder if I should spend some time talking about federal powers, and in actual fact wondering whether the hon member Sayed is actually going to be within his own political party, and at a national level really motivating that we really push for more federal powers moving to provinces, because I think that

makes for good competitive governance, it brings power closer to the people, allows regions to be making decisions about what is relevant for regions, and I think that makes good sense when it comes ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Hear-hear!

The PREMIER: ... to [Inaudible.] and it is within a country.

So it will be great if I can rely on the hon member Sayed as a partner in convincing the ANC and the National Government to relook at their policy around federal powers. [Interjections.]

Then of course ...[Interjections.] then of course the second last question dealt with a relationship to do with the City of Cape Town and of course I am not empowered to answer that, I actually am not aware of the content of that relationship, so also again as I said in an earlier reply to the hon member Dugmore, if that is something that the hon member Sayed wants to know, then please put that specific question to me, and we will endeavour to get that answer for him.

And then with regards to international relations and downgrades of actions between countries and policies, I again will defer that to the National Government on how they deal with it, and then we here as a Provincial Government, we will continue to work with the international markets that we trade in, the international markets that we look for further opportunities to

grow our economy, to bring our citizens out of poverty. You know, yesterday the hon member Bredell was talking about where we are as a province, and this is the best-off province in the country when it comes to the poverty index, and the upper band of the poverty index in our province, 50% of our citizens reside within the baseline to the upper-end of poverty. Half of the citizens. We need to be focusing on what we should be doing on changing our policies and how we operate as a country towards creating an environment for economic growth and jobs, because quite frankly the path that the ANC is on at the moment is a path of destruction, a path of poverty, a path of actually destroying people's lives, hope and futures, and they really need to think about their policies and how we move forward. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, I just want to heed these kinds of questions. They are leading and they are stretching on the edge. So please, if we can focus our business to the business of this Parliament in this Province.

I now move over to hon Minister Bredell.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.] mind if Sayed stretches it a bit.

Bonnievale: escaped crocodiles

3. Mr A P van der Westhuizen asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

- (1) What has been the total cost, up to the latest date for which information is available, for the various entities that assisted in finding the Nile crocodiles that escaped from a crocodile farm near Bonnievale at the beginning of March 2021;
- (2) whether his Department and/or CapeNature will be submitting a claim to recover the expenses incurred in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To hon member Van der Westhuizen, thank you for the question.

The estimated cost occurred during the operations to recover as many crocodiles as possible, CapeNature round about plus-minus R210,497.24, and the South African Police Service R126,397; a total of plus-minus R336,000.

Since this matter is under investigation, CapeNature is not in a position to decide whether it will submit the claim to recover the expenses occurred, so they are busy with that process. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Van der

Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Minister Bredell, glo u dat die verhaling van kostes of boetes genoegsame optrede sal wees om te verseker dat ander in beheer van wildplase en reservate die nodige voorsorg sal tref dat hulle werknemers en veral die publiek wat naby hierdie plase en reservate woonagtig is, veilig sal wees?

Indien nie, watter stappe sal u Departement neem om te verseker dat hulle veiligheid verkry kan word en onnodige kostes vir die belastingbetaler vermy kan word?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Minister Bredell, do you believe that the recovering of costs or fines will be sufficient action to ensure that others in charge of game farms will take the necessary precaution that their employees and especially the public that are living near these farms and reserves, will be safe?

If not, what steps will your Department take to ensure that their safety can be achieved and unnecessary costs to the taxpayer be avoided?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Inaudible.]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN

ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Eerstens baie dankie, dankie vir die vraag van die agb lid.

Daar is 'n regsproses, en ek gaan my nie daaroor uitspreek nie. Ek dink ons moet die regsproses sy gang laat gaan. Daar was natuurlik onmiddellik opgetree deur CapeNature in samewerking met hulle vennote. Die probleem is onmiddellik aangespreek [Tussenwerpsels.] ...

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Firstly, thank you, thank you for the question from the hon member.

There is a legal process, and I am not going to speak about that. I think we should let the legal process run its course. CapeNature of course immediately acted in cooperation with their partners. The problem was addressed immediately [Interjections.] ...]

†Mnr C F CHRISTIANS: Kan nie kla nie. Ek gaan – Oswald en sy vrou kom saam met my huidig uit my kantoor. Is dit *fine* as ek twee mense saambring?

[Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Cannot complain. I'm going to – currently Oswald and his wife are coming with me, from my office. Is it fine if I bring along two people?]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Hy wil twee mense saambring. So ek weet nie waarnatoe nie, seker krokodilplaas toe. [Gelag.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: He wants to bring along two people. So I don't know where to, probably to the crocodile farm. [Laughter.]]

†Mnr C F CHRISTIANS: Ja, ja, as ek gaan mos. Nee, ek wil ...

[Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Yes, yes, if I go *mos*. No, I want ...]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon member Christians – †ja, kom ons los dit maar daar.

Die regsproses moet sy gang gaan. Ons is redelik, en ek is ook altyd baie versigtig, want ek glo dat die straf en die oortreding moet verband hou met mekaar.

Tweedens, ek dink in die provinsie dat ons het genoegsame reëls. Ons moet onthou dit is nie iets wat gereeld gebeur nie. Dit was die eerste keer wat ek kan onthou dat so iets gebeur op 'n krokodilplaas. So die reëls, die omheining, die permitte, die goed is in plek. Die inspektering daarvan, natuurlik leer ons almal ook lesse hierna, die nagaan daarvan, en as daar

enige onwettigheid is, natuurlik sal daar 'n gevolg wees.

So persoonlik dink ek dat CapeNature se reëls is in plek om die wildbedryf te ondersteun. U moet ook onthou dat die wildbedryf dra geweldig by tot die ekonomie, en dit is vir ons belangrik dat ons reëls en ons permitsisteme die bedryf ondersteun, maar terselfdertyd ook sorg dat die publiek veilig is ten alle tye.

So ja, daar is 'n grys area, daar is samewerking. Ons het gereeld samesprekings met die bedryf en ons hou 'n fyn oog daaroor, en ons hou 'n baie sterk houvas op die manier wat ons ons heining inspekteer en ons permitte uitreik. Baie dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[yes, let us leave it there.]

The legal process has to run its course. We are reasonable, and I am always very cautious, because I believe the punishment and the offence should relate to each other.

Secondly, I think in the province we have sufficient regulations. We must remember it is not something that happens regularly. It was the first time as far as I can remember that something like that happened on a crocodile farm. So the regulations, the fencing, the permits, these things are in place. The

inspection thereof, of course we all learn lessons afterwards, the checking of it, if there was any unlawfulness, of course there will be a consequence.

So personally I think that CapeNature's regulations are in place to support the game. You should also remember that the game industry contributes a great deal to the economy, and it is important to us that our regulations and permit systems support the industry, but at the same time also see to it that the public is safe at all times.

So yes, there is a grey area, there is cooperation. We have regular discussions with the industry and we keep a close eye on that, and we have a very strong grip on the way that we inspect our fencing and issue our permits. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I now recognise – I think, hon member Marais, your hand was up.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Minister, we have a problem with the crocodiles. Next time it can be snakes, another time it can be lions. Do you think this problem will be better handled if we change our Western Cape Constitution and do away with the Environmental Officer, as is suggested by the Premier? Do you think that will make your job much easier if we leave it to National Government, and that we do not interfere if more crocodiles should walk in our streets?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ja. Die krokodil-voorval was vir ons 'n baie ernstige voorval, 'n kommissaris gaan niks daaraan kan doen nie. Dit was 'n omheining *fault* wat gebeur het. Die goed gebeur.

Ons het in die verlede baie min insidente gehad, maar wanneer jy werk in 'n bedryf, jy kan met 'n gereedskapstuk, met 'n boormasjien deur jou voet ook boor. Jy kan – daar is in enige bedryf risiko's en gevare, maar CapeNature beheer dit ontsettend goed. Daarom was daar baie min van hierdie voorvalle oor die afgelope jare.

So dit het niks met 'n kommissaris te doen nie. Dit is absoluut 'n proses, dit was 'n persoon wat – en die ondersoek sal dit uitwys – met die krokodille geboer het. Die moeilike deel van die operasie was dat ons het op daardie stadium nie geweet hoeveel krokodille was weg nie, het uitgekome nie. So dit is ook iets wat ons moet reguleer in die boekhouding daarvan, die rekord daarvan, maar dit sal natuurlik alles in die regsproses uitgespel word, maar soos wat ek hier staan, 81 krokodille is teruggevind en die regsproses sal nou sy gang gaan. Dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, yes. The crocodile incident was to us a very serious incident, a commissioner is not going to be able to do anything about it. It was a fencing fault that occurred. These things happen.

We had very few incidents in the past, but when you work in an industry, you can with a piece of equipment, with a drill, also drill through your foot. You can – there are in any industry risks and dangers, but CapeNature controls it extremely well. Therefore there have been very few of these incidents over the past years.

So it has nothing to do with a commissioner. It is absolutely a process, it was a person that – and the investigation will show that – was farming with the crocodiles. The difficult part of the operation was that at that stage we did not know how many crocodiles were missing, had escaped. So that is also something that we have to regulate in the bookkeeping of it, the record of it, but all of it will of course be spelt out in the legal process, but as I stand here, 81 crocodiles have been found again and the legal process will now run its course. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister. Any last bites at the cherry? No?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, sorry, hon member Sayed, there, I see you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you. Just following up from the question posed by the former Premier. I just wanted to get a sense, does Minister Bredell not think that if there were to be an Environmental Commissioner, as per what we find in the Western Cape Constitution, such incidences would be able to be better managed and handled. There will be – not to say that it has not been managed well, but that there will just be greater systems in place, greater monitoring of such systems? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: No, I do not think so. I really think the Environmental Commissioner, we must leave it for the debate to come to the House, but I do not think so.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I see no further hands. Hon member Marais, I am assuming that is an old hand, or is that a new hand?

Mr P J MARAIS: No, no, no, I am still very young, that is a new hand. It is a new hand, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed then, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Minister, I disagree with you. You know why? If we wanted

to amend this Constitution, we could have given ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What is the question?

Mr P J MARAIS: ... our, we could have given the Environmental Commissioner more powers to deal with these things. You say he cannot do anything. Then we should improve the Constitution and not ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Inaudible.]

Mr P J MARAIS: ... scrap it. Do you think that we should rather [Interjections.] improve powers of our Commissioner to deal with the issues as you mentioned? I do not get your argument.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I do not get your question.
[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, can – hon Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you and to be serious, I do not know what the question is.

I do not think so. I think people must read up and understand the roles and

functions within the Constitution of the Environmental Commissioner when we have a sensible debate on that. We want to do the best for this province, and we must be aware of what the Premier has just flagged. The poverty levels – 50% of our households live under the breadline, and I would love to have more money for our kids and women and people who do not have food to eat. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, that ends that Question 3. We now move over to Question 4. Hon Minister, I recognise you, hon Minister Bredell.

Municipalities: disaster assistance to

4. Mr D America asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

What specific support has his Department provided to the Overberg District Municipality and the Cape Agulhas Municipality to assist the communities affected, particularly those in Struisbaai and others affected by the storms of early May this year?

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dankie agb Adjunkspeaker, aan die agb lid America, baie dankie. Ek dink nie ek moet die hele een lees nie. As die agb lid my sal toelaat gaan ek so hier en daar raak en dan sal ek dit vir hom indien.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Weerdienste het op 3 Mei 2021 vroeëre waarskuwingseine uitgereik of uitgestuur vir areas waar ons vermoed het dat ernstige weerstoestande op pad was soontoe, veral in die Tuinroete, Kaapse Wynland en die Kaapse Metro, asook die Overberg se munisipaliteite. So hy het redelik wyd geslaan, daardie weer, en daar is deur Rampbestuursentrums gekommunikeer.

Nou moet ek 'n stappie terug gee. U moet ook onthou dat ons van Plaaslike Regering wanneer die winter op pad is, altyd 'n skrywe en 'n *circular* uitstuur na die munisipaliteite toe, waar ons vir hulle sê, “Maak julle stormwater skoon; kry julle areas gereed, want die winter is op pad en ons weet dat oorstromings 'n probleem is.”

Die Kaapse Wynland, Langeberg Munisipaliteit en die Overberg Distriksmunisipaliteit is baie erg deur die ongunne weerstoestande geaffekteer, veral die wind, ensovoorts. Die Overberg, Kaap Agulhas, Swellendam en Theewaterskloof het die meeste oorstromings ondervind, en soos wat ek vandag hier staan, is daar 'n span van ons ingenieurs in die provinsie wat in Kaap Agulhas is nadat die burgemeester my kom sien het, om te kyk na die oorstromings in sy munisipale area. Wat baie interessant is, en ek dink ook dit is 'n ontwerpersprobleem, hulle sukkel met stormwater en ons ingenieurs sal 'n plan op die tafel moet sit oor hoe gaan ons keer dat daardie huise elke winter oorstroom. So die Departement het met die burgemeester in aanraking gewees en ons is besig om daardie opname te doen.

Ons is ook besig om die skade te verifieer. Dit is nog bietjie vroeg, maar met 'n eerste oogopslag lyk dit of die skade hier by die plus-minus R360 miljoen gaan wees. Weereens dit is nie feitelik nie, die feite sal ons kry, ons is besig met daardie ondersoek. Die storm, soos wat u kan hoor, het redelik wyd geslaan.

So tydens 'n onlangse vergadering tussen myself en die burgemeester het hy sy bekommernis uitgespreek dat veral in 'n sekere area in Kaap Agulhas daar baie oorstromings is en dit gebeur elke winter, en daarom het ons dan nou die span ingenieurs gestuur om hulle te help met die beplanning van hulle stormwater en te kyk hoe kan ons die water uit die dorp en uit die mense se huise hou. Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon member America, thank you. I don't think I should read the whole one. If the hon member will allow me, I will touch on it here and there and then I will submit it for him.]

The South African Weather Services on 3 May 2021 issued or sent out early warning signals to areas where we suspected serious weather conditions were heading to, especially in the Garden Route, Cape Winelands and the Cape

Metro, as well as the Overberg municipalities. So it hit fairly wide, that weather, and Disaster Management Centres communicated with each other.

Now I have to take a step back. You should also remember that when winter is on its way, we always send a letter and circular from Local Government to municipalities, where we say to them, "Clear your storm water; get your areas ready, because winter is on its way and we know that flooding is a problem."

The Cape Winelands, Langeberg Municipality and the Overberg District Municipality were badly affected by the inclement weather conditions, especially the wind, etcetera. The Overberg, Cape Agulhas, Swellendam and Theewaterskloof experienced the most flooding, and as I am standing here today, there is a team of engineers in the province which is in Cape Agulhas after the Mayor had come to see me, to look at the flooding in his municipal area.

We are also busy verifying the damage. It is still a bit early, but at a first look it seems that the damage will amount to plus-minus R360 million. Again it is not factual, the facts we will get, we are busy with that investigation. The storm, as you could hear, struck fairly wide.

So during a recent meeting between myself and the Mayor he expressed his concern that especially in a certain area in Cape Agulhas there are many floods and it happens every winter, and therefore we have now sent in the

team of engineers to assist them with the planning of their storm water, and to see how we can keep the water out of the town and out of people's houses. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie, Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.] I now recognise hon member America.

†Mnr D AMERICA: Baie dankie, agb Minister, vir die antwoord en ek is seker u kan verder uitbrei in verband met die ondersteuning wat gedoen is aan die munisipaliteit, maar ek is bly, Minister, dat u genoem het dat 'n span ingenieurs is uitgestuur, want in Struisbaai-Noord in die besonder is die stormwaterstelsel nie goed ontwikkel nie.

So die vraag is in hoe 'n mate sal ons nou hierdie proses verder vat om vir Struisbaai in die besonder, 'n meestersplan vir die stormwaterstelsel te ontwikkel? Dankie [Onhoorbaar.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Minister, for the reply and I'm sure you can expand further regarding the support to the municipality, but I'm pleased, Minister, that you mentioned that a team of engineers had been sent out, because in Struisbaai North in particular the storm water system is not well developed.]

So the question is to what extent will we now take this process further to, for Struisbaai in particular, develop a master plan for the storm water system?

Thank you [Inaudible.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie. Dankie, agb Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Minister.]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agb Adjunkspeaker, baie dankie en aan die agb lid America twee goed.

Die ingenieurs is vandag in Kaap Agulhas. As hy praat van “Struisbaai”, kan hy net vir my dit gee dat ek met hulle kan kommunikeer. Miskien is dit ’n ander perseel, ek weet nie, waarna hulle moet kyk. Ek het vir hulle gevra om vir my te kyk na ’n meestersplan, maar ons almal weet dat ’n meestersplan en die uitrol van ’n meestersplan tyd gaan vat, gaan geld neem en ons klein kUSDorpe het nie daardie tipe begrotings nie, so dis ’n lang proses, maar ek het ook vir hulle gevra om vir my te kyk na die onmiddellike; ’n korttermyn, ’n maklike, ’n goedkoper oplossing sodat ons net kan voorkom dat mense se huise water kry en dat hulle kniediep in die water is, en ek dink die ingenieurs sal met beide planne ’n baie korttermyn oplossing vind, wat miskien nie die ideaal is nie, en dan sal ons met die munisipaliteit werk deur ons MIC-tipe aansoeke, om ’n langer termyn meestersplan daar te plaas. Dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you and to the hon America, two things.

The engineers are today in Cape Agulhas. When he speaks of “Struisbaai”, can he just give it to me so that I can communicate with them. Perhaps it is another site, I don’t know, they have to look at. I asked them to look at a master plan for me, but we all know that a master plan and the rollout of a master plan are going to take time, will cost money and our small coastal towns do not have those type of budgets, so it is a long process, but I also asked them to look at the immediate; a sort term, easy, cheaper solution so that we can just prevent people’s houses from taking water and that they are knee-deep in the water, and I think the engineers will with both plans find a very short term solution, which is perhaps not ideal, and then we will work with the municipality through our MIC-type applications to put a longer term master plan in place. Thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister. Enige ander vrae?

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Any other questions?]

I do not see any other hands. That concludes that question. Thank you very much.

I now recognise hon Minister Marais.

Riversdale Public Library: facility for the visually impaired

5. Mr R I Allen asked the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:

With reference to the new mini-library facility for people who are visually impaired that was opened at the Riversdale Public Library:

(a) What impact does this have on the community and (b) what does this represent for diversity and inclusivity in the province?

†Die MINISTER VAN KULTUURSAKE EN SPORT: Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker, baie dankie vir agb lid Allen wat die vraag gevra het.

Die doel van die mini-biblioteek was die tyd vir mense met gesigsgestremdhede om leesbronne aan gestremde persone in verskillende gemeenskappe regoor die land te verskaf, en lede van die Riversdal-gemeenskap wat nie van die gewone biblioteekbronne en fasiliteite gebruik kan maak nie as gevolg van blindheid, gesigsgestremdheid, disleksie of algemene gestremdheid, het nou die geleentheid om deur die projek gratis toegang te verkry tot hierdie gewone biblioteekhulpbronne, soos in braille, klank en taktiele elektroniese uitstallings.

Die projek bied ook stemlees-sagteware vir individue wat rekenaarvaardig is, sowel as leeshulptegnologie vir diegene wat die biblioteek besoek.

Die Riversdal Biblioteekspan is betrokke by uitreikingsaksies na aftree-oorde

en skole en organisasies vir gestremdes wat die projek verwelkom het, en nou gebruikers van die klankapparatuur en boeke van die projek is, en ten opsigte van wat dit vir diversiteit en inklusiwiteit in die provinsie beteken, verseker die Provinsie deur middel van die projek dat hul biblioteke nou toeganklik is vir meer mense in die gemeenskap waarin hulle werk, deur hierdie biblioteke van die nodige instrumente en hulpbronne te voorsien ten einde meer doeltreffende diens te lewer aan persone wat gedrukte boeke kan lees en verstaan, sowel as persone wat gestremd is; waar hierdie groepe vroeër gemarginaliseer is word daar groter inklusiwiteit in biblioteke en hulle werksaamhede met die publiek geskep. Baie dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to hon member Allen who asked the question.

The purpose of the mini library is the time for people with sight disabilities to provide reading resources to disabled persons in various communities across the country, and members of the Riversdale community who cannot make use of the usual library sources and facilities because of blindness, sight disability, dislexia or general disability, now have the opportunity through the project to get access to these normal library sources, as in braille, sound and tactile electronic exhibitions.

The project also offers voice-read software for individuals who are computer

literate, as well as reading aid technology for those visiting the library.

The Riversdal Library team is involved in outreach actions to retirement villages and schools and organisations for the handicapped who welcomed the project, and now are users of the sound apparatus and books of the project, and with regard to what it means to diversity and inclusivity in the province, the Province ensures through the project that their libraries are now accessible to more people in the community within which they work, by providing these libraries with the necessary instruments and resources to deliver a more efficient service to persons who can read and understand printed books, as well as handicapped persons, where these groups had earlier been marginalised greater inclusivity in libraries and their activities with the public are created. Thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie, agb Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] To the hon member Allen, would you like a follow-up?

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the response from the Minister and to link it back to libraries and because libraries, hon Deputy Speaker, have a service footprint across the entire province and in each district, I want to check from the Minister whether libraries in the province are involved in the vaccination registration drive for the province? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. †Agb Minister. [Hon Minister.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORTS: Yes, hon member Allen. As we all have to do our part in registering as many elderly citizens as possible, as they may not have the means to do so themselves, our library service should be commended for volunteering to support the #Lets Do This vaccination registration drive currently underway in the province, and public libraries across the province are actively assisting residents 60 years and older, with vaccination registration.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Any further follow-up questions? No? That concludes Question 5.

Question 6 has been withdrawn. We now move over to Question 7. I now recognise Minister Maynier.

[Question 6 withdrawn.]

Lockdown intervention mechanisms for business

7. Ms N Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

What innovative role was played by his Department as an intervention mechanism to make sure that businesses in the province can thrive or

operate successfully even at the height of the lockdown period?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon member for putting the question on what innovative role my Department has played in ensuring that businesses can thrive and operate successfully at the height of the lockdown.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, with the announcement of the national lockdown on 26 March 2020, many businesses were forced to close temporarily. During this period and throughout the alert level 1 restrictions, the Department of Economic Development worked hard to support businesses, especially small businesses, to open up safely and responsibly, so that we could save jobs and ultimately save the economy in the Western Cape, and so we thought that certain sectors were able to open safely and responsibly under the risk adjusted approach to the COVID-19 lockdown, and we worked hard to engage with National Government to allow these sectors to open up responsibly.

With the release of the risk adjusted approach in April, we worked around the clock to engage with numerous economic stakeholders as part of our submission to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. We received numerous submissions which, together with our detailed submission, were submitted to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Many of these recommendations, which we put after this extensive

consultation with business, were finally adopted by National Government, and persisted in opening the economy, of course responsibly, in the Western Cape.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: In addition to that, hon Deputy Speaker, in addition to our efforts to open up the economy, we also took a number of steps of course to support business through the lockdown period.

We set up a COVID-19 Content Centre with our partners at Wesgro and the City of Cape Town, to provide support and advice for businesses during this crisis. We focused particularly on helping businesses interpret the legal requirements placed on them during the lockdown period, because of course many aspects of the lockdown and of course the alert level regulations, were unclear to business, and so they required support in determining how to navigate the restrictions.

We also launched a COVID support finder, which helped businesses to navigate and access the many financial relief packages which were available to them. We launched an app for entrepreneurs, which was innovative and provided a one-stop shop for existing and potential business owners in the Western Cape to get all the resources that they needed to start, to scale-up and perhaps to grow their firms.

We also implemented the “Go Digital Western Cape” campaign, which provided I think very practical advice, tips and tools to assist businesses to pivot their businesses online and adopt digital technologies, and these were communicated to businesses through a series of webinars and published articles. The “Tech Volunteer” campaign matched those, for example, seeking assistance with ICT matters, and matched those with businesses who required advice on ICT.

We also, through our Red Tape Reduction Unit, of course assisted entrepreneurs with business information, such as how to start businesses, where to register business, as well as dealing with red tape issues such as delayed payments, and over this period to date, we have had about 146,000 visitors who have used our support business website. The COVID-19 Content Centres dealt with 2,674 queries. The COVID-19 Support Finder has assisted about 6,900 businesses, and the Red Tape Reduction Unit has dealt with 1,248 queries, but of course in addition to our Red Tape Reduction Unit there were many businesses and individuals that experienced delays with, for example, UIF TERS pay-outs, and we stood by to assist them.

We of course also supported businesses, hon Deputy Speaker, by distributing about R38 million through our COVID-19 Business Relief Fund, to 249 small businesses across the Western Cape, saving about 2,000 jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also distributed R3 million through the Community Economy Recovery

project, which was executed in partnership with the EDP, to provide 225 community kitchens in COVID-19 hotspots, with digital vouchers for food relief, which was of course spent at participating spaza shops and supported about 122 spaza shops across the Western Cape.

Of course, hon Deputy Speaker, tourism was very hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and suffered significant job losses. We of course during this period held significant and continuous engagements with key tourism industry stakeholders. We worked with the industry to ensure destination readiness and the implementation of all the necessary health guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

We distributed R5 million through the Tourism Product Development Fund to support new or existing tourism products and experiences and save jobs in the Western Cape.

We worked with stakeholders across Government to put in place the necessary screening so that we could open the George Airport, and we supported the sector to access available funding by driving awareness of the availability of funds through our networks and of course assisting applicants who needed it.

To ensure, for example, that our tour guides could access relief funding National Government had made available, we collected and verified contact details of our tour guides across the Western Cape, and submitted their

details of probably an estimated 5,000 guides to the National Department of Tourism to receive funding relief, or to be eligible to receive funding relief, and of course we released a five part weekly seminar series on the tourism sector that provided support and advice to businesses on opening safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But that is not all, hon Deputy Speaker. We also worked very hard during this time to ensure that all employers and employees implemented and adhered to the critical safety measures that were required to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. To ensure that small businesses remained open and more people got back to work, it was important that all employers and all employees adhere to critical safety measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the workplace, and so we made a number of, I think, very valuable resources available to employers and employees returning to work, which can be found on the Western Cape Government's website.

We made available, for example, health guidelines and information material and preventing and managing COVID-19 infections. We assisted businesses to find personal protective equipment suppliers through our PPE marketplace. We distributed 11,000 COVID-19 business safety kits to small businesses and informal traders across the Western Cape, to support them to implement the necessary health measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, and we also provided employees with a set of frequently asked questions, that provided them with advice on how to stay safe in the workplace and what their employer needed to do to ensure their

safety.

And of course, we also provided employees and customers with a mechanism to report businesses that are not or were not following the necessary health guidelines to stop the spread of the virus in the workplace. To date I think we have received over 4,500 complaints of businesses in non-compliance via this online form, all of which have been resolved.

We also secured the services of an occupational health and safety agency to assist businesses at no cost. The occupational health and safety support was made available to assist businesses to ensure their compliance with COVID-19 protocols. It helped them to assess the risk, to develop risk mitigation plans and of course implement specific COVID-19 health and safety measures, and this support was provided to 459 businesses, with a further 51 businesses supported to resolve fairly complex COVID-19 workplace safety non-compliance matters.

Additionally, seven sector-specific “how to” workplace safety guides and best practice examples were developed, and which were distributed widely to businesses in the Western Cape.

We have worked hard over the lockdown period to support businesses who have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and of course we will continue to work hard to support business as we go forward in the Western Cape. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I apologise for that intervention earlier. I recognise hon member Makamba-Botya. Are there any follow-up questions to the question you wrote?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thanks to the Minister with the report that he has provided us.

I just want to find out, I think what he has responded is a mouthful and with the stats that he has given us, it is proper, but I just want to know if his Department has played any role pertaining to the business that were not compliant in terms of supplying their workers with the TERS money, specifically because we have received and we have seen a number of cases whereby some companies have refused to pay their employees the TERS money, as was announced by the President.

So I want to know if his Department has played any role in terms of making sure that those businesses are actually put into place in terms of compliance and all that; and secondly, I want to know if there is any informal trading that he can give stats on, from in like townships where he has assisted those informal trading companies to recover from the COVID-19. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, thank you, but just remember you have asked two questions there. It really just requires one. Over to you, Minister.

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

Let me begin again with the issue of UIF TERS, which is of concern to the hon member, and of course during this period was of great concern to the Department.

Through our COVID-19 Support Finder, we helped businesses to navigate and access the many financial relief packages on the one hand that they were eligible to apply for, including of course the Unemployment Insurance Fund so-called “Temporary Employed Relief Scheme”.

In addition, the team behind the COVID-19 Content Centre, which I have mentioned, and of course the Red Tape Reduction Unit, directly engaged with many employers to help them with their applications by providing the relevant information, including the fairly regular amendments, if you recall, to the application process, which caused great difficulties accessing UIF TERS.

Our Red Tape Reduction Unit also liaised directly with the Department of Employment and Labour to address the challenges that they had also distributing the funds in a timely manner, and we also intervened on behalf of businesses with the Department of Employment and Labour, where there was evidence that there were huge delays in the finalisation of applications, and where there were huge undue delays.

To date the Red Tape Reduction Unit, I think, assisted about 183 businesses, and the equivalent of over 8,595 employees, with almost an average overall pay-out of about R43 million from UIF TERS.

We also found numerous difficulties with individuals and businesses which of course were reported to us, and we did, as I have said, everything to ensure that UIF TERS was paid out to support employees in businesses in the Western Cape.

On the question of informal trading. I have mentioned that we worked hard to support businesses in the informal economy in a number of ways, including, for example, accessing funding, which they were eligible for through National Government.

So if you recall informal traders and informal businesses were eligible for the general dealership support scheme and the spaza shop support scheme which was run by the National Department of Small Business, and what we did was to engage with municipalities across the Western Cape to compile a comprehensive data base of informal traders, which was then submitted to the National Department of Small Business, who used the information obviously to determine the allocation of funding to the Province, and that database was updated on a monthly basis, and I think informed the allocation of relief funding, and of course planning to support informal business in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to find out from the Minister, at the height of the lockdown, as per the question, it was essentially at level 5 and only essential services was allowed at the time due to draconian regulations that were implemented by the National Government.

At one stage we could not have certain cooked food and you could not have certain types of shoes or vests, and taxis were allowed to be full 100%. Did the Western Cape make any recommendations to the National Government in terms of any of these draconian regulations? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: The hon member is absolutely right. At the height of lockdown 5 there were restrictions on businesses which were draconian, and which were unreasonable and certainly constrained the economy in the Western Cape.

There is no better example, if hon members recall, of the restrictions placed on eCommerce, and certainly the Western Cape Government took the view that the sooner that we get eCommerce up and running, the better, and so after a visit to Take-a-Lot distribution warehouse in the Western Cape, where I went to see for myself the kinds of safety protocols that had been put in

place, I was satisfied that eCommerce could be opened up responsibly and safely, and so we, together with the sector, input from the sector, compiled a submission, which was lodged with National Government, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and we had several conversations at ministerial level about the opening up of the economy, especially the opening up of eCommerce. The hon member will know that we were successful in opening up eCommerce in the Western Cape.

Another sector which was negatively affected of course was the construction sector, and we, again after inputs from industry, the Master Building Association and the construction industry, also put a submission on the construction sector and the construction sector, as you know, was eventually opened up. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Any further follow-up questions?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Minister, I wanted to find out, at the height of the COVID regulations, essentially what happened almost halfway into the year, is businesses were also slammed with a double-whammy, and now we know that we are coming up with a possible increase in

regulations again, and we have seen that Eskom has already had loadshedding again.

What is the Western Cape doing to prevent this double whammy of increased lockdown and increase of loadshedding on businesses? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon member. I often like to say that the pandemic was a left hook; loadshedding was a right hook, which was often a knockout blow for many businesses in the Western Cape, and it is precisely for that reason that we have implemented our Municipal Energy Resilience Programme, where we are taking advantage of new regulations in the energy sector, to work with candidate municipalities; six municipalities across the Western Cape, essentially to prepare and power up our municipalities to begin to procure energy from independent power producers in the Western Cape, which will reduce the reliance on Eskom, and buffer households and municipalities from loadshedding in the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I note that the time is officially up, so that will bring us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in the Hansard.

We now come to questions to the Premier without Notice, and just to remind

the hon members that there were to be two follow-ups by the members posing the question, which relates to the original question or reply.

I now recognise the hon member Herron.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we know that the Premier believes that a municipality can be placed under administration by what he calls “political agreement”, and the Premier is aware that, I think, that this is a breach of the Rule of the Law, and the Public Protector is busy dealing with that, but what I would like to ask the Premier is to advise this Parliament, what are the circumstances or what are the events that should prevail in a municipality which would prompt his Government to commence proceedings to place a municipality under administration? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier.

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

First of all, in his statement that he made around what I believe about “political agreement”, I think he must understand the consequence or the context of how that happens.

So in this province, since I have been in Government for 12 years now, and in those 12 years I have only seen one real proper Section 136, and the way that that happened was that eventually what we got is the political caucuses in those councils to agree.

So when I say “political agreement”, the two major parties in that specific council then agreed that they would put a Section 136, in other words they would allow it to happen. In my previous experience when I was the MEC of Finance, I still remember sending a couple of mails or letters to a government in this province, a municipal government in this province, one starting probably about two months before they had to get their budget in place. Another one to them a month before. All advising them that they do not have a budget and they need to put in place, and in actual fact if you read the Constitution and the Acts, it says that if a municipality does not have a budget, then the Province must step in, the MEC of Finance must step in. Not “may”, “must”.

I still remember sending a letter to the municipal manager and the mayor a day before they had to have that budget approved, and the municipal manager sent me a reply saying, “I have no reason why you should not step in,” and of course that being many years ago, it was the Overberg Municipality, and even that the courts overturned it, we could not intervene. It is a very difficult space in which to get real, Provincial Section 136s to be implemented, when there is failure at a Local Government level.

And so, I think if you can get agreement, because of course that municipality, it was a political party that then challenged the process, and the courts then did not enable that specific administration of that municipality.

So it is a very interesting question, and I actually think we need some extra work. I know that the Minister of Local Government is busy on it to find new and easier and better ways to be able to have this proper oversight process of being able to put a municipality under administration.

So then what kind of criteria or what kind of misdemeanours - obviously we have to apply our mind to each one individually; obviously the one is passing over budget, and that is pretty simple, and I think that the most basic is that the system already says if you do not have a budget then someone has to intervene, and I absolutely agree with it, but as I have said in the past it has not worked.

And then of course you also have to have an analysis, you have to have your legal team to really go into the detail of why that specific municipality needs to be put under administration, and of course that is why we have Departments of Local Government, that is why we have that role within the Constitution.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Inaudible.] hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. So the Premier did not

really indicate what kind of circumstances should prevail in order for his Government to implement an analysis to see whether a municipality should be placed under administration.

So the analysis is the process, it is not really the circumstances that would worry his Government or concern his Government to such an extent that they would start such a process, but I am wondering if any of the following circumstances would prompt the Western Cape Cabinet to commence the proceedings to place a municipality under administration. Things like the awarding of large contracts in breach of the Municipal Finance Management Act and Supply Chain Management Policies or making unlawful *ex gratia* payments to senior staff members or receiving a communication of audit findings of gross irregular expenditure exceeding tens of billions of rand over a period of time and hiding these findings in management letters. Or failing to address recurring tender irregularities, or running political party activities from municipal offices, like phone canvassing. Or being investigated by the Hawks for fraud, corruption or money-laundering. Or maybe irregularly appointing senior staff members, including staff who have been charged with serious criminal offences in other municipalities.

Would any of those circumstances prompt his Government to start a process?

Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Absolutely. So if the hon member wants to initiate us getting into such process, then I welcome him to send through that detail, because as I have said, we have got to then apply our minds, ask those relevant questions, because it is one thing saying something, the other is actually getting to the depth of whatever that case is, investigating it and then of course then you would instigate those specific processes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Well, I am pleased to hear the Premier say “of course”, because all of those circumstances that I refer to are allegedly happening in the City of Cape Town, and if I have this information, then surely, Premier, you and your Cabinet colleagues, including your Minister of Finance, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Community Safety, must have this information and probably much, much more.

So I am asking the Premier, is it not time to commence the process to place the City of Cape Town under administration?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Oh, I thought the hon member was referring to his National Leader and building of fences and appointing City of Cape Town suspended members to her Department, but obviously he is talking about the City of

Cape Town, and I welcome him to please send me that detail of what he thinks needs to be investigated, and I will definitely reply to him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That concludes the first question. Thank you, hon member Herron.

We now move over to hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. My question to the Premier, in light of the increased COVID-19 infections in the province and the likelihood of a third wave, under which conditions would the Premier support revised lockdown regulations, and what impact would this have on the Government's resources?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much to the hon member. I think first of all obviously where we sit right now is at the cusp of a potential third wave. We can already see a third wave officially, according to the numbers declared in a number of provinces in our country, and of course the President has called a PCC for Sunday, to have this very discussion.

Obviously from a Western Cape Provincial Government point of view, we believe in a differentiated approach to application of different regulatory reforms or regulatory draconian measures to slow down the spread, and I say

“draconian measures” because I think that many of them are very blunt instruments, and that is why I specifically believe that there should be an ability to have a differentiated approach.

As we speak, post the Cabinet yesterday, I have actually asked our Department of Health, our Department of Economic Development, our Department of Agriculture, and of course it will also then go from those three departments that will look at our position right now, and we are also looking at different phases. You will see from the Health Department’s response, which they have already made public, which has almost colour-coded the different levels of infection spread or rate.

So you will get a sort of yellow, orange and red, almost like a traffic light system. I see many countries are using that system at the moment, and that enables you to measure the number of increases of cases on seven day rolling averages, and then to say, well, what are the different tools that are available. We already, as we know, have a level of lockdown in place at the moment with curfew, etcetera. We have minimum gatherings or maximum gatherings, should I say. We also are still obviously pushing for handwashing, mask wearing, making sure that we are congregating in enclosed environments, and of course we will be pushing for that this weekend in whatever our Government agrees is what those points are, and to what severity, and of course I absolutely believe that in the beginning with the first hard lockdown, which was supposed to be for three weeks, that was to get our health response ready.

I can tell you right now that we are in place for a third wave, we have the beds in place, we have the oxygen supply in place, we have the extra nurses in place. So we are prepared from that point of view, and of course we would only then start to apply those extra levels of infringement, should I say, where necessary, to save or safeguard that frontline, those health workers, those beds, those ICU beds, and of course the oxygen levels, and any other critical input that would be needed to make sure we save lives should we get to that height of infection in a peak in a third wave.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Premier, considering that businesses, and particularly small businesses, continue to face extremely difficult circumstances as a result of the pandemic and the various lockdown regulations, what has this Government done to support these enterprises?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, and I think that is also a very critical question.

I do not want to repeat, and I think Minister Maynier has spent quite a long time answering many of those questions before I had had this opportunity, and you could get from his various answers to a number of the questions, I mean there were lots of interventions, but I also want to say that it is those small businesses that are really taking lots of strain at the moment.

I was a reading a report yesterday on a number of liquidations still taking place in our country, measuring last year this time to this year this time, and you can see at the moment you look at the numbers of companies specifically affecting our province, are those hospitality businesses, and I think you can see they have really tried hard to hang on, to hang on and we are going to get past this, and they have, I think they really have worked hard at it, and you can just see, it is almost like in desperation, and they are being into liquidation, and that is really, really difficult on small businesses, and of course on all of those jobs that they support directly within those businesses and indirectly, and of course that is why I think in our Recovery Plan it is also about how do we make sure that we also support jobs, safety and dignity, but in the job space, what are those extra interventions that we can put in place to make sure that these businesses can survive.

What support measures, and you heard Minister Maynier from some of those direct interventions, where they could make application for direct funding, to support, to marketing tools to help those businesses, enable new markets.

I think also we as a region - if you think about Wesgro and the role that they were playing, and even my own discussions today in the work that is happening this week around, linked to the celebration of Africa Day, today also having a discussion, even myself, with the Consul Generals on some of our Africa National partners on how we can increase trade, foreign direct investment.

Actually in a way many of our sub-Saharan African countries have done way better than we have when it comes to foreign direct investment in the last year, and also the ability of our companies and their companies to grow together in this region.

So it is varied range of interventions through direct ones, through the departments of both Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture, Wesgro, as well as any other opportunity at Local Government level, and just even diplomacy kind of discussions as I have just been saying.

So lots of various interventions, and I think also just open discussion with business. Even on the vaccine rollout, just discussing with business the role that they play in helping us to get more and more people vaccinated and registered. You can see that they also value that interaction, because they also need to get back to business as soon as possible.

So it is about creating that environment where we can all work together, understand what those pressures are, and then continue to come up with ways in which we can support those SMMEs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier. Hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, now we have seen that the second wave was much bigger than the first wave, and the third wave is coming; what steps is this Government taking to limit the

intensity of the third wave and to flatten the curve?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for that follow-up. I think first of all, as I have said, our readiness is in place, but what other steps? We are continually messaging. I started off by thanking the citizens for the role that they are playing in making sure we are keeping this as slow as possible. The longer we can stretch out before it starts to increase beyond resurgence, the better it is for the vaccination programmes, for protecting people who are specifically 60 and over, the more we can get vaccinated, *et cetera*. So, that is really critical that we get that part right and carry on through into this third wave, whenever it does hit us. You can be as prepared as possible. The epidemiologists are telling us that the third wave is expected to definitely not be as bad as the second wave and could even be less than the first wave. I sincerely hope that that is so, but I remember standing here at the start of the second wave saying we are fully prepared, we have got everything in place and then, we were hit by that double whammy called a second variant and of course, there are a number of new variants. Here, I also hope that the epidemiologists are right in that the further variants that are now morphing as this virus spreads, are actually becoming weaker. That is a norm in epidemiology that as viruses mutate, they become weaker over time and I sincerely hope that that is the case because then, we are going to beat this.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We have got four minutes left. Hon America, I am going to give you the opportunity.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Premier, can you explain to the House what developments have taken place in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to qualifying residents, particularly those beyond the metro area of the province? Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for the question and specifically, yes, I think the rural areas are critical. First of all, I want to just start off by saying to the members of this House, all political parties, thank you very much for supporting the vaccine registration drive. We would actually like you to take it even further. I think we have already communicated with the Communications Team and the Speaker, and specifically, as we roll out to more and more of the vaccine stations.

You would have seen last week Monday, we started with six, plus one dedicated to the health care workers. Then, of course, the next day another 11 opened up. We were sitting at 30 by the end of the week. We will be sitting at another 35 by the end of this week. Next week, we ramp it up even more – private and public – so, they are continually opening. By the end of next week, we should have a facility in at least every town, every municipality across this province. Obviously, the total rollout, which includes the majority of vaccination stations, are in rural areas. So, from a Government's point of view: 70 in the City and 204 in rural areas. Due to the vast geographic spread of rural areas, we definitely have to make sure that we are trying to get those vaccinations stations as close to people as possible.

I would also perhaps want to use or abuse this opportunity, hon America, to say that we have made live a dashboard that has come out of the data team in DoTP, which is looking at our resident census and overlaying that with age groups and registrations, so that anybody – members of the public, but I also encourage the members of this House to go in a look in your constituency – and see where people are registered and where they are not. We ask you to please have a look at that tool, use it and go and try to get further people registered where we have got these gaps. I have said I want to see a heat map of where registrations are, but of course, what the opposites are and how do we zoom in.

Specifically, we know in communities that are poorer, who do not have access to WiFi and smart phones etcetera, we need to help them. We really need to help them get registered. You will also see on that dashboard that we have indicated every single Government WiFi hotspot. We have also zero-rated data on it. So, across all of our rural areas you will see every one of those towers, where they are. You get free WiFi. You already get free 3GB of WiFi on those hotspots, but if you are doing anything to do with COVID-19 registrations, it will be zero-rated.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Premier.

The SPEAKER: Hon America, do you have a follow-up?

Mr D AMERICA: Speaker, I just want to make a comment. Thank you for that extensive answer, Premier. I have gone into the dashboard data. It is an extremely innovative and useful tool. So, the follow-up question is, Speaker: how is the Provincial Government ensuring that adequate communication is distributed to residents in order to address any vaccination uncertainty and scepticism that may exist among some people? Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you, Speaker. Thank you very much for that follow-up. Obviously, this is an issue. It has been an issue across the world and in this area of dealing with people with questions obviously, we have got to be able to answer anybody's fear. Anybody who has a question around a vaccine, we have got to be able to give them that confidence. So, we have got on our website the Frequently Asked Questions, to give anybody the detail. Part of our weekly digicon, which is open through social media platforms, the news and media, every time we have been able to open questions, we deal with any of those fears and issues.

Lastly, on that question, I want to say that I was incredibly privileged and honoured to have had the Archbishop Desmond Tutu come forward, along with his wife, and say that they are prepared to be almost vaccine ambassadors. I mean, that was really someone who, as we know in our history, has always led from the front. No matter what it was, he stood up and made his mark, and here again. I really am so grateful to him for doing

exactly that because that has helped so many people that might be afraid and to see someone like that who we actually all honour doing that. I really am so grateful to him.

Of course, the other religious leaders that have come forward and that we have worked with across all of the religions and faith groups in our region, who have all come forward and supported this process as well. Then of course, just the general ambassadors of citizens who have come forward. You might have seen sports stars coming forward, radio presenters, people just coming forwards saying, 'come along, let us get registered, let us go and get these vaccines' because it is quite critical that we allay these fears, we build our herd immunity.

Also, watching those digicons, you can see the effectiveness of it. You can already see tracking, COVID-19 positive cases and deaths amongst our healthcare workers which are on the frontline, and you can definitely see on those graphs the impact of vaccines. So, it is about openness, transparency and also about answering anybody's question in society and getting it out there. And again, thank you very much to the hon members of this House for the role that they are playing in this space as well. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Good evening, hon members. We have now concluded on the Questions to the Premier without Notice. We have now arrived at the opportunity for Members Statements, and I would request the Democratic Alliance to begin with their Members Statement.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Ms L J BOTHA (DA): Speaker, last week the Provincial Minister for Education revealed in this House that approximately 100 children during the last three years were bullied at schools in the province. Just one week later, I stand before you to extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of a matric learner at Rhenish High School. The learner committed suicide. Though this death may not be linked to bullying, as the case is being investigated, her sad passing speaks to psychological and societal ills, as well as challenges existing in the safety of communities.

Speaker, the issue, however, extends beyond simply erecting fences. That is something too often inaccurately criticised, but what this issue does speak to is the desperate need for the South African Police Service to clamp down on organised crime. It is destroying the lives of young people as we note the murder of another matriculant gunned down in Mitchells Plain this week and the shooting in Delft by young people themselves.

Speaker, members of this House, irrespective of party colours, we must help communicate the support lines and departmental interventions to assist our youth. We must encourage parents to become involved along with their children in locating available support, which has also been extended by the Provincial Department of Education, to the space of cyber bullying. We are encouraged by the deployment of Youth Safety Ambassadors, under the leadership of the Department of Community Safety, under their Violence

Prevention programmes, particularly for vulnerable communities. However, we need the lead safety agency in the country to firmly tackle organised crime before it continues to claim more innocent lives of youth by the day. We need to see criminals brought to book. We need to see family violence units adequately supported. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Botha. Hon members, I recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION (ANC): Speaker, the ANC notes that the DA is currently, once again, isolated with its attempt to amend the Provincial Constitution by removing the provision for the Environmental Commissioner. That they would be able to secure the two thirds required to amend the Constitution at this stage, seems very far off. All the public hearings have overwhelmingly come out in support of the establishment on an urgent basis of the Commissioner, while the submission made yesterday by the former DA Chief Whip in this Provincial Legislature, Mark Wiley, coming out against this amendment of the Provincial Constitution, shows just how out of touch this DA caucus is with its membership as well. Mr Wiley made a strong case for the appointment. Again, the deep divisions and discord between this DA Provincial Government and the rest of the DA and its membership, are glaring.

In a province that suffers terribly from climate change, through drought, wildfires and a receding coastline, it is preposterous that this Provincial Government is pushing for an amendment which does not support the

establishment of the Commissioner. The ANC, Speaker, calls on the DA to do the honourable thing and withdraw this amendment. I thank you.

[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Leader of the Opposition. Order, hon members. I know recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, Speaker. The EFF condemns the latest shooting of civilians in the Delft township by a marauding band of criminals, who continue to terrorise the people in the communities and claim their lives for no reason. The latest series of shootings took place on 25 May 2021, on Tuesday evening, and claimed the lives of three people, whilst another two were left seriously injured from gunshots. The perpetrators of these heinous crimes continue to be rampant in their approach, as one of the victims of these gunshots is a 13-year-old girl from the area. One community member from the area even went to the extent of saying ‘Delft is not a good place’ and further outlined that shooting of this kind takes place on a daily basis, without any assistance from those entrusted with enforcing the law.

In 2019, Premier Alan Winde remarked that his so-called Safety Plan would be data driven, utilising technology and information to focus specifically on crime hotspots where and when crime happens. I find it extremely shocking that in the year 2021, such technology and information are not yet utilised in

the hotspots where crime happens and when it happens. What we were sold back then was nothing but a big lie. It is now clear that the DA-led Western Cape Government is useless when it comes to issues of combating crime. All they do is waste taxpayers' money on a so-called Safety Plan which is not only backwards, but also not practical and remains useless. The police services in this country are rotten to the core and cannot even perform the minimum duty of at least being visible in our township communities. If crime is to be controlled and defeated, we will first need proper leadership in place, with workable ideas and willingness to capacitate law enforcement services. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. Hon members, I now recognise the DA.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The Western Cape Government is often accused of attempting to be an island, but when faced with a non-responsive National Government, their track record shows that the Province is not afraid to step in and step up to bring services to residents. District Six is a case in point. More than 20 years, hundreds of families, five ANC Ministers, five ANC Presidents: no justice nor restitution. What was the only thing served? ANC delays and ANC excuses. Already this year, the handing over of 108 homes has been delayed twice and despite a self-imposed, deadline just days away, to my knowledge, residents still do not know when they will be moving in.

Between 1996 and 1999, Derek Hanekom was appointed the Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs by President Mandela. Our current Minister, Thoko Didiza, succeeded him when she was appointed by President Mbeki in 1999. It is under her leadership that the first homes were handed over in 2004. Since then, †dololo [nothing.] Between 2006 and 2009, Minister Xingwana led the Department after President Motlanthe appointed her, but what happened then? Dololo. And our longest serving Minister Nkwinti, who served under President Jacob Zuma for nine years, but what did they serve? You guessed it: dololo. Then, for just more than a year, Minister Nkoana-Mashabane was appointed by President Ramaphosa to lead the Department. This was only for National Government to come nearly full cycle and appoint Minister Didiza to the newly created Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. New masks, new outfits, new titles. It is the same serving, yes, it is dololo.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Maseko. Dololo. [Laughter.] Time is dololo.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you, Chair.

The SPEAKER: May I now request the hon Herron. Hon Herron?

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker, I have dololo.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon members, I now consider the ACDP, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am a father and a parent, and today I stand here with a heavy heart that bleeds for the communities who are exposed to senseless violence every day. Just yesterday, Speaker, as a member of this House, I walked the streets of Hillview and Lavender Hill, accompanied by leaders of the ACDP and leaders of the community. Speaker, we responded to a call from a community member crying out for help. The ongoing fights of gangs and druglords have made the streets one of the most dangerous places to be in and the community faces this situation every day. I saw SAPS patrolling the area, but I did not see one law enforcement officer patrolling the streets.

Now, my question is where is the evidence of this R1,4 billion Safety Plan announced by Premier Alan Winde? While we, as the ACDP, were walking the streets of Lavender Hill, communities from Clarke Estate and Elsies River added their cries for help. The body count is mounting in Lavender Hill, Elsies River, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Delft, Mfuleni and various other areas. Ongoing killings in these areas force people to become prisoners in their own homes. Parents are petrified when they must send their children to school. Monday afternoon, Keenan Classen 19-years-old, was murdered by a suspected skollie in St Charles Street, Hillview. And Speaker, as I was preparing this speech, some community members sent me a message: at quarter to 8 this morning, Ayden Farmer was killed on his way to work. As the ACDP, we are asking the Premier and his Government to address these senseless killings and intervene. I thank you.

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The ANC in the Western Cape calls on SAPS and the Provincial Government to deploy more resources, to quell tensions in Ottery, Lavender Hill and surroundings, following an outbreak of a gang war between the Mongrels, the Fast Guns and the No Fears, which has left five dead and five more seriously wounded. The shooting spree started on 21 May with the brutal attack on Tyrone Hope, a young father who was gunned down in front of a tuckshop, 2 metres away from his home. On 25 May, Uncle Billy was also gunned down in front of his gate.

The gangs are acting with impunity and terrorising our communities across the City of Cape Town. The continued gang terror sends a wrong message to communities that Cape Town is a Mafia state. In mid-May, there were 40 reported deaths of gunshot wounds in three days. These gangs use the same modus operandi: young boys are converted to drug addicts and child soldiers who are defending the drug turf. In most cases, the high flyers are never arrested. Police only arrest drugrunners and users.

This is another big failure of the so-called Safety Plan, which did not prioritise addressing the root causes of crime and building rehab centres for our communities. Moreover, the delayed deployment of the additional 500 LEAP officers is to be blamed for the continued carnage. We call on SAPS

to deploy more police resources to hotspot areas and away from the leafy suburbs. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. Hon members, I recognise the DA.

Ms W F PHILANDER (DA): Speaker, the Standing Committee on Health embarked on an unannounced oversight visit to vaccination sites in Mitchells Plain, Nyanga and Eerste River yesterday. One of the elderly residents proudly said to me:

“I was very excited and could not wait to get my vaccine. I came here at 8 o’clock this morning and all went smoothly. The staff were professional and polite. So, I want to congratulate and thank them. My message to everyone over 60 is to register and get vaccinated. You will not be sorry.”

Speaker, this is the kind of healthcare service delivery residents in the Western Cape deserve amidst an ongoing pandemic. There is, however, a desperate need for clarity amongst residents, especially following the slow procurement and arrival of vaccines undertaken by the ANC. The fact is that their centralised approach does not work and with hindsight, the Opposition’s critique of our Government efforts to supplement initial efforts, is senseless.

Nonetheless, I welcome the interventions by the Provincial Government in

supporting not only the smooth operation of rolling out jabs and readiness to escalate services in terms of equipment and staff, but now being the only province to undertake a support intervention in the vaccine notification system.

Speaker, this will provide residents with clear answers as to when and where registered residents can get their jabs timeously. This is in addition to efforts to ramp up ease of access to the vaccination registration process in the Western Cape, by using Cape Access Centres for registration, and lobbying on young people and old-age homes to help their elders. We have seen similar support from our libraries.

This very week we unfortunately heard how part of the National Department of Health communication budget was allegedly handed over to party allies. Speaker, when will the looting of State funds by the ANC comrades come to an end? [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Philander, your time is up.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Speaker, when National Government fails, the Provincial Government supplements without fail. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Philander. Hon members, I now give the opportunity to Hon Marais, FF Plus. Are you here, hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS (EFF): Always, sir. When you are in the chair, I am here.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. It is your opportunity now.

Mr P J MARAIS: The Freedom Front Plus hereby records its utter shock and dismay at the City of Cape Town's decision to write off R295 million of current outstanding debt in arrears and announcing a future debt write-off amounting to R4 billion from previous years, despite Central Government budget cuts to municipalities just announced. This is mindboggling on the back of further electrical, water and property rate tariff increases, completely ignoring the public outcries of more than 2 000 people. The Freedom Front Plus see this as the DA municipality casting its nets in a pool which they know has the most fish, with an eye on the October elections, and calls for an investigation into good governance at local level which includes remaining economically stable and viable. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon members, I now recognise hon Brinkhuis, Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, over the past weekend 22 people have been shot and killed, amongst them innocent people and young children, and a 4-year-old lost an eye during the crossfire. These shootings occurred in Khayelitsha, Hanover Park, Delft and Mfuleni. This is not the first time that crime and violence is causing havoc in poor and black communities. The Province has an oversight responsibility over

policing. Such responsibilities over policing are not being achieved towards effective policing and creating a safe environment for our people. The Province is failing the people of the Cape Flats and in the townships, by not doing proper policing oversight of Local Government's responsibilities to eradicate crime.

It is clear that the Western Cape police lack leadership or the will to deal effectively with gangsterism and other criminal activities. Daily, there are bodies lying in the streets. I am not referring to that of gangsters – let them die – but the lives of innocent men, women, and young children. All the MEC of Community Safety does is to condemn the violence and admit that the gangsters use children to do much of their work.

It is a fact that thousands of shebeens and drug dens are breeding grounds for crime. Densely populated informal settlements are faced with huge challenges of policing. Poverty and poor levels of infrastructure with no roads and lights, and the failure to provide adequate infrastructure, roads and public lighting, by the City and the Province, are all contributing factors to the rising crime rate. We know that the Province has enough resources to effectively fight against crime, but they have allocated these resources discriminately between police stations and not to where the most urgent needs are, on the Cape Flats, in townships. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis, your time is up.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, I now recognise the DA.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, Speaker. At our last sitting, the hon Leader of the Opposition told this House about a dire situation in the Swellendam Municipality. However, I would like to point out a few facts surrounding this dire situation. The Municipality of Swellendam received five clean audits in the last seven years and two unqualified audits. It earned the Auditor General's special award for most improved municipality in the Western Cape in 2014. In 2015, the Govan Mbeki National Award for the best Upgrade of an Informal Settlement Programme in the country, was awarded to Swellendam Municipality. In 2016, the municipality was rated South Africa's number one municipality for good governance, by Good Governance South Africa.

Last week, the hon Dugmore spoke against the Mayor of Swellendam with reference to a wind generation project. However, Speaker, I put it to this House that neither the Mayor of Swellendam nor any member of his family, or councillor, have had any direct or indirect interest in any wind generation project whatsoever. According to the hon member, the Council also, and I quote, 'took a decision on wind turbines.' This was never done. It is a complete fabrication. And furthermore, the hon Leader of the Opposition stated that AG reports and SIU reports are held away from councillors. That is a fabrication of the reality. An SIU investigation into fraud and corruption

was instituted in 2011 by this current Mayor and was concluded in 2014.

Speaker, the member also stated that AG reports are not provided to councillors. It is provided to MPAC and MPAC is, incidentally, chaired by the ANC. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon America.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

Mr D AMERICA: And lastly, Speaker, this hon member is the Goebbels of this House and the ... [indistinct – speaking simultaneously] of disinformation and he will fabricate information for political point scoring. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon America, your time is up. Thank you, sir. Hon Maseko introduced a new meaning to ‘dololo’ when your time is up, so I draw your attention to that, hon America. Thank you. Hon members, I would like to request the hon Premier and the Members of the Executive: if you so wish to respond to the Member Statements, you have got five minutes to do so, and I give you your five minutes now in terms of Rule 145(6). [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Just a point of order?

The SPEAKER: Yes, hon Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. If I am not mistaken because it is sometimes difficult to understand everything, let alone comprehend everything that member America says, but I think that he referred to an hon member as Goebbels and I want to ask if that is parliamentary?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Leader of the Opposition. Let me ascertain from the hon America, whether it is, in fact, the case. Hon America, do you want to confirm or just to provide clarity in that regard?

Mr D AMERICA: Yes, I did say so, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Will you please withdraw that, hon America?

Mr D AMERICA: Speaker, on what basis?

The SPEAKER: The hon members have got names and you can only refer to them as such. You may not use inferences that may cast aspersions or draw inferences that are ... [Interjection.]

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Speaker, in that case I withdraw. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: ... inconsistent with the Rules and therefore, your understanding is welcome in this regard. Thank you very much, hon America. Thank you, hon Leader of the Opposition. Will you please switch

off your microphone? Thank you, thank you very much. In terms of Rule 145(6) that the Executive, if they so wish, may respond to Member Statements for no more than five minutes. No responses? I thank you. [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Chair. Speaker, my hand is up.

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

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Fritz, ja, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister Fritz. Welcome, sir.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Goebbels [Inaudible.]. Thank you, Speaker. I want to put this House at rest and say that the Western Cape Government will continue to implement the Safety Plan. We have been disadvantaged by the South African Police Service in the fact that they have always under-resourced us. They have always given us the least of allocations in terms of police officers, police vehicles, funding, and DNA sets, the very same ANC Government, and all other parties, who are now talking about the Safety Plan. I think we want all of them to join us in making the Safety Plan a success.

We are especially, hon Speaker, very focused on the fact that all our LEAP

officers are now about to be rolled out and unfortunately, they cannot be everywhere.

We have looked at the data where the highest murder rates currently are and that is where we are deploying them. Additionally, our area-based teams will be implemented and rolled out in all those areas that are annually the highest in terms of violence. We are very encouraged that the area-based teams, the whole society with our NGOs, Government departments, school principals, social workers, are also all coming to address the absolute origins of violence, the origins of where it emanates, the fact that children are joining gangs; to get those children out and away from joining gangs, to rather join our positive gang. We will not be deterred and taken away from our task to make this province safer. We will continue.

Of course, I will continue to condemn it, I do not condone it. If the Al Jama-Ah party wants to condone the violence, then they must go ahead and condone it. We will condemn the violence and condemn gangsterism wherever it is. That is the point that we want to emphasise, hon Speaker. We will also continue to work with our formations, such as Neighbourhood Watches and take them to a next level of professionalism. We will continue to work with our CPFs, our Community Police Forums and ask them all to stop playing politics. Let us work together and let us solve the problems. It may be impossible, but we believe we can make a difference in eradicating violence. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Fritz. Hon members, that concludes Member Statements. We now move to Notices of Motion. In terms of the new Rule, Rule 151, all the Notices of Motion have been listed on the Order Paper. There are eight motions that are listed there in the Notices of Motion. For all the members who have submitted the motions on time, that has been recorded as such. Thank you very much, the hon members.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the readiness of the Province to meet the outbreak of the third wave of Covid-19, predicted to be in the Western Cape in two to three weeks.

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

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the inefficiencies at the Transnet National Port Authority as it relates to the Port of Cape Town.

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

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the state of Western Cape schools.

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

Ms L M MASEKO: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the impact of title deeds in supporting the economic development and redress through a sense of ownership in Western Cape communities.

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

Mr M XEGO: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the slow pace of service delivery in the Western Cape townships.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the COVID-19 third wave as the priority to save lives and secure livelihoods.

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

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the high levels of crime that continue to affect the people of Western Cape and the assessment of the Safety Plan that was first introduced by Premier Alan Winde.

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

Mr M XEGO: Hon Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the preparedness of the Western Cape Provincial Government for and its response to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections in the province.

[Notice of motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: We now move to the Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I know that the hon members are aware now that the Motions without Notice, those that are of condolences and congratulatory in nature, have been dealt with by the Programming Authority and in this case, for the purposes of this meeting, on 25 May. I would like to remind the hon members that those motions where there was no agreement in terms of the structure or the content, were not allowed by the Programming Authority in terms of the new

Rule.

As such, I would just want to inform the hon members that the motions where there was an agreement, are listed here in terms of the members who read those motions: hon Philander, hon Marran, hon Van der Westhuizen, hon Brinkhuis, hon Philander again, hon Kama, and hon Kama again. So, all of those motions that have been agreed to by the Programming Authority, have been submitted by the members that I have just read.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ms W F PHILANDER: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes that without registration residents may not receive the vital COVID-19 vaccines; affirms that achieving population immunity is best realised through the mass vaccination of residents; congratulates the Provincial Departments of Health, Social Development, the Premier and Cultural Affairs and Sport for their role in providing guidelines, resources and services to support residents' access to the national registration system; and encourages all qualifying residents, under the various phases of vaccine rollout, to register for their vaccinations.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House sends its condolences to the Ceres community and families of Geraldo Wanza, Jaydene Hector, Cedric Fortuin, Keanno Africa and Sue Ann Rauss who tragically lost their lives in a horrific crash involving multiple vehicles on the evening of 8 May 2021. May their souls rest in peace.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the City of Cape Town for winning two categories at the 2021 City Nature Challenge; notes that in this competition against 150 cities worldwide, 1 315 residents took part; notes that this allowed the City to make the most observations and record the greatest number of species, 71 142 and 4 766 respectively, in the global challenge; and notes that this win is further proof of the immense biodiversity in the Western Cape and the need to protect it at all costs.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House acknowledges Mr Mervyn Coetzee of Bonteheuwel who graduated with a PhD in Education: Language and Literacy earlier this month; further acknowledges that Mr Coetzee was raised under very trying circumstances and comes from a poverty-stricken family that many times had nothing to eat; notes that he worked as a casual pool cleaner at the Sea Point Pavilion to earn extra money for the family; further notes that he was a victim of bullying at school due to two thumbs on each hand and was encouraged by his brother to complete his matric; recognises his courage and determination to pursue further studies at the University of the Western Cape where he completed a BA in English and Philosophy; recognises his completion of an Honours degree in English and several years later a Masters in English Literature; notes that he spent the 1990s at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, UWC and the University of Cape Town in various capacities as tutor, writing consultant and lecturer, and also taught in the US where he lived for several years; further notes that he spent 18 months in Dublin, Ireland, and initially enrolled for a PhD in Linguistics and later switched to a PhD in Education so he could investigate students' personal narratives; and congratulates Mr Coetzee on his academic achievements.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F PHILANDER: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Honourable Albert Fritz on his election as the interim Provincial Leader of the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape; and wishes him well in his leadership role.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M KAMA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House commends the SAPS for the arrest and apprehension of four of its Harare members suspected of extortion; and calls on justice to take its course.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M KAMA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House commends the SAPS Hawks for swiftly swooping down on people who allegedly abused Ters money meant for poor workers.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The SPEAKER: And now, for the purposes of those motions that could not be agreed upon, I now put the motions first that have been agreed to by the Programming Authority, to the House. Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the minutes of the

proceedings and in Hansard, with the name of each of the hon members, which will be as if the members have read them aloud, here in the House.

Hon members, I now put the opportunity to the hon members in terms of Standing Rule 150 2(d) that the motions for whom the Programming Authority could not agree upon, that we are going to be dealing with those without exceeding 30 minutes and those 30 minutes start now. So, there is a particular order, hon members. The names of political parties will be read by myself and then, you decide among yourselves who goes first, between the respective party members. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Speaker, we have no further Motions without Notice.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I now recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deep concern that despite the fact that the Head of Provincial Traffic appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court in October 2020 on charges of sexual assault, crimen injuria and attempting to commit a sex act, he remains in his post within the Department of Transport and Public Works; and therefore, call on Minister Daylin Mitchell to immediately suspend him. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Leader of the Opposition. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections. Are there any objections to the motion itself?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections. Agreed to. I now move to the DA again.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Speaker, we have no further Motions without Notice.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Whip. For the record, I wanted to get that. I appreciate that, thank you. To the EFF, I know hon Makamba-Botya, you are in the House.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Sorry Speaker, I lost you there. My apologies.

The SPEAKER: Are there any additional Motions without Notice?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Yes, I have got two Motions without Notice,

Speaker.

The SPEAKER: You have an opportunity to go ahead now.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: I move without notice:

That the House notes the selective nature in which the City of Cape Town responds and allocates resources pertaining to Disaster Risk Management. This comes after the residents of the Kraaifontein informal settlement were refused disaster relief by the City following the floods that they have been experiencing in the recent rains. This stance by the City of Cape Town is not only inhumane when it comes to the plight of the poor, but it also has tenets of racism. The City has a mandate to provide service delivery to all the people in its jurisdiction, equally, fairly and without favour, by not taking into account race or class of the members of that society. By so doing, they are not doing anyone a favour, but executing a constitutional duty which they are obliged to execute. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. Hon members, I now recognise – thank you, hon members. I see that the hon members are wide awake, thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being read without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Yes.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. Noted and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Thank you. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Herron, GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON: Speaker, we have no motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon members, I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Speaker, I have no motions. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I recognise the ANC.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern that there are still children of farmworkers from rural farm areas around Elim who are not provided with Western Cape Education Department transport to the Elim Primary school in the Overberg, despite the school being 11 kilometres from where they reside; having been registered in November last year for transport; and that an empty bus, paid for by the Western Cape Education Department, drives through the areas and gets to the school empty; and that the House calls on the Education MEC to rectify this matter. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Is that an objection?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, Speaker. Thank you, hon members. There is an objection. Hon Sayed, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper, thank you. Hon members, I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus. Hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House, in the light of the drastic budget cuts of R20,7 billion over the MTEF period, compounded by the high increase in COVID-19 infections and the expected, eminent third wave, that this House resolves to ask the Western Cape Provincial Treasury and Department of Health to enter into serious discussions with their national counterparts, to acquire additional funds to meet the challenges posed by the expected COVID-19 third wave; and that the Premier approach the private sector for whatever support they may be able and willing to provide. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice? Are there any objections to the motion itself? No objections, motion agreed to. Hon members, that concludes the Motions ... [Interjection.]

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Speaker? Speaker, I am sorry to interject. I had indicated that I have got two Motions without Notice from the EFF.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. I will then go back with the list. The ANC, are there any additional motions? Hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the work of the first Western Cape Commissioner of Children, Christina Nomdo, who is striving to ensure children's rights and submitted her first in-depth study on corporal punishment at schools. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being submitted without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order.

Mr P J MARAIS: I am accepting the motion.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): May I raise a point of order?

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order, hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): It appears to be a motion of congratulations which then did not come to the Programming Authority. So, it is not an objection to the motion per se, but rather the process that was followed.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I beg to differ. Maybe, we have got a different understanding as to the interpretation of what is a motion of congratulations. That was not a motion of congratulations, Speaker, because we have submitted similar motions to the Programming Authority and some of them have been rejected, especially those that come across in this nature which has not to do with a death or if it is not to do with something that someone has achieved, and we are not using the word: congratulations. So, I think we need to understand that there may be different interpretations. Maybe it is something for us to discuss further offline. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you, I would like to rule in this way, hon Sayed, the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC. There is nothing untoward. The Chief Whip is raising an objection on the fact that it is not with notice, so there is no objection on the content. I think that is then leading us to the Programming Authority to discuss these matters and agree on the structure, and the nature of such motions which should be considered for that purpose. On that note, the motion will be recorded on the Order Paper. Thank you, hon members.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Speaker? My apologies, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): So, my point of order was not to object to hon

Sayed's motion, but rather to ask that he submits it to the Programming Authority.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. We are dealing with the motions here now. So, you are suggesting that – because it cannot be happening post facto.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Understood. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Are you now objecting still?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): No, I am not.

The SPEAKER: No objections? The motion agreed to. Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon member Sayed, you have heard that and hon members, thank you. I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House condemns the laziness of the South African Police Service in the Western Cape for their failure to execute their duties in trying to save human lives. This comes after 1-year-old Ivakele Xolose from Joe Slovo, fell into a water canal and was later found in Langa, which is 10 kilometres away from his home. When Ivakele's father called a member of the SAPS to say that his child is missing and was

last seen close to the water canal, they responded by saying that there is nothing they could do as there were no divers. We believe that the SAPS still could have done more than to offer a cold response. They could have tried to source assistance from elsewhere, such as calling other emergency services closer to the area. The police service in this country still remains passive to the pressing issues involving our people as they continuously articulate the same rhetoric of 'there is nothing we can do'. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being submitted without notice? No objections.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, Speaker. Sorry, I had raised my hand. I thought you would notice. I object, Speaker, that it is submitted without notice.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kama. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper, noting the objection in this case. Hon members, I now recognise the GOOD party. Hon Herron, you indicated that there are none, thank you.

Mr B N HERRON: None.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon Christians, ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: None, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. The ANC?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Can you identify yourself, hon member?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: [Audio distortion] Am I on, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you may proceed. Is that hon Windvogel?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Yes, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the fact that many schools are already facing the brunt of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and notes the fact that this province was not fully ready during first few stages. I so move.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. Hon members, are there any

objections to the motion being read without notice?

HON MEMBERS: Object. Object, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Thank you, hon Windvogel. Hon members, I now recognise the FF Plus. Hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, I have been so out of breath, I am flabbergasted nobody objected to my motion, that I have no more motions. I do not want to spoil the day for me.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Marais. That is lovely when you can move a motion without objections. That means it was a sound motion. Thank you, hon member. Hon Brinkhuis, Al Jama-Ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House acknowledges Mr Mervyn Coetzee of Bonteheuwel who graduated with a PhD in Education: Language and Literacy, earlier this month ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Brinkhuis, there is a point of order. Hon Deputy Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): No, Chair, I am just direction you to Mr Poggenpoel because I think it is the same issue that he is going to raise. Sorry.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Hon members, this is again in line with the same matter that was raised by the Chief Whip earlier, so I think we need to deal with these matters differently and I would like the hon members to ensure that the Programming Authority is used for that purpose. So, hon Brinkhuis, your motion is inadmissible in that regard. The only thing that we can do now – sorry, hon Brinkhuis?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I am told that the same motion was dealt with earlier in the Programming Authority, so it is on record. It is part of those eight motions. It is part of the motions that I have indicated that they have been agreed to at the Programming Authority.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: That is in order. That is in order, Speaker. Thank you very much, yes.

The SPEAKER: Yes, thank you, sir. Thank you. Are there any other motions, hon members, any other motions? I see the hand. I see two hands

here, the hand of the hon Kama and the hand of the hon Chief Whip, hon Wenger. Or are those hands lifted inadvertently or those are old hands?

Mr M KAMA: No, mine is down, Speaker.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I do not have my hand up.

The SPEAKER: I see the Chief Whip's hand, as well, is down. Now that all the hands are down, that means all the hon members are sitting down. There are no further points. Hon members, at this point before we adjourn, I would like to call the attention of the hon members on the subject for discussion submitted ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Speaker, I missed you somehow because I still have one motion, Speaker, without notice.

The SPEAKER: I will make this exception. So, you may proceed, hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you so much, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the season for flooding, all sorts of ailments and fires is upon us; notes the many claims by the DA in the Western Cape that it is ready for this time; and calls on this Government to concentrate on the diseases such as TB and others that plague the poor. I so move, thank you.

[Motion as moved by member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being read without notice? No objections. Are there any objections to the motion itself? No objections? Motion agreed to. Thank you, hon members, now I can officially say that the Motions without Notice and the Notices of Motion have been concluded. Before we adjourn the session for the day, I would like to draw the attention of the hon members to the subject for discussion submitted on 27 May 2021, and that is today, earlier today.

Hon members, I regret to inform you that the subject for discussion submitted to the Secretary on 27 May is procedurally out of order, in that it deals with a matter falling outside the scope of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the Western Cape Provincial Government. And as such, cannot be placed on the Order Paper. In terms of Rule 153 of the Standing Rules, you are requested to submit a revised topic in conformity with the Rules and Practices of the House for placement on the Order Paper. I addressed this letter to hon Brinkhuis, whom the subject for discussion is his turn, which is

the Al Jama-Ah. I so move. Hon members, I now request that the ...
[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speaker, you have obviously made a ruling, but if, from the ANC's side, if we can register our opposition to that ruling.

The SPEAKER: That is fine. Thank you very much, I respect that. We have noted that. Hon members, we are now moving to the end and I make the following submission:

That next month, which is Youth Month, there will be a number of events taking place by different stakeholders in the province but for the members of the Speaker's Consultative Political Party Forum, we will have a meeting, hon members, the leaders of political parties and we will brief each other in that session accordingly.

The House is adjourned. Thank you very much, have a great evening.

The House adjourned at 17:15