
THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. [Interjection] Order. I recognise the Chief Whip, the Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed. My apologies.

- 20 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, thank you very much, hon Speaker, and greetings to you and to everyone in the House. I just want to rise to move that the substantive motion in my name that is printed below the line be given attention today and that a snap debate be called because it is vital because this issue does affect residents. Ja, and I hope and trust that we will not have any objections to that. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the Leader of the Opposition. Hon Leader of the Opposition, I will give you an opportunity once I have officially proceeded to the Business of the Day. I am not there yet. We will get there. So, hon members, before we proceed, I would like to remind you about some of the procedural arrangements for the Sitting. As has been our practice to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House both here from the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff and via Microsoft Teams.

10 Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings of the House. Hon members who are experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting are requested to contact the ICT colleagues who will assist to resolve the connectivity challenges. Where a member of the Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, it is that member's responsibility to ensure that he or she has good quality data connectivity, quality audio and video and that there is no disturbance where they are.

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

Hon members, if you are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer, you will have your microphones muted and called to order. The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. Hon members, I also wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings and to this end I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. Hon members, just as a reminder, language translation services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House must please access the language

10 translation services via a second device.

Hon members, I wish to also acknowledge our guests in the gallery. Welcome to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I wish to remind our guests in the gallery that you are not allowed to participate in the proceedings on the floor, but you are very welcome. And then it would be remiss of me not to welcome especially the new Children's Commissioner in the Western Cape. Welcome to the Commissioner to the Sitting of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. With that being said, we will now proceed to the business of the House and I now recognise the Leader of the Opposition.

20

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon

Speaker, and we have given you the opportunity to open the Sitting. I just wanted to rise to move:

That the substantive motion that is printed on the Order Paper, and which is currently below the line, that that receives attention today, that it is basically placed where it is supposed to be placed above the line, and that a snap debate takes place on the matter, as it is a critical matter relating to the crime statistic, hon Speaker, and I take it that nobody will object to the proposal. Thank you.

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The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Hon Speaker, the substantive motion submitted by hon Sayed in terms of Rule 59.2 was correctly placed below the line where it should be. I am not quite sure procedurally on which Rule the member is rising. I noted he used the word that the matter must be given attention. I think the fact that the motion is printed on the Order Paper means it has already been given attention, and the motion correctly sits in terms of the Rules where it is. So just in terms of a point of procedure, I understood the member rising, asking
20 the House to give the motion attention, and I think attention has thus been given, and the motion should stay below the line.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will guide the House. So there was a substantive motion submitted in terms of the Rules. The substantive motion is placed below the line. The Leader of the Opposition is requesting the House

to consider moving the substantive motion above the line, and that is within the procedure, and as part of that procedure, Leader of the Opposition, is that I need to ask the House for permission to do so.

So I am placing the question to move the motion, substantive motion, in the name of the Leader of the Opposition above the line, and all those in favour of that being adopted, please say aye. Those not in favour of the question being placed in front of the House, please say no. I think the no's have it, and for that reason, the substantive motion will not be moved above the line, and that
 10 deals with that substantive motion. I now recognise the Chief Whip of the Opposition, of the Majority Party.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I do not appreciate being demoted to the Chief Whip of the Opposition. I do know that the Leader of the Opposition was the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition before, thus he does not know the Rules. But hon Speaker, I want to join you in welcoming †ons eerbare gaste van Ceres, ook die nuwe Kommissaris vir Kinders in die Wes-Kaap, die agbare Sarah Roberts, julle is almal baie welkom
 [our hon guests from Ceres, also the new Childrens' Commissioner in the
 20 Western Cape, the hon Sarah Roberts, you are all welcome here.]

Hon Speaker, in terms of the Rules, and in terms of the Rules on precedents, I would like to rise in terms of Rule 21, and ask:

That notwithstanding the provision of Rule 21, that precedents be given to

the subject for discussion in the name of the hon Christians. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved?

No objections. Agreed to.

I recognise the Leader of the Opposition.

10 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and I respect your authority, not objecting to your ruling, you put the matter to the House as you should be. But just so that the public knows, the public is here, the Western Cape public has heard, that the Democratic Alliance, MPLs, under the leadership of the Chief Whip Gillion Bosman, does not want the Premier to be held accountable for a misleading statement that he made in the House, saying that the Western Cape, at the time of the launch of the Safety Plan, was the murder capital of the country. Just to put that on record, everybody has heard. Thank you very much. I will sit down. Thank you.

20 The SPEAKER: Thank you ...[intervenes]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The DA hates democracy. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, hon Chief Whip, please

take your seat. Hon members, as part of, to the Leader of the Opposition, as part of democracy is that the question was put to the House. The House made a decision, and for that reason I am not going to entertain that matter any further. The matter was dealt with in terms of the Rules, and we will now proceed to the Business of the Day. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move in my name that:

10 The House refers the final mandate conferred by the House on 13 November 2025 on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill to be transmitted to the National Council of Provinces as a final voting mandate in order to facilitate and support the NCOP process in considering provincial mandates in the above regard and to enable the conclusion of the mandate-taking and voting processes accordingly. I so move.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion?

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No objections. Agreed to.

We will now deal with the subject for discussion in the name of the hon FC Christians as printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Christians.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Mr F C Christians: Procedures and interventions of the Western Cape Education Department to ensure the safety of teachers, learners and school environments in cases involving learners affected by substance use.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. I just see there is three minutes. Can they just increase my time there, please, hon Speaker? It is not always that they get five minutes. Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker.

10 I rise today to debate that the drug abuse remains the biggest threat to our pupils' safety at our schools, our safety of our teachers. Drug abuse remains the biggest threat. A report from Equal Education, 85% of schools tested positive for drug abuse. And they mentioned a couple of issues that they have.

They said that inadequate fencing, poor security infrastructure, lack of safety training, and insufficient access to psychosocial support. Now, hon Mr Speaker, the question is, yes, I know it is an all-of-society approach that you must take. But I believe that the Western Cape Education Department plays a vital role, maybe the most important role when it comes to the safety of our
20 learners and teachers at our schools.

Schools help shape our young pupils' sense of responsibility, ethics, leadership, and community involvement. And teachers also play an important role. They guide our learners when it comes to careers, mentorship, and all of that. But, hon Speaker, I want to speak on behalf of mothers and fathers, grandmas crying

out for help. Hon Speaker, I am speaking about a 77-year-old grandmother who was threatened by a 13-year-old granddaughter with a knife. She was threatened, she ran to law enforcement, and they said, listen, this is a WCE matter, it is not our matter.

SAPS said, we do not have authority, because at the moment, that young girl is the responsibility of the Western Cape Education Department. The grandmother has tried to seek help. My 13-year-old grandchild is on drugs. I need help. I want to give another example, speaking on behalf of a 16-year-old Grade 9 learner. Now, this is shocking, hon Mr Speaker. This Grade 9 learner can only write his name. He cannot even write his own surname – on drugs, being at school.

And I do not know, how can they go to the next grade if they cannot even write their own surname? Hon Speaker, I am speaking on behalf of a female primary school teacher and compromising her own safety, she found, listen to this, she found two girls, 12 years old and 13 years old, and two boys, 14 and 14, in the boys' toilet smoking dagga. And you know what she did? She put them in her car, drove them to the police station, and said, listen, I do not know what to do anymore with these learners.

Police did absolutely nothing. Nothing. They are back at school, I do not know what the principal did, but this is the sad reality, what we are facing in our schools. Let me just give you another example quickly. 20 learners found at the school, 20 learners, smoking dagga before they are going to write exams –

20 learners. Now, at that specific school, there is School Resource Officers. They ran to the School Resource Officers, and all the School Resource Officers said, †as hulle nie wil hoor nie, dan gaan ons niks doen nie. [if they don't want to listen, we are going to do nothing.] So this is the sad relation.

But let me just say, many of them want help, they go to a social worker, they are placed on a waiting list, because parents and grandparents cannot afford to send the children to rehab facilities. So they are placed on a waiting list. Sometimes they are helped, and sometimes not. Hon Minister, we have a
 10 serious problem at our schools, please intervene when it comes to drugs and alcohol being abused at our schools.

Our learners in the disadvantaged communities need help. And that is my basis of this discussion today. And I hope that everybody is going to have a meaningful contribution to get to a solution, and not to play politics. Please, let us take this seriously, and let us make this work. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Christians. I now recognise hon Johnson.

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Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, hon Premier, colleagues, and our guests in the gallery, today I rise with a heavy heart. The brutal killing of a 50-year-old Stellenbosch Deputy Principal, murdered in broad daylight outside the main gate of Kayamandi Primary School, has shaken us to the very core. This horrible act is a painful reminder that violence does not respect the sanctity of

our school, and we mourn his loss. And we remember every teacher and every learner whose life has been scarred or cut short by violence. Each tragedy deepens our resolve to make our communities and our schools a safer place.

Hon Speaker, today's discussion is inseparable from a deeper crisis within our communities, the corrosive impact of substance abuse. The link between drug use and violent crime is very well established, and the spill-over effects into our schools threatens the safety and the wellbeing of our learners and our educators. Hon Speaker, the question before this House is not whether the
10 problem exists, but what are we doing about it.

The DA-run Western Cape Government is not starting from scratch. We have built, strengthened and continued to expand a multi-layered safety net designed to protect both the school environment and the children vulnerable to addiction. Our approach is grounded in constitutional rights, the right of every child to safety, dignity and quality education, and guided by the South African Schools Act and our provincial framework.

Our first line of defence is prevention and early intervention. Through the
20 curriculum, learners are taught about the dangers of drugs, but our efforts extend far beyond the classroom. The WCED's Safe Schools Programme is an integrated safety strategy that provides the following. Security infrastructure that includes fencing, alarms and access control systems. Training for educators and school governing boards on safety management, and support in implementing codes of conduct in all of our schools.

At the heart of this effort is the Safe Schools Call Centre, a confidential 24/7 hotline where threats, bullying, gangsterism and substance-related concerns can be reported, triggering rapid action from district support teams. We are also scaling up one of our most effective school safety interventions, the School Resource Officers or the SRO Programme. These officers are deployed with local law enforcement and they act as a visible deterrent to violence and criminality around our schools.

- 10 Their role is not to criminalise learners, but to create an environment where teaching and learning can continue without any fear. But hon Speaker, we must be honest. A law enforcement presence at the school gate cannot solve a social crisis unfolding inside our homes and our communities. Substance abuse cannot be tackled by the WCED or any other Government department alone. It demands a whole-of-society response. And this is where our transversal approach sets the Western Cape apart from any other province.

- When a learner is identified as at-risk or already using substance, schools are supported by a network that includes the following. The Department of Social
20 Development, which funds non-profits specialising in prevention, early intervention and treatment for young people. The WCED's psychosocial support teams, who provide trauma counselling as well as case management. And lastly, a strengthened anti-bullying policy, ensuring that intimidation, often linked to drugs, is addressed decisively.

This reflects our core philosophy. Zero tolerance for drugs in our schools, combined with compassion for the child caught in addiction. We will not allow schools to become drug markets. We will not compromise the safety of the majority. But we also refuse to abandon a child who is already struggling. Instead, we intervene, we support and we link learners and families to help get what they need. Hon Speaker, the safety of learners and educators is a non-negotiable. The DA-led Western Cape Government has built a comprehensive, well-funded and effective system.

- 10 One that ranges from early prevention to immediate response to specialised support. From the Safe Schools Hotlines, to the School Resource Offices, to our psychosocial and Social Development networks, we are acting every day to protect our children. But unfortunately, we cannot do this alone. We call on SAPS to intensify efforts against drug trades that prey on our youth. We call on communities to remain vigilant and to protect our schools. And we call on parents to engage actively with their children and with their schools.

- No single department, no single government and no single community can defeat this crisis alone. But through partnership, through evidence-based
 20 policies and through unwavering commitment, we can build a safer, healthier and more nurturing learning environment for every child in the Western Cape. We owe this to our children and we owe this to our teachers and we owe this to those we have already lost. I thank you.

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

Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, allow me to welcome our special guests in the gallery, any of whom are education activists in our vulnerable communities. There is an African proverb that says, it takes a village to raise a child. This is wisdom handed from generation to generation across our continent, reminding us that the wellbeing of children is a collective duty, not of parents alone, not of teachers alone, not of a single Government department, as my Chairperson has said, but of the entire village.

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Yet today, across the Western Cape, our lived reality has become a painful distortion of that truth. When the Provincial Government abandons the village, when the systems meant to support families collapse, when departments operate in silos and respond only after tragedy strikes, then something heart-breaking happens. Our children burn our communities simply to feel the warmth.

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This is not poetic language. It is the stark reality faced by teachers who fear entering their classrooms, by principals who plead for help that never arrives, by parents who are overwhelmed, and by children who are turning to substances not out of rebellion, but out of pain, trauma, and hopelessness. Premier Winde's Government claims to champion the safety of learners and teachers. It claims that the strategic plans offer a whole-of-government approach, but the lived experience of our schools tells a different story.

The Education Department's own Annual Report of 2024-2025 confirms that

substance abuse use amongst learners is rising, that violent and safety-related incidents have increased, and that infrastructure and psychosocial support remain deeply inadequate. Educator shortages and actual cuts, weak psychosocial staffing, and insufficient behavioural support continue to undermine school safety.

In some instances, one social worker is expected to serve 40 or more schools. There are schools facing daily drug-related incidents, yet they wait weeks for district intervention. Teachers are suffering trauma with little to no counselling. Principals are acting as police, therapists, social workers, administrators, and community mediators all at once. If the Provincial Government is serious about protecting learners, then it must reckon with a grave contradiction.

Under the DA-led Provincial Government, the law was changed to permit alcohol use or sale on school premises. Under the Western Cape Provincial School Education Amendment Act of 2018, Section 45(b) allows governing bodies or principals to apply for permission from the HOD to permit alcohol consumption or sale at school events, subject to the Liquor Act. Equal Education, as the hon Christian said, warned at the time that this provision opens the door to abuse, noting that principals and governing bodies may have too much discretion and that there were no tight limits on when alcohol could be sold.

Indeed, the HOD must impose conditions, but the law gives only limited

guidance. More than 30 schools have since applied for and received authorisation to sell alcohol at school functions. This is not theoretical, hon Speaker. The law enables it, and the applications have been approved. Speaker, think about it. A Provincial Government that claims to care about the safety of youth legalised alcohol sales at schools, presumably to make it easier for the elite schools to generate fundraising revenue. This is deeply cynical.

It undermines a profound mismatch between the Government's public rhetoric on safety and legislative choices. We must also confront the structural risk
10 facing many of our communities on the Cape Flats and rural towns. Too many schools are being built dangerously close to shebeens, or liquor licences are granted for taverns, practically within sight of school gates. In communities like Mitchell's Plain, Nyanga, and rural towns of Calitzdorp and Beaufort West, this is a lived reality, and it has to stop.

When regulatory authorities allow liquor outlets near schools, we implicitly sanction the normalisation of alcohol in contexts where children live, move and learn. In that context, despite fundamentally differing on many issues, I want to commend the hon Ferlon Christians of the ACDP for his consistent and
20 courageous opposition to the 2018 amendment, along with the ANC caucus of the 5th Administration.

In the Hansard records, he and our ANC MPLs raised alarm that even though the DA on the surface championed alcohol harm reduction, the DA Government, with the support of all its MPLs, pushed through the change to permit alcohol

fundraising at schools. Many in the public hearings opposed the change, yet the DA simply overrode their concerns, like hon Bosman did at the start of the Sitting. This is not politicking. This is principle.

Weakening the prohibition against alcohol at schools would undermine the safety of learners, and especially those ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please take a seat. I recognise the Chief Whip. Is that a point of order?

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The CHIEF WHIP: Hon Speaker, yes. I would just like to get some clarity from the member on when, at the start of the Sitting, I opposed this... I indicated that alcohol can be sold at schools. I am not quite sure why hon Sayed is mentioning my name in his debate.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. That is not a point of order. Hon Sayed, you may continue.

20 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, the Government must change course urgently and decisively. Reverse the policy allowing the sale or consumption of alcohol on school premises. Tighten regulation, because if, in exceptional circumstances, alcohol may be permitted for adult functions, then there must be strict, transparent criteria, community consultation and enforceable limits. Address proximity of liquor outlets near schools. There must be buffer zones that are built. Invest in support systems,

increase psychosocial staff. Support for trauma teaching. School-based interventions in vulnerable neighbourhoods. Partner with community organisations.

We must learn to work with various organisations to assist learners, not in some distant bureaucratic plan. Our children do not need ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired.

10 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: They need protection. Our children need safe corridors to school and sober environments ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Let us rise to the counsel ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Sayed. Thank you very much. Hon members, before I recognise the next speaker, when you rise on a point of order,
20 please put your point of order to me. You do not need to motivate your point of order. That is for me to adjudicate. So, hon members ...[interjection] Order. I now recognise the hon Stephens on the online platform.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, hon members, I rise today to address a matter of great urgency. The growing safety

risk in our schools caused by learners affected by substance abuse. The issue is placing enormous pressure on teachers, disrupting learning and exposing other learners to unsafe environments. The Western Cape Education Department has repeatedly assured this House that clear procedures in interventions exist.

These include immediate reporting protocols when a learner is suspected of being under the influence, parental notification, proper incident documentation and ensuring that such learners are supervised and

10 safe until professional assistance arrives. Teachers are told they will not be left alone to deal with these incidents, that school leadership and district support teams will step in. We are also informed of intergovernmental partnerships with Health, Social Development and Community Safety to provide counselling, referrals to social workers and specialised treatment support.

On the preventative side, we hear about life skills programmes, awareness campaigns, peer support initiatives and educator training. And hon Speaker, the WCED continues to highlight the role of the Safe Schools Programmes, 20 from upgraded fencing to safety officers and neighbourhood safety partners. But today the Patriotic Alliance must ask a simple critical question. Is all of this actually in place? Because what we hear from communities, teachers and school governing bodies tell a very different story.

We hear of schools where promised support from district officers arrives late

or not at all. We hear of teachers who are forced to manage dangerous situations entirely on their own. We hear of principals begging for intervention when learners arrive intoxicated, violent or carrying illegal substances. We hear of schools that do not have access to counsellors, do not receive regular prevention programmes and do not benefit from the safety infrastructure the Department claims is available.

Hon Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance will not accept policies that exist beautifully on paper but fail our communities in practice. We demand answers.

- 10 Are these procedures implemented informally across all high schools? Are district officers properly staffed and resourced to respond immediately when a crisis occurs? Are teachers receiving the protection the Department claims they have? And how many schools will lack the promised safety upgrades and support services?

The PA calls on the WCED to provide this House with a full transparent report outlining where these systems are functioning and failing so that we can intervene urgently and decisively. Hon Speaker, our children deserve safe schools, our teachers deserve protection ...[intervenes]

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

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...and our communities deserve honesty, not empty assurances. The Patriotic Alliance will continue to hold this Department accountable and I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Cassiem on the virtual platform.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the issue of substance abuse and the use of it by learners, even on school premises, is a
10 reflection of what is currently happening within our communities. And it goes without saying, hon Speaker, that the Western Cape as a province has a serious issue when it comes to drug and substance abuse, just like when it comes to crime.

Hon Speaker, amongst the problem of drug and substance abuse is the overflow of illicit drugs in this province, especially in African and Coloured communities, which is also used as an illegal commodity of trade and commerce within this province. And because the market has already been created for these illegal substances, the demand then follows, hon Speaker, which requires more
20 supply to be pumped into our communities.

In the end, these illegal substances remain in abundance within the shores of this province, and new customers are also found in the form of school learners and children who are underage by those who trade in this illegal business. Hon Speaker, the escalation of gang violence and turf wars in our poor communities

in this province is partly as a result of those who want to hold monopoly in the drug or illegal substance business which has been created, with an ongoing drive to find as many customers as possible, irrespective of the ages or social standing.

What further contributes to this unfortunate situation, hon Speaker, is the fact that drug use has now been normalised within our homes and communities, especially in townships. And in the end, those operating in this illegal business have now found their market in schools, with our children becoming a primary
10 target as customers. The situation is scary, hon Speaker, because at the end of the day, those learners who end up using these drugs become a problem in these schools, for not only learners, but teachers as well, leading to a situation where the school becomes dysfunctional due to the actions of a few under the influence of drugs.

And those who dare to try and intervene in these schools by trying to stop the selling of drugs to learners or to discipline learners under the influence are either attacked severely or even worse, killed. Hon Speaker, it is general knowledge that currently there are ongoing attacks against our teachers for
20 reasons unknown and which are still being investigated. This past Friday, again, a Deputy Principal was shot and killed at the school at Kayamandi Primary School, inside the school premises. And not forgetting earlier this year as well, a principal from a Kraaifontein Primary School was also shot and killed inside the school premises.

Hon Speaker, what we are facing, what we are now facing as a community and as a province is war declared by gangs and those who operate these illegal markets involving illegal substances. So, in conclusion, hon Speaker, as the EFF, we call upon for interdepartmental cooperation against this fight and SAPS and the Provincial Department of Education and Social Development must find a way to work together and fight back against those who have wedged themselves into our schools and communities. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I recognise the hon
10 Minister of Health and Wellness, Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to hon Christians for bringing this important matter to the House. Every one of us shares a responsibility to make sure that children of our province are safe, supported and able to learn in environments that are calm, dignified and stable. Section 28 of our Constitution makes this very clear.

Every child has a right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation, and this is not negotiable. It places a legal and moral obligation
20 on all of us across society. The Western Cape Government cares deeply about every resident. We care about every child, every parent and every family. Our job is to create opportunities to support people to live healthy lives that they truly value and to make sure that when they face challenges, they can get the help that they need to recover.

Part of that commitment is reaching young people early. In the 24/25 financial year, our school health services reached 187,705 learners, providing screening, early identification of health risks, health counselling and referrals where needed. This early support helps children to get the right care at the right time and protects their futures. But substance use among learners threatens their wellbeing, the safety of teachers and the stability of the school environment.

It affects families and entire communities. And let us be absolutely honest, this is not a challenge that the Western Cape Education Department or any
10 education department can solve on its own. Substance abuse is complex. It grows in homes under pressure, in communities struggling with violence and trauma, and among young people who are facing incredible social and emotional demands. A complex challenge like this demands a whole-of-society approach.

That is why the Western Cape's response brings together the departments of Education, Social Development and Health and Wellness, working side by side with NGOs, community structures, safety partners and families. This is a transversal, solutions-driven approach grounded in care, data and partnerships. A major pillar of this work is Planet Youth. This globally recognised evidence-
20 based prevention model has now been scaled across three districts.

Between April and June of this year, 49,000 Grade 8 and 9 learners at 123 schools took part in the Planet Youth survey. We also recognise that not every child begins life with the same resources or opportunities, which is why Planet Youth is being rolled out first in communities where the need is greatest,

helping to strengthen social protective factors so that every child has a chance to start well. The insights we are seeing are clear and honest. Young people are experimenting with substances early, especially alcohol.

Social pressure, stress, social media and a lack of safe structured activity play a part. But the survey also tells us something crucial. Parents remain the strongest protective factor in a child's life. When a parent tells their teenager plainly that they disapprove of alcohol use, that child is far less likely to drink. It is a reminder that parents matter, families matter and clear boundaries matter.

10 And if we speak directly about what we expect and hope for our children, we can help them to make better and healthier choices.

So Planet Youth is designed to strengthen some of those protective factors. It brings schools and parents, community partners, municipalities, NGOs and Government departments together so that we can create safer, healthier environments for young people. It is a school safety intervention, a health intervention and a violence prevention strategy all in one. And while it is long term work, it has the potential to shift the trajectory for an entire generation. The approach is about listening to young people and responding with care. It

20 also recognises that the home environment matters deeply.

Since 2015, we have seen a sharp rise in the demand for mental health services, driven in part by substance use amongst adults and parents. And that is why we are supporting recovery, not only for the individual, but also for the family, across our health system, to ensure dignified and appropriate care. This

includes new psychiatric units currently under construction at Eerste River, Khayelitsha and New Somerset Hospitals, which will bring 90 new beds online.

We are upgrading mental health wards across the province, including at Clanwilliam, Swartland, Oudtshoorn, Caledon, Hermanus, Ceres and Robertson. And at Lenteguur Hospital, we have just upgraded the child and adolescent unit with a new 10 bed ward. These upgrades represent significant investment and a firm commitment to safe, modern spaces where recovery is possible. Prevention, early intervention and treatment access remain central.

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The Department of Social Development funds inpatient treatment centres such as Ramot, Saartjie Baartman, Hesketh King, Toevlug and Namaqua. In both 23 and 2024, more than 600 service users completed treatments at these facilities and 348 have already completed treatment this year. The Kensington Youth Treatment Centre provides specialist residential care for adolescent girls who need intensive support. These programmes give families hope and give young people the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

20 NGOs and designated child protection organisations funded through the Department of Social Development provide therapeutic services, family strengthening and specialised support, including in high-risk communities. These services form part of a whole system response that recognises that children cannot learn and educators cannot teach when they do not feel safe.

Hon members, no child, no community should ever be left behind. And the

Western Cape Government knows this because the strength of our response lies in our partnerships. We know that when society moves together, when we pull in the same direction, the impact is transformative for every child and for every community. Together we can build a province where every child, teacher and parent is safe, supported and able to thrive. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister. I recognise the hon Michaels.

10 Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you hon Speaker. †Die kwessie rondom dwelmmisbruik onder leerlinge, plaas die veiligheid van leerkragte, medeleerlinge en die hele skoolomgewing in gedrang. Die Wes-Kaapse Regering se veilige inisiatief lewer nie veel op nie. As die NCC, wil ons graag die volgende oplossings voorstel om die kwessie van dwelmmisbruik en die effek daarvan, op die veiligheid by skole te beheer.

1. Dat skole in die Wes-Kaap 'n sosiale werker het wat voltyds diens doen, by die betrokke skool gestasioneer moet wees. 'n Sosiale werker sal leerders die nodige ondersteuning kan bied en verwys na sielkundiges, wat kan help met
20 verslawing.

2. Dat elke skool sekuriteit moet hê, wat leerders, onderwysers en enige ander wat skole besoek, deursoek voor en nadat hulle die skoolperseel verlaat.

3. Noue samewerking met die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisiediens om gereelde

skoolondersoeke te doen.

4. Dat skole ouers vroegtydig in kennis stel as leerders tekens toon van dwelmmisbruik, om te verseker dat bespoedigde ingrypings geskied.

5. Wysigings van skoolbeleide, om voorsiening te maak vir dwelmtoetse in leerders wat afwyk van die normale gedragspatrone en tekens toon van misbruik. Dit moet natuurlik binne die grondwetlike raamwerk geskied.

10 6. Bewusmakingsveldtogte, in samewerking met Regeringsdepartemente soos Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling en Gesondheid, om leerders bewus te maak van die gevare van dwelmmisbruik en ook waar om hulp te kry.

Agbare Speaker, ons kinders is die toekomstige leiers en ons, as huidige leiers, moet alles in ons vermoë doen om te verseker dat die leeromgewing 'n veilige hawe is, waarin hulle hul drome kan najaag. Dankie. [The issue around drug abuse amongst learners places the safety of teachers, fellow learners and the whole school environment in jeopardy. The Western Cape Government's safety initiative does not produce much. As the NCC we want to propose the following

20 solutions to control the issue of drug abuse and its effect on the safety at schools.

1. That schools in the Western Cape have a social worker doing full time service and stationed at the relevant school. A social worker will provide learners the necessary support and refer them to a psychologist who can assist with abuse.

2. That every school have security that searches learners, teachers and everybody else visiting schools before and after leaving the school premises.

3. Close cooperation with the South African Police Service to conduct regular school inspections.

4. That schools inform parents at an early stage when learners show signs of drug abuse, to ensure that quick interventions are done.

10

5. Amendments of school policies to provide for drug tests in learners deviating from normal behavior patterns and showing signs of abuse. That should of course happen within the constitutional framework.

6. Awareness campaigns in cooperation with Government departments like Social Development and Health, to make learners aware of the dangers of drug abuse and also where to get help.

20 Hon Speaker, our children are the future leaders and we as the current leaders, must do everything in our power to ensure that the teaching environment is a safe haven where they can follow their dreams. Thank you.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, safety concerns are widespread across the Western Cape and criminal offenders have become younger. The safety of teachers and learners are even more worrisome as many have become both victims and perpetrators of crime. No one is safe in the Western Cape. Schools are certainly a microcosm of a broader community plagued by violent crime.

And when we look at the stats and social media postings, it becomes clear that society under a liberal ideology that prioritises the rights of individuals and
10 their own autonomy is proving to be ineffective in creating a culture of order and morally-sound children. Ill-disciplined children who are attending schools are primarily the fault of parents and absent fathers who have abandoned their religious and sacred duty as primary disciplinarians of their own children.

Educators have in fact become fearful every day, fearful of losing their lives due to reprisals from gang members who come onto school grounds. Hon Speaker, the procedures and interventions mentioned in documentations do not seem easily implementable. The Freedom Front Plus advocates for schools in high and very high-risk categories to receive metal detectors upon entry to
20 schools. We also call for drug testing, regular drug testing, where there is reason to believe that the behaviour of children is becoming untenable. Hon Speaker, my question is, why do we allow squatters on the borders of the ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, in conclusion ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired, I have already given you more than ...[intervenes]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): In conclusion, I thank you and I call upon the Minister to respond.

10 The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you. I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis on the virtual platform.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I am not in the best of health, but I am going to try my best now to [indistinct]. Three years ago, the Western Cape Liquor Authority revealed that there are more than 3,200 illegal shebeens operating in 45 areas across the Western Cape. Furthermore, data from the fourth quarter crime statistics revealed that there are 1,819 drug dens in the Western Cape compared to 1,449 schools.

20 In the past 17 months, only 697 drug dens were shut down. Drug dens are a continuous problem and there has been no decrease in its effect. And it is a fact that Western Cape high crime rates are drug related. Hon Speaker, the writing is on the wall. Looking at the above situation, it explains why our teachers and learners are not safe. Teachers are victims of attacks from not only learners who have joined gangs and those affected by substance abuse,

gangsters are preying around inside schools.

Since January 2025, 50 teachers have been assaulted by learners. Another was the tragic shooting of the Ekuthuleni Primary School principal in Kraaifontein while he was sitting in his car outside the school. These cases are symptoms of the violent environments that many learners are living under. The issues of gangsterism, drug dens and subpoenas which the Province failed to act against, the increasing gang violence and the Province's failure to shut down drug dens are major contributors.

10

The SPEAKER: Hon Brinkhuis, your time has expired.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Speaker, situations where young people are affected by substance abuse are becoming increasingly common in our homes, our schools and our communities. This is not an isolated problem. It is a whole-of-society crisis and unless we stand together, honestly, firmly and courageously, we risk losing the very future we claim to be shaping.

20

†Umntwana ngamnye eMzantsi Afrika kufanelekile afunde kwindawo ekhuselekileyo, enenkxaso, engenaziyobisi. Ziyobisi ezo ezonakalisa impilo nengqondo yomntwana kunye nekamva lomfundi lowo. Yiyo lonto leyo sisithi,

Honourable Speaker, into yokuba ootitshala aba nabo kuyafuneka baxhaswe. Utitshala ngamnye kufaneleka into yokokuba xa engena eklasini angabe emane ebheka-bheka luyoyiko. Enkwantya, esoyika umfundi kuba kaloku esebenzisa iziyobisi okanye ephethe izinto eziyingozi. Kwaye nomzali ngamnye kufuneka angabi naxhala xa ese umntwana wakhe esikolweni kuba kaloku ebefanele into yokuba umntwana afumane ukhuselo. Isikolo eso ekufanele ukuba siqulunga, sibumba ikamva lomntana, hhayi indawo ebeka umntana ebungcuphekweni kunye notitshala nabanye abantwana. [Every child in South Africa deserves to learn in a safe, supportive, drug-free environment. These are the drugs that

10 damage the health and mind of a child and the future of that student. That is why we are saying, Honourable Speaker, that teachers need to be supported. Every teacher should be able to enter the classroom without looking around in fear. Being scared, afraid of a student because they are using drugs or carrying dangerous objects. And every parent should not worry when sending their child to school because they deserve to have their child protected. The school should be nurturing, shaping the child's future, not a place that puts the child at risk, along with the teacher and other children.]

South Africa has laid a solid foundation. The Prevention of Treatment of

20 Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008 provides a comprehensive national response and recognises evidentiary child under 18 as especially vulnerable, ensuring all school learners fall under its protection. The Act makes it clear that combatting substance abuse requires more than punishment, it demands prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and after care. It also calls for strong collaboration across Government departments, recognising that no single

school or teacher can shoulder this responsibility alone.

†Somlomo obekekileyo, phantsi kwalomthetho, [Honourable Speaker, under this law,]

It is clear that the drugs are no-go areas in terms of the school.

†Mazingasetyenziswa iziyobisi esikolweni. [Drugs must not be used at school.]

The school should be drug free. In the 2024/2025 financial year, the Western
 10 Cape Department of Social Development engaged over 7,000 children and youth
 in school-based crime prevention programmes, while nearly 3,000 young people
 participated in school-based substance abuse prevention initiatives. Together,
 these initiatives were supported with an investment of over R18 million.

Also, the Department has strengthened the school-based psychological services,
 providing learners with access to qualified social workers and auxiliary
 workers. These professionals offer counselling, emotional support, behaviour
 modification programmes, peer mediation, and conflict resolution training. All
 these interventions show that when we invest in children early, we prevent
 20 crisis later.

When we educate, instead of only discipline, we reduce harm. When we
 support, instead of judging, we empower young people to make better choices.
 But true change depends on all of us. Parents, we are the first line of guidance
 shaping what happens at schools. Communities, we protect our neighbours.

Drugs do not appear at schools by accident. And vigilance is essential. It is others who give drugs to children.

As a society, we must create safe, non-judgmental spaces where learners can speak up, because a child using substances is not a child to push away, but to pull closer. If you take the Act seriously, strengthen existing partnerships, and continue investing in prevention, education, and psychological support, we can build safe healing zones, spaces of learning, hope, and dignity. Let us choose support over punishment, understanding over stigma, and stand united to ensure
10 every South African child has a future bright enough to overcome the darkness of substance abuse. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Mbombo. And I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Education Department claims to have procedures and interventions in place to protect teachers, learners, and school environments when children are affected by substance use. But the lived reality tells a far
20 more troubling story. These systems are fragmented, inconsistent, and fundamentally failing to keep young people away from drugs.

Schools cannot be expected to absorb the collapse of broader social safety nets. Teachers who are already overworked cannot be asked to manage addiction, trauma, and gang influence. WCED policies may look adequate on paper, but

in communities where gangs operate with impunity and treatment services are scarce, these interventions barely make a dent. In too many cases, learners are drawn into drug economies long before the state even notices them.

A part of the problem is the inconsistencies of municipal responses. Not every municipality in the Western Cape has a drug master plan, an essential tool for coordinated evidence-based work. This means a child's access to prevention and support often hinges on where they live rather than what they need. That is an indictment of governance, not an unfortunate oversight. In my recent
10 correspondence with the Child Commissioner, I called for a five-year plan to address the systemic issues facing children in this province and substance abuse must form a core part of that plan.

I am very pleased to hear the Commissioner is here because that office is uniquely positioned to drive the whole of government coordination this crisis demands. If we are serious about protecting young people, then substance use cannot remain siloed within education, social development, or policing. It requires unified political will. Until provincial leadership confronts this crisis honestly and structurally, their inaction will continue to place children directly
20 in harm's way. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Herron. I now recognise the hon Windvogel, but I need an indication if you need the podium. Can I ask the Table Staff, before you start the clock. Hon Windvogel, you may continue.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, hon members, the people of the Western Cape, the Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed, has laid bare the crisis facing our schools. A crisis rooted not only in the classrooms, but in the broader collapse of community support systems and so I continue this debate with the very same theme, because it captures the heart of our failure and the heart of what our children need.

It takes a village to raise a child. We all form part of that village. But more importantly, this Government is supposed to play a huge role in protecting our
10 children. However, in the current circumstances, we are yet to see evidence that this Government has acted in the best interest of our children. We say this based on the life experience of communities, where children grow up surrounded by violence, poverty, substance abuse and the sense of abandonment.

It is the reality of a province where the Western Cape Government policies consistently fail to reach the ground. It is the truth felt by teachers who fear entering their classroom because learners intoxicated by drugs have become unpredictable and aggressive. And it is the truth felt by parents who watch
20 their children being put into drug use because their communities have no alternative and by young people who have lost hope in this system run by this Government.

The Western Cape Education Department cannot keep pretending that this crisis can be managed at the school gates. The DA Government loves to speak of

excellence outcomes, yet turns a blind eye to the communities where children cannot learn because they are angry, traumatised or seduced by the false power and false comfort that drug economy offers. A dysfunctional village cannot produce functional schools.

We know from the Annual Report that drug-related incidents have escalated. Even before the Annual Report, we had parents, teachers and principals coming to us for assistance and guidance. We know that safety officers are few, overburdened and stressed. We know that in far too many cases, principals are
 10 left to call the Safe Schools Hotlines and receive no meaningful assistance.

Teachers are being asked to handle violence, outbursts, emotional dysregulations, psychotic episodes from substance use and deep trauma, but without the psychosocial teams they need. It is easy for the MEC to talk about frameworks and policies. It is much harder to confront the reality that the system is not coping and that the communities most affected are the ones the DA Government consistently chooses not to prioritise.

If the Government truly believes in the proverb, it takes a village, then it must
 20 start acting like a member of that village, not an observer from the outside. Our children are not burning our communities because they are lost causes. They are burning them because they are neglected, unseen and unprotected. Their substance use is a symptom of circumstances, a symptom of deep hurt, a sign that the village is absent. The ANC believes the village can be rebuilt.

It can be rebuilt through meaningful partnership with community organisations, the NGOs, the mothers' group, the sport clubs, the recovery mentors, the school programme, after school programmes. It can be rebuilt by embedding counsellors and social workers in the school that need them most by responding to incidents within hours, not weeks. By ensuring teachers receive a trauma support and not just disciplinary manuals.

By recognising that the child who uses substance needs rehabilitation, not punishment. And by acknowledging that safety is not only about fences or
10 cameras, but about dignity, healing and hope. The Western Cape Government must stop presenting its Safety Plan as a miracle solution. A plan that does not reach Hanover Park, Swellendam, Manenberg or Thembalethu is not a safety plan. It is a press release. A whole-of-society-approach cannot exist in theory, while schools and community cry alone in practice.

Hon Speaker, the ANC calls today for a true provincial safety compact, a commitment that no school will face the crisis alone, that every child in crisis will receive immediate support, that every educator will be protected and not abandoned, that communities and NGOs doing the life-saving work will be
20 funded, respected and integrated into the official response. And that the Western Government will stop governing from a distance and enter the village where the real struggles unfold.

Children are burning our communities because they have been left in the cold for too long. The fire we see, the violence, the drug abuse, the trauma are

warnings. They tell us that our village is breaking. They tell us that the state has stepped away. They tell us that if we do not restore collective care, the flames will consume more lives. Let us choose, as the ANC has always chosen to stand with the communities, with the teachers, with the parents and with the children.

Let us rebuild the village with courage and compassion. Let us stop the fires not with punishment, but with presence. Let us ensure that the warmth of our children comes from love, safety, opportunity and guidance, not from
10 destruction. It truly does take a village to raise a child and it is time the Western Cape Government returns to the village. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the Minister of Education, Minister Maynier. Minister, do you need the podium?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I do not.

The SPEAKER: You may continue.

20 The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I want to thank the hon Ferlon Christians for raising this important topic, which is not just about learners engaged in substance abuse, but also about schools and about teachers and about parents and about communities who are affected by substance abuse. The hon Ferlon Christians, as we know, but perhaps as his guests do not know, is, of course, a long-serving member of the Education

Committee.

His heart is in the right place, and he really does care about education. I want to assure him that we are intervening and we are providing help. In terms of the cases of substance abuse involving learners, our social workers have dealt with 535 cases this year, which is significantly lower than the peak level of about 1,800 cases in 2022.

For each case, there are children, there are families and there are teachers who
10 need our support and our help. Our social workers are the guardian angels who watch over the most vulnerable learners in our schools, and they are the ones who provide direct support to learners who are engaged in substance abuse. Unfortunately, even with this intervention, there are some cases so severe that tough action needs to be taken.

This year, we have already expelled 15 learners for possession or selling drugs or alcohol or being under the influence at school. Expulsions, of course, must be a last resort because it has a lasting impact on the learner's future. But we cannot, and indeed we will not, allow other learners at the school to be put at
20 risk, especially where the case involves the selling of drugs or alcohol at schools.

The School Resource Officer Programme is playing a key role in getting illegal substances out of schools. And I would like to remind the hon Grant Marais that in just the first half of this year, they conducted 8,500 searches and

confiscated over 6,400 items, which includes substances banned at schools. The SAPS provide us with support in conducting such operations in schools despite their limited resources.

And members will recall that we recently discussed in depth the details of our cooperation and coordination with SAPS in addressing gangsterism, which drives substance abuse use amongst young people. So we must get, of course, rid of illegal substances in our schools, but we also need to get gangs out of our schools. Our Department is represented in the various safety structures at
10 all levels through our Safe Schools Programme, and we will continue to work closely with SAPS and law enforcement to make our schools safer for our children.

But ideally, we do not want to get to the point where learners are expelled or arrested. Prevention remains the best option if we are to tackle the problem decisively. So our SROs are not just performing a law enforcement function, they are also playing their part in supporting learners to make positive behavioural choices and identify those at risk of substance abuse. They are important role models for young people who might otherwise not have that kind
20 of influence in the home or community.

A quote from one of our Grade 10 learners at a school with SROs in Mitchell's Plain really sums up the positive impact that these officers can have. And I quote:

“The SRO is not just here to catch us doing wrong, he listens. I spoke to him when I was ready to change my life.”

This is really what we want to see. Learners making the right choices before it gets to the point of being expelled or arrested or indeed needing treatment for substance abuse.

Our district support teams are also engaged in this kind of preventative work with workshops and programmes specifically addressing substance use and the
 10 consequences of substance use. They also offer training to teachers on how to identify and manage problem behaviour in the classroom. The Department of Social Development, as we have heard, runs extensive crime prevention and life skills programmes in our schools to counteract high risk behaviour like substance abuse.

Nearly 3,000 learners participated in programmes related to substance use, targeting areas based on prime statistics and inputs from stakeholders. Most importantly, when learners are exhibiting problem behaviour, we have a support path that can connect them with the help they need to nip these issues in the
 20 bud before irreparable harm is done. We have discussed the work the WCED is doing, but drug use by learners is not just a school-based problem, it is a societal problem, as the hon Aishah Cassiem reminds us.

The societal problem requires a whole of government solution. I have mentioned just a fraction of the work being done by DSD. The Department of

Police Oversight and Community Safety and SAPS partner with us to deliver positive behaviour programmes. The Department of Culture and Sports has invested in after school programmes and school sports and community sport facilities to give learners an alternative to gangs and substance abuse.

As member Donita Stephens likes to remind us, a child not in sport is a child in court. Minister Wenger has spoken extensively about the work that is being done by the Department of Health and Wellness and reminds us that parents play a crucial role in influencing the decisions of their children. We need our
10 parents to step up and take a clear stand against substance use so that learners think twice before engaging in this behaviour.

I would like to make some comments on the contributions by hon members. I have to say, I completely disagree with the hon Rachel Windvogel, because there are many highly functional schools in dysfunctional communities that provide an island of hope, that provide guidance and care and love to our learners, and we should recognise the work of the principals and the teachers and value these schools.

20 I would like to completely agree with the hon Galil Brinkhuis that the SAPS must indeed start to shut down drug dens and illegal drinking establishments close to schools. And I would like to remind the hon Khalid Sayed that the guidelines we issued on the issue that he raised in terms of Western Cape Provincial Schools Education Act are very clear and designed to deal with the unregulated use of alcohol in schools. Learners cannot buy or drink alcohol

and cannot go into the areas where it is being sold or consumed without being accompanied by a parent.

I would also urge the hon Ferlon Christians to furnish me with all the particulars of the cases which he has raised so that we can act. And I would encourage members of this House or the public in general who are concerned about a learner who is heading down the wrong path, to contact Safe Schools Call Centre on 0800 45 46 47 for advice on how to help. We will continue to work with our partners ...[intervenes]

10

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...to keep our children safe in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on this subject and we move on to Interpellations in terms of Rule 197 as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, Minister Meyer.

20

[Deputy Speaker takes the Chair]

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr F C Christians to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture,

Economic Development and Tourism:

What (a) challenges and (b) risks are foreseen by the Province in order to meet the targets set by Vision 260?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE OTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Agbare Speaker, baie dankie en, agbare Christians, vir hierdie interpellasie, maar voordat ek hierdie interpellasie begin, wil ek hulde bring aan Deon Joubert, 'n veteraan in die sitrusbedryf. Ek het hom in Augustus
 10 vanjaar in Spanje weer ontmoet, by Fruit Attraction, Madrid. Hy was passievol oor die sitrusbedryf en ek het baie by hom geleer oor die sitrusbedryf. [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, thank you and hon Christians for this interpellation, but before I start this interpolation, I want to pay tribute to Deon Joubert, a veteran in the citrus industry. I met him again in August this year in Spain at Fruit Attraction, Madrid. He was passionate about the citrus industry and I have learnt a lot from him about the citrus industry.] He was a keen member of the South African fruit
 20 community and he was particularly known for his contribution to the citrus industry in South Africa. And so to his family on behalf of this Western Cape Government, this Western Cape Parliament, we want to express our sincere condolences to his family, to his friends and colleagues in the citrus industry.

The Interpellation by hon member Christians asked me what are the challenges and the risks foreseen by the Province in order to meet the targets of 2060. Hon

members of this House will know that South Africa is the second biggest exporter of citrus fruit in the world after Spain. Now this in itself is remarkable if you think that those colleagues in Spain and other parts of the world get subsidies from their governments and our farmers get absolutely no subsidy. So the question is even more important about what the hon member has asked.

The Citrus Growers Association, because of its such importance, I decided to attend the annual meeting and their summit this year on the 12th and the 13th of March. My HOD and I went to the Eastern Cape to attend and listen to
10 international speakers and local speakers about this. At that summit, about the Citrus Summit, we were informed that the challenges that you are asking about, hon member, relate to market demand and access. It relates to road and rail transport.

That is why I am so glad that the hon member of Infrastructure has a stable substantive amount of money in the budget for this year for road and infrastructure network. Also, the industry during that summit listed coal storage and warehousing. They also listed port functionality. The hon Premier and I and hon member Sileku, the Minister of Mobility and the Mayor of Cape
20 Town, we have met with the Minister of Transport, Barbara Creecy, to discuss exactly this matter of the Port functionality.

I am happy to report to this House that more than R2.5 billion have subsequently been invested into the Port of Cape Town to alleviate this particular problem. I also met with the Chairperson of Transnet, as well as Michelle Phillips, the

Chief Executive Officer. She is on the record. The things that she promised me, she has delivered. She mentioned it to me in the Eastern Cape. She repeated it here at the Port of Cape Town. And I can report to this House that there were significant improvements in the Port of Cape Town.

I see great investments and a great functionality.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, Minister.

10 The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM: Hey? You will have another opportunity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will have another opportunity.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM: But the audience love it. They say carry on. I listen to the
mandate of the people.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate your comment and view. I will allow
20 you to wrap up with a final sentence.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM: I am happy to report to this House that things at the Port of Cape
Town have significantly improved thanks to the cooperation of the National
Minister, the Transnet, City of Cape Town, Infrastructure and Mobility.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, I was so excited for my five minutes, I forgot to acknowledge my team, constituency officers and interns. So, apologies for that. But, Minister, that is excellent news. You know, we have all the potential. And you know, when I saw this article and I saw that there are 100,000 employment opportunities.

10 Now, I know the Western Cape will have, a lot of those opportunities will come to the Western Cape, and that, for me, was important.

But when I read, I saw exactly what you said. They said the ports cannot handle the vision of exporting. And maybe, Minister, you can help me. Because they are looking at exporting 260 million 15 kilogram cartons by 2032. Now, there are container shortages. There are port backlogs and equipment failures. So, that, for me, is an opportunity that we have. And we are not utilising it. Now, I know it is a national competency and you are fighting to get it as a provincial competency or a municipal competency.

20

But that is a problem, because what producers are doing now, they are moving to other ports and the article that I read was alternative gateways such as Namibia, Walvis Bay. They are not using Cape Town because Cape Town cannot handle the imports when it comes to Cape Town. And also, the one thing that I read in this article that is very interesting, it says container movements

at Cape Town Port are well below par when it comes to global benchmarks.

So, here we have a real opportunity to make a difference. And you know, Minister, through you, Deputy Speaker, the rural communities will benefit greatly. Jobs will be created there. And that is what we want as a province. But if you cannot handle the imports and exports because of your harbours, it is not going to work. Because people need, we know in this province, Premier said it many times, we are the forerunner when it comes to creating jobs. And this is a massive opportunity that we are going to miss if our ports are not in
10 order, if our storage containers are not in order, if our equipment fails.

So, Minister, maybe in your second slot, you can answer some. I hope you have got good news for the people of the Western Cape, good news for the people in the rural communities. Thank you.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Department's Annual Performance Plan for 2025/2026 highlights that during the development
20 of the 2030 strategic framework, a common set of enablers and policy levers emerged that must be deployed across all strategic priorities. These enablers and levers require either horizontal application across all priorities or coordinated implementation of multiple projects to enhance synergy and impact.

The plan further states that the Department's three strategic priorities will be supported by the following enablers or levers, special coordination and support, economic IQ, ease of doing business and red tape reduction, communication and economic diplomacy. We have already witnessed the value of this integrated approach in initiatives such as the Western Cape Investment Summit, which successfully brought all relevant departments together, an effort we commend as an excellent work.

10 In this context, Minister, how important is economic diplomacy in supporting the achievement of Citrus Industry Vision 260? I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not want your extra 40 seconds? Thank you so much. I now recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am sure I can still use the 46 seconds of my Chairperson. I wish I would have the same excitement like member Christians and maybe, Minister, you can also share with us with the billions in the ports, how much are you ensuring that with the
20 free port at Saldanha, the tenant and operator leases gets to be signed in that port? Because whilst you, I think one just is very interested on the obsession in the main with the Cape Town Port, whilst also you have got a responsibility over the Saldanha Port, which must also be as efficient. And I am hoping you can also speak about that.

In engaging on this discussion, I think what becomes important, hon Deputy Speaker, is really about the political will to support the citrus industry in meeting these ambitious targets set out in Vision 260. Because whilst the 2025 export performance appears promising, the recent African farming article makes it clear that growers are facing mounting pressures that this Government has yet to adequately address. According to the CGA, the sector aims to export about 260 million cartons annually by 2032, a target known as Vision 260.

Achieving this goal would generate about 100,000 additional jobs and
10 significantly boost the economy.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Now what becomes a question is checking what is in last year's Annual Report, which we have raised, I think, in that Annual Report the challenges of the tariffs and also the global shifts, the questions remains that with this information and under the claim of the using evidence-based decision-making, how will the Department reduce overdependence on markets in Europe and the USA, given these [**Inaudible 1:30:12**]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon member.

20

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): And tariff risks. I thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I also read in the *Business Day* that South Africa's citrus exports had risen by a record 22% 2025. A record rise of exports.

Hon Minister, I am just thinking, and if we remove these challenges that I was mentioning, and one of the challenges also, shipment delays in cold chain bottlenecks, if we remove these obstacles that I see, and maybe you know more, maybe we do not have all these obstacles, but if we remove it, what is the potential of the Western Cape? How far can we go?

10

Because, as you said, the citrus exports is an important role, you said it over and over in this House, it is an important role in the Western Cape's economy. We want to see the economy grow in the Western Cape, we want to see jobs created in the Western Cape, and that gives people hope, and that is why I am so passionate about this, because this is an opportunity that rural communities, people, farmworkers, those who are fighting to put bread on the table, have the opportunity to work and enjoy what they are doing, and they see – and I hope – I know you tour and your Department goes, but I think they must also be told, and I know you did it before, but be told the important role that they play in

20 the Western Cape economy.

I am very excited, and hon Minister, the news that you said about the National Minister is excellent news, but now we just need to take it to a next level and make sure that Vision 260 comes to fulfilment. That all these containers get exported and South Africa – because when the Western Cape wins South Africa

wins, and that is the bottom line. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I am fully in support of all the three speakers; my Chair, the hon member, the sponsor and hon member Nkondlo. I am in support of the direction in which they are talking.

10

They are talking about the apex priority of this Government, creating jobs, increase our exports and build stability, not only in the urban areas, but also in the rural areas. I am in fully support of that, but here is the good news.

This afternoon my office phoned the Chairperson of the Citrus Growers Association, Mr Gerrit van der Merwe from Citrusdal. We asked him about Vision 260. This is his answer. The target that you spoke about now for 2032, he said we will even achieve that target by 2030, two years before that target of 260 million cartons by 15 kilogram cartons. I am happy that hundreds of
20 thousands of jobs are being created. The equipment is improving at the harbour.

I have recently visited an inland port, because when we speak about the port we must not only speak about the Port of Cape Town. I recently visited a port here in Salt River. This is called the United Container Depot. They have made

an investment in R40 million. They are also now busy with the 3 kilometre railway line from the Container Depot into the harbour. That investment will bring another R160 million.

So the inland port is a R200 million investment, creating more jobs, but here is the thing, hon members, last year the World Bank who supervise efficiency at ports globally, last year the Cape Town Port came last in terms of improvements. [Interjections.]

- 10 Good news, you asked me for good news. The World Bank now reported that this year the biggest improvement all over the world, not at this harbour, the improvement is the City of the Port of Cape Town. I think you need a round of applause for that.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

- The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I think this is the direction that we are moving in, and so the hon Premier just whispered in my ears. Initially Mr Trump has put a 30% tariff on
 20 our products and citrus. †Hy het nou agtergekom dit smaak so lekker, hy het die *tariffs* gelos, [He has now discovered that it tastes so good, he left the tariffs,] and so we will now increase more of it, but I also measure the exports at the harbour by talking to Mr Terry. He is the chairman of the Western Cape Export Forum, and he told me, “Minister Meyer, things are going well in the harbour.” I recently met him at the Royal Yacht Club when I addressed a group

of people there, but here is the good news, hon member, you asked me you want good news.

Hon member Nkondlo, a good friend of mine, asked what is the opportunities going for further? What are the markets? Good news. Just yesterday this Cabinet, under the leadership of the hon Premier, approved my new export strategy of the Western Cape Government, diversifying the products and diversifying the markets. It happened yesterday.

- 10 So, hon member Christians, your interpellation came at the right time, in the right context and in the right spirit. We are going to increase. Our farmworkers are benefiting directly because the citrus growers also established a trust. So they are also investing in our farmworkers.

We are the only province that has a prestige Agri-Worker Forum. They benefit directly and so I am happy to report to this House that the Citrus Growers Association – in fact I have just asked them what is the date for next year ...[Interjections.]

- 20 The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: This, hon Deputy Speaker, is a problem. I have got a problem with this, hon Deputy Speaker. I conclude. I conclude.

The question was what is the potential of the Western Cape? I think we can double our exports. Our strategy says triple our exports by the year 2035. I am determined that we increase the current 58 % of South Africa's primary agricultural exports to 60%, and, Mr Michaels, you are going to see it with your own eyes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you so much. Thank you so much, hon Minister. To hon members in the Chamber, time waits for no man. We are nearing the month of December already.

10

I now recognise the hon Premier as we proceed to Interpellation number 2.

2. Mr B N Herron asked Mr A R Winde, Premier:

With reference to the Province's approach to the development of social housing and/or the making available of land for the purpose of social housing:

20

What is the difference, if any, in treatment between "unlawful occupation" or "unplanned occupation of land" and the "unlawful occupation" of buildings, such as the Helen Bowden Nurses Home or the Woodstock Hospital?

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

The Department of Infrastructure informs me that in the post-1994 constitutional framework, “unlawful occupation” is the correct and only legal recognised term in the Prevention of Illegal Evictions and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act, or the PIE Act, of 1998.

Terms such as “illegal occupation” or “unplanned occupation” are not used in law, whereas “unlawful occupation” is the constitutionally aligned concept and reflects the shift away from the apartheid era squatting legislation.

10

Section 26(3) of the Constitution states that no one may be evicted from their home or have their home demolished without an order of court made after considering all the relevant circumstances. No legislation may permit arbitrary evictions. The PIE Act applies equally to the occupants of land and of buildings. The Western Cape Government complies fully with these requirements and so must all spheres of Government and all property owners.

20

In terms of the unplanned occupation, this is sometimes used in human settlements planning to describe the practical impact of unlawful occupation on land that is not zoned or serviced for habitation and may not be aligned with municipal spatial plans for settlements, developments or infrastructure rollout. It is not a separate legal concept. It is unlikely that unplanned occupation would pertain to social housing scenarios.

Land suitable for social housing tenants to be well-located within the urban

space economy and often serviced and zoned for habitation. Once people occupy land without consent the matter is legally “unlawful occupation” under the PIE, regardless of whether the occupation is spontaneous, gradual, long-standing or part of an informal settlement expansion. This distinction is therefore practical, not legal.

So first of all unlawful occupation of land and the impact of social housing projects. Unlawful occupation is underdeveloped land that has been identified, prepared or budgeted for human settlement or social housing project delays or
 10 halts delivery.

While such an occupation is unlawful in legal terms, the practical impact is substantial and can often cause unnecessary delays in the housing of people. This leads to increased costs and decreases viability of social housing developments. In this way unlawful occupants directly work against the advancement of the Western Cape Government's social housing agenda.

Unlawful occupation of buildings and implications for social housing redevelopment, like the State-owned building such as Helen Bowden Nurses
 20 Home or Woodstock Hospital, presents a different set of operational challenges. For instance, there are health and safety implications that arise if an occupied building is not used for the original intended purpose, for example, staircases and passages are designed for the safe evacuation of a stipulated number of occupants, numbers which are frequently exceeded during unlawful occupations.

In terms of law the legal position is identical to the unlawful land occupation in terms that it remains governed by the PIE Act. The practical development implications, however, differ significantly. Before a building can be repurposed for social housing either the property owner, the Province in this case, or the aspirant owner, a social housing initiative, and will need to carry out structural safety, fire, electrical and engineering assessments, secure lawful access for surveys, design work and refurbishment or planning, address municipal bylaw compliance and safety risks, and determine feasible and cost

10 of refurbishment, and lastly plan for any just and equitable ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ...process as required under the Act.

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

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

20 Speaker, the Provincial Government has a profoundly different approach to the occupation of land as opposed to the occupation of buildings, and what does this dramatically different way the Province responds to land occupations versus occupations of vacant buildings tell us about the Western Cape's commitment to spatial integration?

Although the law views unlawful occupation, as the hon Premier correctly says, as unlawful, period, regardless of whether it applies to land or buildings, those who occupy land in the Western Cape are generally treated with kid gloves, while those who occupy buildings are viewed as constituting a grave and urgent threat, and there is a simple reason for this anomaly and it is ugly.

Land occupations generally occur on the periphery of the City, far from suburbs that were previously reserved for White South Africans. Buildings, however, can be much closer to home, like in Sea Point, and must be cleaned up at any
10 cost. It is an unashamed two-track system.

When an occupation occurs on peripheral land the State can afford to adopt a developmental posture. There is time for mediation, assessments and sometimes even interim basic services. There is no mad rush.

When an occupation happens in a building, especially a well-located one, it triggers an emergency like when Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall. Security forces converge on the site and the caring State's developmental posture goes out of the window. It is replaced by concerns over asset protection, security
20 risks and the absolute necessity for urgent evictions. Millions of rands are spent securing empty buildings instead of securing families' access to dignified housing.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what that speaks to is a province that prioritises property over people, that prioritises the preservation of spatial injustice and human

separation. It boils down to values, political values and land values. The DA has calculated that the simplest route to maintain its supporters and therefore its votes, is to maintain the close relationship between race and space, just like in the good old days.

Besides the injustice, longer-term strategic thinking such as the irrationally feared impacts on property values if the inequality bubble bursts, does not seem to feature in the Government's calculations. Thus a family erecting a shack on a sandy patch of land in Delft may be tolerated or even assisted for months
 10 while Government figures out what to do, but if that same family moved into a State-owned building that has been vacant for decades in an area like Green Point or Woodstock, they are met with fences, guards and lawyers. It is the same legal category, the same human need, but dramatically different treatment. Shameful, but true.

Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon member.

20 Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): The hon Premier has made it absolutely clear that the Western Cape's priorities do not remotely align with its stated commitment to spatial justice. Thank you.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I must say I do not have the same artistry and smokes and mirrors that hon member Herron has. I could not make out whether he was talking for or against the rule of law.

Having said that, I believe this is an important discussion and it should never become a point of major division, especially because we care about these things that were mentioned. Our shared responsibility is to uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of every resident, and that is what – when we did our oath
10 here to uphold the Constitution, that is what it is supposed to be.

Illegal land and property invasions place communities at risk, undermine proper planning and create unsafe living conditions. They will also threaten the delivery of services and the stability that families depend on. We must work together to ensure that lawful processes are respected and that vulnerable people receive support through proper channels.

A society grounded in fairness and order benefits all who call this province home. The Western Cape Government is working hard to deliver well-located
20 housing and connect people to opportunities through their mobility initiatives.

Hon Premier, if it is possible, or through you, hon Deputy Speaker, if the hon Premier can perhaps also give us an update on one such project in particular, the Conradie Park Project, it would be helpful. It would also be helpful to explain to some of the hon members who do not understand the rule of law.

Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Walters. Hon members – hon members, I have the floor. Hon member Nkondlo. Hon member Nkondlo. We are going to proceed. Political parties have submitted the names of members that will be participating and will be speaking in this debate. I now recognise hon member Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, as Black people we are good
 10 enough to be cheap labour that keeps the City running, but we are not good enough to be neighbours of White people in Sea Point and other places of opportunity.

Spatial justice is still a dream deferred and the apartheid geography of this City remains intact. African and Coloured people remain pushed to the outskirts of Cape Town, far from centres of opportunity and economic activity. These are areas where poverty, unemployment and violent crime are part of a daily life.

I dare say in this House that the occupation of Ahmed Kathrada House and the
 20 Woodstock Hospital were not acts of criminality, they were acts of justice. They were desperate but dignified attempts by poor and working-class families to prevent this Government from selling public property for profit, while thousands remain homeless and trapped in backyards.

I encourage hon members of this House and the people to watch the

documentary called “Mother City”. It exposes the deep inequality in Cape Town and the ongoing struggle for affordable housing and places of opportunity.

I also call on the Standing Committee to conduct an oversight visit to the Ahmed Kathrada House. Hon members must see how activists have transformed this former hospital into a community united in the fight for decent and affordable housing.

- 10 The hon Premier must tell us today what plans exist for the Ahmed Kathrada House. Will it finally be given to the people or the very least they use it for the development of affordable housing where our communities can live with dignity and opportunity? I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Lekker. I now see the hon member Cassiem.

- Ms A CASSIEM (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is human nature that deprivation of rights will normally be met with
20 resistance and in some instances an element of self-help.

The right to housing is just a shareable and an enforceable right and unfortunately this Provincial Government is not doing anyone a favour when it comes to making the provision of housing available or possible, hon Deputy Speaker, and when this Provincial Government is failing to execute its

constitutional mandated duty of providing housing opportunities to our people, the same people have a duty and they are inclined to hold this Government accountable for its failures.

It is unfortunate that one of the ways in which our people are holding this Provincial Government accountable when it comes to the provision of housing, is through self-help. Directly or indirectly, hon Deputy Speaker, this Provincial Government is forcing our people, who are deprived of land and deprived of housing opportunities, to resort to self-help in occupying open land
10 or unoccupied buildings for purposes of obtaining housing opportunities in order to avoid being homeless.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is true that self-help is undesirable by all parties involved. However, what choice do our people have against a lazy Government with zero appetite to increase and ensure the provision of housing?

Hon Deputy Speaker, as things stand the housing backlog application in the Western Cape is approaching the 1 million mark, and this only speaks to those who have made application and excludes those who are still to make
20 application. Every year this Department cannot even spend all its allocated budget for housing and there are always excuses which are never-ending, or the purpose to not spend the budget for its intended purpose.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, our people feel that they have reached a stage where they can no longer wait and unfortunately they end up occupying

land or empty buildings because what more can they do against a failing Provincial Government?

So my question, either to the hon Minister or the hon Premier, can they please tell this House what are they doing to ensure more social housing opportunities and to cut the backlog of housing applications in the Western Cape? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassiem. I recognise the
10 hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, in my time as a politician I have regularly interacted with people who felt compelled by their desperate social conditions, to occupy land that did not belong to them and I am sure many hon members of this House have as well.

I have never been warned, hon Deputy Speaker, that I was almost trespassing when I went to an informal settlement, as I was recently told, when trying to take a picture of Tafelberg School site in Sea Point, and this exposes the double
20 standards.

Periphery land occupations are treated as a housing issue, but inner-city building occupations are framed as security threats to be neutralised and, hon Deputy Speaker, this is not neutral governance, this is spatial politics dressed up as administrative procedure. It perpetuates historic injustices and protects

an assumption about property values over human dignity. We saw this movie unfolding at Helen Bowden and we saw it at Woodstock Hospital.

In both cases, instead of engaging the occupants as people with acute needs seeking housing near places of work, the Province treated them as intruders. Their presence was criminalised before their circumstances were even understood and that approach, hon Deputy Speaker, is not only unjust, it is also strategically irrational in a province facing a deepening affordability crisis and widening inequality.

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This distinction matters because buildings in well-located areas are exactly where social housing ought to be delivered first. Instead, the Province defends the people's assets from the people who need them most, and then crucially fails to provide alternative accommodation anywhere but miles away on the edge of the urban footprint, and maybe for hon member Walters this will become clearer now.

20

Hon Minister Simmers told us that there are 1 274 informal settlements in the Western Cape. By his own admission these settlements emerged from unlawful occupations, whether on private or Government-owned land. Yet 115 of them are set to be upgraded, despite originating from these so-called unlawful occupations.

So of course, none of them are in well-located areas. People occupy land out of necessity not convenience. If we are serious about spatial justice we cannot

operate a two-tier system in which vulnerable communities are only treated with compassion if they choose to live far away from opportunity.

If we are serious about human dignity we cannot be providing basic services to some communities but disconnecting basic services that are already available in buildings, like water, electricity and sanitation to others.

Occupations should not be treated differently based on the postcode and at the very least and urgently, this Government must reconnect the basic human
10 services to the people living in the Waterfront. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That you, hon member Herron. I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I am not sure if it is parliamentary or not, but I would like to start with what rubbish, and then say that specifically Helen Bowden and the Waterfront, there is no direct eviction. They have been there ...[Interjections.]

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

The PREMIER: ...for nearly nine years.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you able to take your seat?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, as the hon Premier asked, I think maybe you should have then told him, because it is unparliamentary. He must engage with the substance of what hon member Herron is saying, as opposed to just being – this is why we do not have decent human settlement development, this is why we have [Interjections.] got spatial apartheid perpetuated by his ...[Interjections.]

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

10 The OFFICIAL LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...right-wing DA Government, because he dismisses things as rubbish. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Thank you, I have noted, the Leader of the Official Opposition. Before I take the next person, I believe there is precedent for a request to withdraw, hon Premier. So I will request that you withdraw and proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I withdraw “rubbish” and add “refuse”. What refuse, and – because these individuals have been there
20 between eight and nine years, but let us talk about the inner-city housing development of this Government. We have spoken about a number of times.

We have three major inner-city developments just this year out for tender; 3 500 housing opportunities in the middle of the city, more than 7 000 total housing opportunities, and so that is exactly what is happening, but, you know, what I

have never heard, not from anyone in this House, anything about the nearly 104 hectares of land in the middle of the city called District 6, which is under the management of the ANC. [Interjections.] I have never heard a word about it. That is bigger than the whole of the main part of the CBD and what is happening with District 6? That would be the biggest change in really getting justice to people who were forcibly removed in the apartheid years.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the rule of law in any democracy is absolutely paramount and when we have illegal occupations, what happens is you remove the rights
10 of specifically those individuals who have been waiting for a very long time on the housing list. You take away their rights, they get pushed out because that is what happens and when we do not put the rule of law in place we have got big, big trouble in our democracy.

Let us talk directly to the hon member Herron, and
I drew his housing policy. The other day I drew their safety policy, which was five pages long. Their housing policy is one, two and a half pages long. Nothing about what he is talking about now, really weak policy, and let us get back to District 6. We should speak about that, but then let us also talk about
20 the actual delivery that happens in the City of Cape Town.

So in the last 10 years – no, no, sorry, since the waiting list, we also heard that contrary with that number is that the hon member from the EFF said but this question was a parliamentary question in the National Assembly to the National Minister about waiting lists.

So the National Department does not have a housing waiting list, the Department has a National Housing Needs Register, and if we look at these numbers of all cities – but let us just use Johannesburg a 534 400, the City of Cape Town 440 012, Ekurhuleni 372 000, Tshwane 233 000.

Then it asks housing units completed since inception in 1994, and the City, out of all Metros in South Africa, with the most housing opportunities, is the City of Cape Town [Interjections.] with 202 070, eThekweni at 172, Ekurhuleni at
 10 155, Johannesburg at 176. The City way ahead of anyone of these Metros.

Then let us look at housing units handed over in each metropolitan municipality in the past five financial years. In the last five years, let us just take Johannesburg, or let us start, Buffalo City 4 300, Nelson Mandela 2 000, Mangaung 600, City of Joburg 4 900, City of Tshwane 1 800, Ekurhuleni 5 100, eThekweni 5 300. Not one of them reaching 6 000, not one, but the City of Cape Town ...[Interjections.]

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

20

The PREMIER: ...12 401.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members! Please take your seat, hon Premier. Hon members, you are drowning out the speaker by the consistent heckling and I am unable to hear the speaker conclude. There are

nine seconds remaining. Hon Premier, please wrap up with your nine seconds.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. In actual fact all three Metros in Gauteng do not even come near the City of Cape Town's numbers of 12 401.

I want to conclude with the rule of law is paramount if we are to have a proper, functional democracy. We cannot have political parties advocating to break the rule of law. That is unacceptable, unconstitutional and goes against their ...[Interjections.]

10

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

The PREMIER: ...standing here swearing allegiance to the constitution.

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

The PREMIER: Thank you.

20 The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon Premier. Should I be taking advice from the Table Staff whether the consistent heckling can be taken from the speaking time? Hon members, I will at this particular time request that the hon Deputy Chief Whip, who is the next speaker, to ultimately ensure that the Whippery does the work that the Whippery is supposed to do on my left-hand side.

I now see Interpellation number 3 and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister

Baartman.

3. Ms N D Nkondlo asked Ms D M Baartman, Minister of Finance:

Given that entities such as Freeport Saldanha and Casidra continue to rely heavily on Government transfers and conditional grants to sustain operations:

10 What measures has her Department implemented to (a) strengthen financial oversight and (b) improve the long-term sustainability of these entities?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. In terms of subsection (a) of the interpellation regarding strengthening financial oversight, it is to enhance financial reporting.

20 The Provincial Treasury conducts bi-annual reviews of all entities' interim and annual financial statements. These reviews ensure compliance with the generally recognised accounting practises, or it is also called GRAP, the framework and supported improved audit outcomes by addressing risks before submission and reporting quality, the annual financial statements before submission to the Auditor General [Inaudible 2:02:19] the long-term sustainability, both Freeport Saldanha [Inaudible 2:02:27.6] confirmed in their [Inaudible 2:02:29] financial statement [Inaudible 2:02:32]

An HON MEMBER: Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...dependent on a number ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...of these is that ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I have stopped the clock our side
10 ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...it appears that your network is extremely unstable
your side. Are you able to attempt again?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: [No audible response]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you may proceed. Hon members,
20 technology has assisted this House during ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Deputy Speaker, are you able to hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There we go. Thank you so much, you may proceed,
hon Minister, with three minutes remaining.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much. I just changed my connection for better connection quickly.

As per the Freeport Saldanha documentation, and I quote:

10 “The ability of the entity to continue as a going concern is dependent on a number of factors. The most significant of these is that the Board of Directors continues to procure funding for the ongoing operations of the entity.”

As per Casidra's documentation:

20 “Based on a review of projected cashflows for the next 12 months, the short-term financial position of the company remains sound. However, the medium and long-term sustainability of the company is dependent on continued and timely funding from Government and identification of additional sources of revenue. The directors believe that Casidra has adequate resources in place to continue operating as a going concern.”

Importantly Government transfers remain stable between 2023/24 and 2024/25. The absence of significant year-on-year increases indicates that the entities are beginning to secure complementary funding sources, which support [Inaudible.] financial resilience over time. Should further detail be required the relevant

Executive Authority need to be approached in terms of Section 63(2) the PFMA. In this regard the relevant Executive Authority is the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism for both aforementioned entities. Thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker,
 10 one hopes that the hon Minister recognises that the discussion in the main tries to bring into the fore the issue of financial oversight as a responsibility of the Provincial Treasury, but also the concept of shareholder oversight, because I think those two are very critical to try and bring this particular conversation into context, because these Government entities like Freeport Saldanha and Casidra, do play a pivotal role in the economic and social development of the province, with Freeport Saldanha positioned as a catalyst of regional growth, focussing on infrastructure development, investment facilitation and emerging sectors such as green hydrogen.

20 Casidra on the other hand is an implementing agency for the Department of Agriculture, central and rural development, agricultural support and the management of multi-year infrastructure projects, that underpin food security and economic development.

Why we bring this to the attention of the House is that I think for us it is

concerning that these two public entities continue to demonstrate challenges in as far as financial management and over-reliance of these on Government transfers and conditional grants to sustain their operations, which is worrisome. It is something that we had to debate during our time when we were dealing with the Annual Report.

In as far as the Freeport Saldanha, the entity continues to operate with recurring financial deficits and high vacancy rates, there are delays in project implementation, there is underachievement of key performance indicators and
 10 slow uptake of tenants. During the course of the Annual Reports we highlighted the ongoing reliance on Government funding and raised questions about plans to achieve financial sustainability and reduce this dependence.

Casidra, on the other hand, the hon Minister is here, remains dependent on Government funding, reporting a deficit of R2 2 million for the year and an accumulated deficit of R2 8 million. Funding for farm infrastructure support has been declining, impacting timely completion of multi-year agricultural projects.

20 The question we are asking is the funding model of Casidra sustainable, given the increasing pressures, the demands on agriculture and food security? What are we going to do if we are having a public entity that over-relies on Government funding and even itself is unable currently to demonstrate the ability to just meet its own basic targets?

This is also a similar issue that we have seen with Freeport Saldanha, with some of the challenges in the leadership. What we are asking, what is happening with the shareholder compacting and the contracting, where these are supposed to be monitored with the assistance of Treasury, which is responsible for financial oversight? I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. I recognise the hon member Van Wyk.

10 Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I think the hon Minister had indicated the advisory and the oversight role that Provincial Treasury does play in relation to these entities.

I think what is, however, important is to recognise the long-term nature of these projects, where we are working towards a 2035 goal of becoming a trillion rand economy, and included in becoming a trillion rand economy is certainly big infrastructure that needs to be put in place that one does see in the entities such as Freeport Saldanha, as with Atlantis, and also in terms of the work that is being done at Casidra, where you are building up small and local economic
20 development through the agricultural sphere.

Maybe the hon Minister can perhaps also just expand to the extent on that work that needs to be undertaken over this longer-term period, where you need to monitor and to guide and to advise for that longer-term period to ensure that those projects come to fruition. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Wyk. I again recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think as members of the legislative sector we must take ourselves seriously and our work seriously.

I think from the Chairperson of the Committee, through you, hon Deputy
10 Speaker, I think whilst we take note and we all understand we are talking about long-term projects, timing is everything. I mean when we talk investment we are coming from a provincial investment summit where we throw numbers. We talk about billions of rands that are going to be invested here, we create excitement to communities, making political statements about jobs that are going to be coming. So timing is everything.

So the turnaround time, if you consider that the Annual Report actually did indicate that if you consider with the Freeport Saldanha, with a planned target of about eight signed tenant and operator leases, you know, they only were able
20 to achieve three, and we understand that to sign a tenant into that space it therefore generates revenue.

So I am not sure when you talk about long-term what exactly are we talking about, because the speed at which Freeport Saldanha must be able to turn around, so that we do not talk about pipelines, things that are sitting in the

pipeline. What is important is to turn around the pipeline into actionable projects that are going to be yielding the revenues so that such an entity does not have to rely on to Government transfers, especially with a fiscus that is very constrained.

Most importantly is that we are sitting with Saldanha communities where unemployment – I think we are going to be listening to the Municipal Economic Review Outlook very recently from next week and we will be tracking what is the situation of human development index there, what is the situation of
10 inequality.

So we cannot speak as if we have got the luxury of time, because we may be sitting here and having debates, but people that are in these communities that are depending on these nice things that we talk about here in this House, they expect that when we speak of these big terms of investments, billions of rands, that we are putting up, that we are able to monitor and oversight these entities, not to sit with nice reports and recurring problems of under-expenditure.

So I think that is the issue that we are bringing here, hon Deputy Speaker, to
20 both Casidra, and I keep on saying the funding model is important. Perhaps we know that the Provincial Treasury was looking at different models. At some point the hon Premier, when he started, he spoke about fiscal futures. We still want to see how do all of these discussions, research and everything, contribute to these sustainable solutions that are going to reduce – what we want to see is the reduction of the impact on households, and therefore we want to see the

entity operating at a level where it can support infrastructure projects and the regional growth.

However, the reliance on Government funding suggests that the entity is far from reaching [Inaudible 2:12:52]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

10

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I will first quote from the PFMA and then I will quote from the Public Entity Governance Guidelines that was published by the Provincial Treasury and that was handed out to all members of the Executive Authority of Cabinet in the new Administration in 2024 as well regarding respective roles.

20 Regarding Section 63 of the PFMA subsection (2), the Executive Authority responsible for a public entity under the ownership control of the National or Provincial Executive, must exercise that Executive's ownership control powers to ensure that that public entity complies with this Act and the financial policies of that Executive.

Further, in terms of the guidelines to Government as published by the Provincial Treasury, on pages 34 and 35:

“The accounting office of the parent Department has the following responsibilities:

- Advising the Minister through review of the Corporate Plan, the Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan, shareholder compact and other statutory documentation to be submitted and approved by the Minister.”

10

And, hon Deputy Speaker, when I say “Minister” here, I refer to the relevant Executive Authority.

“ Align and advise that Minister and accounting authorities on the budget allocation against the key performance indicators agreed in the APP or the shareholder compact. This includes how the budget allocation is reconciled to the public entity's objectives and programmes.

20

- Review the quarterly reports against the APP and shareholder compact and advise the Accounting Authority and the Provincial Minister on recommendations for corrective action.
- Assist the Minister with the nomination of Board members per each legislation for the appointment of Board members in accordance with the PFMA.

- Exercise the responsibilities of the accounting officer responsible for the transfer of funds to the public entity as per Section 38(1)(j), read with Treasury Regulation 8.4.1, and establish a system for monitoring and reporting of the effectiveness of the use of funds transferred.”

The document then further goes into the fact that:

10 “The accounting officer may delegate the oversight functions to, for example, the CFO of the Department for delegations regarding financial matters, such as budget process, retention of surplus or transfer payments.”

Further in the guidelines on page 69, matters that can be escalated to the relevant Executive Authority includes financial viability matters, amongst others:

- 20 “ Lack of revenue conversion of investor pipeline; and
- Sustained losses;
 - Operations funded by cash reserves;
 - Budget operational issues;
 - Business model not translating into revenue;
 - Self-sustainability or break-even;
 - Budget spent, but targets not achieved; and
 - Loss of resources to the State, for example, VAT leakage.”

This is all contained within the Public Entity Governance Guidelines as published by the Provincial Treasury to the Western Cape Government, and serves as a useful tool for members, for Executive Authorities, for accounting officers, for other officials, to be able to deal with the clauses of the PFMA that are related to themselves as a parent Department, and themselves as the relevant Executive Authority.

On this particular matter regarding long-term sustainability in terms of the law,
10 the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism is responsible for both aforementioned entities that were mentioned. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. We will now proceed in terms of Rule 202.

Before we deal with questions, please allow me to once again state that hon members that wish to pose a follow-up to any member of the Executive, must
20 use the chat facility that is online or raise their hand in this Sitting, to indicate they want to ask a follow-up question.

There will be four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who has posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper, will have the first opportunity for a follow-up question. Thereafter other hon

members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow-up question.

I now recognise the hon Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, hon Minister Meyer.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. Mr F C Christians asked Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

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Whether his Department has been in contact with the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development regarding the application of a certain company, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purposes of his reply, that has been waiting for more than a year for the registration of its fertiliser product; if so, what are the relevant details?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Agb Adjunkspeaker, baie dankie vir hierdie vraag in verband –
 20 van agb lid Christians, rondom 'n aangeleentheid van 'n Nasionale Departement van Landbou, Landelike Hervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling ten opsigte van 'n aansoek van 'n bepaalde maatskappy, waar die jurisdiksie en die bevoegdheid lê by die Nasionale Departement en nie by my nie, maar nietemin, ons gaan nie vrae ontduik omdat dit Nasionaal is nie.

Hier is verantwoordelikheid in hierdie regering en daarom het my departement navrae gedoen by die Registrateur van hierdie Wet 36. [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for this question in regard to - from hon member Christians, around an issue of a national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development with regard to an application of a specific company, where the jurisdiction and the authority lie with the National Department and not with me, but anyway we are not going to avoid questions because it is national.

10

There is accountability in this Government and therefore my Department has made enquiries with the Registrar of this Act 36.] We contacted that office regarding the delay in terms of that specific client, whose name is available. The product for registration for application in the National Department. The Registrar's office has now responded with specific guidance and assistance to facilitate the process and the application.

†So dis 'n vraag rondom 'n Nasionale Departement. Ons het die Registrateur genader, en die Registrateur het soos volg aan ons geantwoord, en ek gee graag daardie antwoord deur aan hierdie Huis.

20

Dat die kliënt moet direk skakel met die Registrateur se kantoor sodat daardie aansoek kan bespoedig word. [So it is a question around a national department. We approached the Registrar and the Registrar replied to us as follows, and I'm conveying that reply through to this House.

That the client should directly liaise with the Registrar's office so that that application can be dealt with promptly.] The Registrar of Act 36 of 1947 is Mr Jonathan Mudzunga, and he indicated that they can contact him directly. I have his email and I have his phone number. I will happily pass it on to the hon member to phone the hon gentleman.

There was also an issue of the product brochures of this specific product. According to the Registrar it was insufficient for the assessment of the process
 10 in terms of the application, and the Registrar also, national, has indicated there is a need to provide specific details to address the requirements in terms of Act 36 of 1947.

The client is specifically required to articulate in his application the precise nature of the product, †met ander woorde die presiese aard van die produk [in other words, the precise nature of the product.] †Ook die [Also the] function and intended use of the product. A clear explanation of how this product fits into the scope and the requirements of the legislation. The company must also ensure that this information is submitted to the Registrar office nationally
 20 promptly to allow the registration process to continue. I am happy to report to hon member Christians, †dit lyk vir my hier is maar een of ander verdragingsaktiek, en 'n mens kan miskien dalk direk met die kantoor skakel, maar indien u enige verdere inligting verlang, my kantoor staan gereed om self ook verdere oproepe te maak in die verband. Ek dank u, agb Adjunkspeaker. [It seems to me here is some or other delaying tactic, and one can perhaps liaise

directly with the office, but if you require any further information, my office is ready to also make further calls in this regard. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

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

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, hon Minister, for your reply and what do people do if they submit an application
10 and for a year you do not hear anything, and then the cut off is December?

So, hon Minister, if you can give those details it will be highly appreciated, but the fact is that somebody wants to provide a service and the service provided – for a year nothing, nothing, nothing, and that is the frustration of many people.

So, hon Minister, that is why we have directed the question to you. Thank you very much.

20 The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before you proceed, hon Minister. I am once again urging hon members to stick to the one follow-up question. I now see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, did you say there is a follow-up question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon member indicated, do you have a clear follow-up question, hon member Christians?

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): If the hon Minister can – I know he cannot explain, but I am saying somebody – the question was posed to you because there is no reaction for a year. No reaction, no reply to the provider. Thank you.

10 †Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker, tot die agb lid. Ons het hier ook in die Wes-Kaap die sogenaamde *Red Tape Reduction* Eenheid, maar ek is bekommerd dat dit 'n hele jaar vat om 'n aansoek af te handel. Ek sal ook skakel met die Departement, want sulke tipe aansoeke behoort *online* ingevul te word en [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker to the hon member. We also have here in the Western Cape the so-called Red Tape Reduction Unit, but I am concerned that it takes a whole year to complete an application. I will also liaise with the Department, because such applications should be able to be

20 completed online and] online, for example, if anybody wants to export meat, anybody in the audience, through the hon Deputy Speaker, want to export meat, my processes, you can fill the form online, you can print your export certificate at your house. You do not need to come to me, and definitely if I take a year to answer you there will be a vacancy, because we believe one mistake, one vacancy.

So I will not take a year to answer you, but I will give – at the end of this today provide this detail to you, but if you in the meantime can also submit a complaint to the Red Tape Reduction Unit then they can follow it also up immediately, because I am concerned next month is December and that is the cut-off time, and I think it is in my nature and in my spirit to apologise to this hon member for his client that took 12 months, and I will certainly make it my business to follow this up in the next 24 hours.

- 10 I cannot promise that I will deliver it, but what I can promise is that I offer an apology, because nobody should be treated like this in South Africa, but I will follow it up in the next 24 hours. Thanks.

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

- Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Hon Minister, I do recognise that this is outside your Department. However, you are willing to assist. One of the levers or enablers in your
20 Department is communication. Do you really think communication could help in terms of really achieving the results with regards to issues like this? Thank you, hon Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister. I will give over to the hon Minister to answer that particular question that was posed, but once

again alert hon members, the follow-up question must be linked to the initial question that was posed. Thank you to the Leader of the Opposition. Hon Minister, you may proceed. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is always a sad story if a South African who wants to start a business, engage with the National Government or a Provincial Government or for a municipality, a genuine business proposal, and 12 months happens and there is no communication. I think this is certainly not
10 acceptable.

One of the values of my Government is responsiveness. Responsiveness means pick up the phone, answer the phone call. When you get the letter, please write and answer the letter, because the spirit of responsiveness requires that we answer people. Twelve months have now expired. This is an injustice and that is why I thank the hon member for bringing it here. The fact that he brings it here means he has and his client has exhausted all available avenues, and certainly I cannot let another 12 months go by and not answer this client.

20 I think it is in the spirit of good cooperative governance that we follow up on this particular matter. There is a phone number of this person. I will direct my office to also phone this number of this gentleman and we will send an email, and in that context I will also cc you in, but for now I am happy to also give you a written copy of the answer and see how we can assist.

We must try in this Government and in other governments, to digitise all the available information. When we speak about e-governance we talk about e-citizenship. A citizen has a problem, put it in the computer and deliver it in the easiest space of time. If anyone wants to export meat and all your data is correctly certified by a state vet and you want to export meat, I tell you, you print your export licence in your home. You do not need to come to our offices. That is the quality of service I think we need to give and I will follow this up, because I think this is an injustice.

10 The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I have not noted any further follow-ups. We will proceed to Question number 2 as printed on the Question Paper, and I again recognise the hon Minister, Minister Meyer.

2. Mr F C Christians asked Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

South Africa is on track to export 202,2 million cartons of citrus in 2025:

20 (a) How will the Province contribute to (i) the export total as a percentage of South African exports and (ii) this total expressed as the total number of cartons of citrus packed and (b) what are the foreseen impediments to increase the province's exports?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Is there overtime for Members

of Parliament? No? Right. Hon Deputy Speaker, since you are still thinking, I hope that you can talk to the Minister of Finance who is online to facilitate that.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think on a serious note, the hon member Christians indicated that South Africa as a country, not the Western Cape, is on track to export about 202 million cartons of citrus fruit.

I am particularly happy to also elaborate on the previous interpellation, because
10 I think the interpellation and the question are directly related in terms of the number of cartons of the citrus fruit, and what are the impediments, which I did answer in the interpellation, but I think what needs to be said, this year, 2025, we will succeed in exporting 200 million cartons of citrus, a good target. The target of CGA, the Citrus Growers Association, is to have 260 million 15 kilogram cartons of citrus by the year 2032. Indications are that by the year 2030 they will achieve this specific target.

Hon members of this House will know that I have four ministerial priorities: agriculture support, business support, food security and nutrition, and fourthly
20 market access, and market access for me is significantly important. I have already indicated the significance of citrus in South Africa.

The biggest citrus region in South Africa is Limpopo. The second biggest citrus region in South Africa is in the Eastern Cape, and I visited them at the Sondagsrivier Valley, and the third biggest citrus production region is the

Western Cape.

Mr Marais, despite the fact, through your, hon Deputy Speaker, that the Western Cape is the third biggest contributor of citrus, you would be happy to know, hon member Christians, that citrus exports of the Western Cape are more than 60%.

Now there are different reasons for that.

- 10 There is citrus in neighbouring countries and neighbouring provinces, because of the Harbour in Cape Town and because of the transport, they prefer to do it via the Western Cape because we have better quality roads, more variety of crops and a better transport infrastructure.

Also, remember we have citrus farmers in the Eastern Cape and we also have citrus farmers here in the Western Cape. So, therefore, this result is due to the better quality and more variety of crops. It is also predicted that the Western Cape alone, out of this 200 million, 101 million will come from the Western Cape. So, that is indicative of the growth that we are talking about.

20

But as to the Interpellation, when the hon members asked what the obstacles are in terms of the ports and logistics, I think the Interpellation explained that there are some significant processes. There were some temporary issues regarding the tariffs from the US and as you know, Trump has originally put a 30% tariff on citrus exports to the United States. I think, hon members, over

there and hon members of the public will know that a tariff is a form of taxation. The person that exports, us, we do not pay the tariff. The importer in the United States pays the tariff. A tariff is a form of taxation.

Now, that person in the United States that imports our citrus, he just adds the tariff to the product. †So, ons sitrus raak nou duurder [So our citrus is becoming more expensive] and there is a lower tariff in another country. So, they prefer then to buy rather from another country, and that damages our import capability. But Mr Trump has subsequently changed his mind. †Iemand het
 10 gesê hy het seker agtergekom ons sitrus is lekkerder. [Someone said he has probably discovered that our citrus is sweeter.] He scrapped the tariffs. So, I am very happy that we can now have more of these oranges in the United States, but that does not include †*naartjies* [nectarine] and other soft citrus cultivars.

We have seen, hon member, as I indicated earlier, significant improvements in the harbour of Cape Town. I must warn this House that in the last week, we have seen terrible winds. †Die wind is verskriklik. Mnr Michels, jy is nie gewoond aan die Kaapse wind nie, so jy het die wind ervaar. So, jy is welkom nou. Ek weet in Grabouw is daar nie so baie wind soos hier in die Kaap nie
 20 [The wind is terrible. Mr. Michels, you are not used to the Cape wind, so you have experienced wind. So you are now welcome. I know in Grabouw there is not as much wind as here in the Cape] and welcome to the wind of Cape Town. This wind had implications now for our exports †want as die wind waai by die hawe daar gaan die *containers* 'n bietjie links en regs, en hulle is 'n bietjie skrikkerig vir die see. [because when the wind is blowing at the Harbour then

the containers move a bit left and right, and they are a bit scared of the sea.]

But we have commissioned a study through the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research to do a wind modelling. That study they are still busy with, Transnet and them, and we are also taking part in that study. But there is the good news of an inland port, as I told you earlier, in Salt River, where they put the containers there so that when the wind blows there in Cape Town, it is safer there in the inland port in Salt River.

- 10 That port has been built, and I have opened it: R40 million. Another R160 million is coming towards that port, as I told you earlier, with the 3-kilometre railway line directly into the harbour. So, I think that will take care those problems.

But the trucks, the roads. We have, through one of our staff members, developed a Port Management Information System tracking from the packhouse, cold storage, on the road to the harbour, queuing up to where it is loaded on the ship. I am very happy that that process gives a little bit of predictability.

20

I am happy to also report to this House although not about citrus, but table grapes. Table grapes have now been built around our modelling and use our modelling to have predictability in the export of table grapes. Last year, I went to the harbour. I was on a boat. Hon member, next time you are happy to join me. I was on the boat and went down to see how they load the table grapes that

were exported to the UK last year.

So, I want to give the hon members the assurance that I expect a good season for citrus. We have, as you rightly pointed out in an article, that despite these tariffs we have seen an increase in the export of citrus. I also expect greater participation in that.

But one thing is still troubling, hon member. There is more wind. We are all travelling and we see more wind in Europe, heavy winds, and the people are
10 exporting. We have a situation of wind, less wind, yet we say we cannot export. This is a matter for discussion, and I will soon bring a report to this Cabinet because I sent a delegation to Bremen Harbour in Germany and to the harbour in Dubai. And on the recommendation of the World Bank, I sent a delegation to Bangkok. That harbour is now radically transformed, privatised and great exports are happening.

I have sent another colleague, a staff member, to go to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania because we have met with DP World from Dubai. They came to us and they said, 'do you want to see the impact of DP World in transforming the
20 port authorities?' So, I sent a senior staff member to go and look at what is happening in Dar Es Salaam.

I am happy to report that I have received a report that in six months you will not recognise the Port of Dar Es Salaam. When you see what has happened six months before and six months later, it is a radical revolution. Now hon Deputy

Speaker, I was in Dar Es Salaam in 1992. I saw the impact of refuse that was dumped on the beach in Dar Es Salaam. So, when I got this report, I was clearly happy to see that.

Hon Deputy Speaker, so the harbours and the port authorities are critical for the revival of the economy. But in the Office of the President, they have established a Ports, Harbour, Transport and Logistical arm called Project Vulindlela. I have invited the gentleman that is in charge of that project, I have invited him. I am chairing a Cabinet Committee on Growth for Jobs. I
 10 have invited that gentleman and he confirmed the work and what they have done because in the Presidency they said the work will get done. I am happy for that attitude because I think sometimes, you need to give people instructions and no longer consultations. I like that spirit. That is the best spirit. The job gets done.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, subsequently, during the Western Cape Investment Summit, I have invited that gentleman back because we had the Port Logistic and Transport panel discussion, from Transnet, from the Office of the President, logistics from Grindrod and all the major logistical companies. And
 20 I am happy for the report that I have received, and I attended that whole session: absolutely fantastic!

So, I want to be on record to congratulate Minister Barbara Creecy and Advocate Michelle Phillips for some outstanding work that they have done in this particular regard. Because we are now seeing that if people are willing to

work together, through collaboration and partnerships, †en ek kan byvoeg en †n bietjie gat te skop, [and I can add and kick ass a bit,] then things are happening. This has now happened here in the Western Cape, and I am looking forward to furthering this.

But I want to thank the hon Premier because he, during one discussion during the SONA of this year, when he left SONA he came to his office here in this building and he went to his boardroom and what did he see? He met the Project Vulindlela team there and obviously, like the hon Premier is, he said, 'please
 10 let us work together in the spirit of cooperative governance. Let us work so that South Africa succeeds.' I want to thank the hon Premier for also raising this on all the available platforms.

We have now adopted an approach that the Government of National Unity is now a government of national urgency because we have urgent goals and targets, and we are looking forward to cooperate. This is one example of if we work together, then I think the results speak for themselves.

So, hon member Christians, it is a little bit of a long story, but hon member
 20 Michels is new to the House so it is always refreshing to have new information because he can use this information in his constituency. He can certainly use this information to empower his people. I believe that he loves to empower people and this is an opportunity to empower people. So, thank you very much, Mr Michels for your spirit of wanting to learn. Learn, and after this session, there will be a test and an examination.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: So, I have got an indication, hon Christians and hon Nkondlo, hon Masipa and hon Marais.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. The hon Minister covered me about the weather, but hon Minister, if you can tell me. You mentioned earlier about how the workers will benefit, if you can just elaborate
10 on that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, workers are directly benefiting. If you increase your export capability as in this case of the Western Cape to about 121 million cartons, it means more people have access to jobs, more opportunities and I think this is definitely one of the greatest stories of employment into the agricultural sector because more people are employed during the harvest season
20 and this good news is that the Citrus Growers Association has also established, we are talking about the workers, they have also established a trust where workers can benefit from this trust.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): As a follow-up. Thank you, hon Speaker, as a follow-up to hon member Christians on the benefits of workers. I just want to check with the hon Minister whether you are aware that on some of these citrus farms that there is employment of illegal foreign nationals who are registered with names of legitimate locals at those citrus farms. And once that information is brought to you, what are you going to do about it so that this benefit that you are talking about from these 202,2 million cartons is, indeed, realised for the locals. Thank you so much.

10 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, before you proceed, I wish to remind the hon members that you are allowed one follow-up question. In that question posed by hon Nkondlo there were two questions. So, hon Minister, as always, I am not going to dictate how you answer that question, but hon members, I ask for your indulgence to work with me within the Rules. You are allowed one follow-up question and there is no need to motivate your question. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo. I think she asked a
20 legitimate question and because of that particular question we have arranged a workshop about illegal foreigners working on farms. We had SAPS there, we had Home Affairs there, Agri Western Cape and another organisation that I cannot remember now, but I will get to it. In that workshop we focused on specific strategies to prevent illegal foreigners from working on farms.

Subsequently, as part of this exercise, the farmers have then developed a protocol for the employment of foreign nationals. If you are legally in the country, very happy, but if you are illegal and you appoint illegal foreigners on the farm, then you will be dealt with by the law. We also know that there is SIZA that you are familiar with and WIETA.

Through the Global G.A.P., they audit the farms, they come to the farms. They look at the accommodation on the farms, the toilets on the farms, the working conditions. They do a proper audit, even if there are illegal foreigners.

10 Certainly, you cannot export any of your products into the world. These are regular audits that are being done, and many people are familiar with the Global G.A.P.

Also, there is a second question, but because I like the hon member, I will answer the second question. [Interjections.] Sent out. Oh yes, you will recall that during last week, the Minister of Home Affairs answered the question that about 46 illegal people ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Forty-six thousand.

20

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...46 000 were sent back. I want to clarify that they are not on our farms in the country. But this second question was ...[Interjections.] but talk to me. Do not talk to the hon Premier. Leave him. ...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I wish to remind you that you need to speak to
me and not to the hon member across the floor.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
10 TOURISM: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I will follow your Rules. The
hon member asked what I will do. In other words, it is a verb. What will I do
if she gives me the names of illegal foreigners.

I can tell you that letter of yours will not be on my desk for 12 months. I will
act immediately because such things cannot be tolerated. If any farmer employs
illegal foreigners for some or other reason, he will not get any joy from this
Government. You are on your own and in the jail, †en in die tjoekie [and in
the jail.] Yes, yes, because we are not going to tolerate it because we want
legitimate people and to make sure that people that work here get the benefits.
20 So, thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Before I recognise hon
Masipa. Hon Masipa, you may continue. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that
a point of order? Please rise now. Please rise.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I just want to seek clarity. The hon MEC and I want to welcome the undertaking that he has made, but can he clarify. Is that an executive undertaking? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. All commitments in the House are regarded. It will be tracked and the hon Minister has made a commitment. So, I do not need the hon Minister to confirm that. I think the Rules are clear and the processes that we follow in the House are clear. So, hon Masipa, you may continue.

10

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Through you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, economic diplomacy and partnership is one of your transversal enablers and levers of your Department. Can the hon Minister indicate benefits of attending events such as the Spain Fruit Attraction 2025, in an attempt to contribute towards the achievement of the 202,2 million exports of citrus? Thank you, hon Minister.

20

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker, for the question. As the hon members know, I was in Fruit Attraction in Madrid earlier this year and this is the biggest fruit attraction around the world that is being hosted in Madrid every year. This is the first time I have attended it.

It is so massive, so big, you cannot even get to every pavilion, but I spent most of my time, in fact 80% of the time, at the South African Western Cape Wesgro

Pavilion because that is where we want to see what is happening. When I was there initially, through the hon Speaker, hon member Masipa, I was a bit nervous because at all the stalls I saw fruit because it is called the Fruit Attraction. I saw fruit from different parts of the world where you can taste, and when I got to the Western Cape pavilion, I saw no fruit. So, I was nervous that we go to a fruit attraction, and we see no South African fruit.

I asked them what is happening there and they reminded me, hon Minister, look around all the stalls. What do you see? I saw 40 people sitting at tables signing
10 deals with the Western Cape. Fruit attraction is not about tasting the fruit. It is about signing agreements. Between R14 and R18 billion of contracts were signed and I am so happy for that.

I worked with the Fruit Produce Export Forum. I gave them the money with the following organisations to go and sign deals. Number one, SA Fruit. Number two: Hortgro, the deciduous fruit organisation. Number three: SATI, the South African Table Grape Industry. SA Berries. There is one missing and CGA, the Citrus Growers Association. Their market access people were there at the registration desk. You say, 'I want to import grapes from South Africa.'
20 We register you; we put you at the table. We match making you right there, business to business deals, and I am particularly happy that we will soon see the results.

The man that is now responsible for that massive exercise retired and I told the hon Premier that I am not going to let the man retire with those skills. So, I

have set up a meeting. Unfortunately, it was cancelled on Monday because I am now planning, based on the Fruit Attraction in Madrid. †Dit is te ver om te vlieg. Hulle vrugte is ook nie so lekker nie. Mense wil nie Engels praat nie. [It is too far to fly. Their fruits are also not so nice. People don't want to speak English.]

So, hon member Constable, what I have now done is I have now started Fruit Attraction Africa, and I will host it here in 2027. I have already consulted the hon Premier and that will now happen because it is cheaper for them to come
 10 here. †Die mense is meer vriendelik, almal praat 'n bietjie Engels [The people are more friendly, everyone speaks a bit of English,] and I think we will have one ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: And the wine is better.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: En, en?

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: And, and?]

20

† 'n AGB LID: En die wyn is beter.

[An HON MEMBER: And the wine is better.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: ...en die wyn is beter. Ek meen, wat de hel. So, en hulle *berries*

is bitter daardie kant.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ... and the wine is better. I mean, what the hell. So, and their berries are bitter on that side.]

So, I think, hon member Masipa, apart from Fruit Attraction in Madrid, in February next year, we will have Fruit Logistica in Berlin in Germany. This is massive. All the fruit people come together in February from around the world. Also, our competitors from Chile and Peru.

10

I am sending some of our Black farmers to first visit the Port of Rotterdam so that they can see the logistical value framework and from there, I will send them to Berlin, both to the Fruit Logistica, but also to the supermarkets so that they can see and recognise their own products in the supermarkets because of the tracking system that we have.

So, this is part of the work that we do. Hon member Masipa, I wish that you and the Committee could also go with me to Grüne Woche in Berlin. So please, hon Speaker, approve the application for the hon member to join me to Grüne
20 Woche because, this will be next year, because I will lead a Wesgro delegation with a number of Western Cape companies. Also, there from Grüne Woche, I will go to Gulfood.

Gulfood started a massive project called Africa Food, and it was hosted here by Gulfood at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. So, Gulfood.

We will take a few companies, emerging companies here from the Western Cape to exhibit their work and their products at Gulfood next year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, please approve the application of the hon member Masipa because I think both in Grüne Woche and in Gulfood, I think people can really benefit. In the Middle East, in Africa, in Asia. We recently sent a delegation. Mr Petrus, we sent a delegation to India for the citrus. But what we now do, hon member Petrus, you cannot just go there and show it. So, what we now do, we take your products, we organise in the supermarket. †Ons bemark dit binne
 10 jou *supermarket*. Jy hoef nie nog te bemark nie. Ons sê vir die mense vroeër. Soos hier by Checkers, wil hulle iets wil koop, sê hulle 'proe'. Ons doen daardie besigheid sommer daar. [We promote it in your supermarket. You do not need to market. We tell the people earlier. Like here at Checkers if they want to buy something they say 'taste'. We do the business right there.]

So, that has happened. Also, hon member Petrus, you will know that tonight you are happy to join me. I am meeting the Minister of Agriculture from Namibia tonight. I will meet him in person, and I am very happy because Namibia is a main trading partner with South Africa. I have also met the
 20 Minister Piet Adema. He was the former Minister of Agriculture, but then with the change of government. But I am in contact with the new Minister.

Also, I am very happy that our National Minister facilitated the G20 on Agriculture and I think, hon member, you are happy that that agreement on the G20 on food security was signed, and there is agreement on that on food

security. In August, I also met the Minister of Agriculture from Bavaria, Michaela Kaniber. I have invited her to visit us at NAMPO next year.

I have also met the President of the Bavarian Farmers' Association. I asked him how many farmers he has. I told him we have got 17 000 farmers. I thought I would take a brag, and then he told me he has got 100 000 farmers in Bavaria. So, I went humble in my numbers. I think it is also important to note that the Minister of Economic Development, I met him both in Bavaria and he came here: Minister Tobias Gotthardt.

10

And lastly, hon Speaker, to the hon member. In August I went to visit two universities by Weihenstephan University and the Technical University in Munich, and I am so happy that two agreements were signed. The Weihenstephan University, and it happened in the presence of the hon Premier, where the Rector of that University signed an agreement with Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute through my accounting officer, Dr Sebopetsa, and I am very happy for the work that they have done.

20

A second agreement was signed between the University of Stellenbosch and the scientific community, and the Technical University of Munich for some research.

So, I think I cannot say we have done everything, but I am happy to ask Wesgro to bring to your Committee a detailed report of the impact of economic diplomacy in this Government. One of the outreaches I will lead now, and I

would be happy if hon member Masipa's application can be approved, and I ask the hon Speaker not to take 12 months to approve the application.

The SPEAKER: I am so tempted to respond but let me not break convention and I recognise hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Minister. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, you have responded extensively, and I am very proud of the achievements of the Western Cape in terms of our agricultural exports. I
 10 wanted to know whether there is room for further expansion in terms of the variety of citrus fruit to include TRANCRAA land beneficiaries into the export value chain. That is my question, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, I have to answer the question scientifically because the hon Premier is listening. This one I must answer with scientific evidence and data.

20

The hon Premier has given each of his hon Ministers targets. I told him that I want to increase agricultural exports by 5% in the first term. It was at 45% when he gave me the target. I have exceeded the target to 55%. I must say thank you to our excellent farmers and the workers.

Currently, as we stand here, exports of the Western Cape agriculture primary products are now no more 55%, they are now 58% and we are only 10% of the size of South Africa and 10% of the population of South Africa, but 58% of South Africa's primary agricultural exports.

The question is hon Minister, is there room for increasing it? I must answer scientifically. I told the hon Premier I would be happy if it were 60%. So, you asked me, is there room for improvement. Any farmer and what we specifically do, we also target farmers, Black farmers, because we want them to increase.

10

You can also see, for example, last year, we supported two Black farmers for the citrus. This year we supported one and we take them to a level, and then we say 'export'. So, that is the plan. We want to see the people who are farming and who are meeting the global G.A.P. standards, that those people are given an opportunity also to export.

20

So, what did we do? In fact, I did it twice this year. Once at Lutzville, †daar was 'n landbouskou [there was an agricultural show.] So, at the †landbouskou [agricultural show] I had a Western Cape Export Promotion seminar. Those who wanted to increase their exports, we had a workshop there with them. We gave them information on how to increase their exports and be market ready.

I had a second one in Prince Albert. I met the exporters there. Also, emerging Black farmers and emerging businesses in general, not only farmers, and we assisted them with readiness for exports. So, it is an export promotion

workshop. If you know of such people that want to export, you give us their names, we arrange a meeting, and we can see how we can assist them because the question originates from a source. So, we would be happy to do that.

I think people love South Africa's products. I think people love it. People, before they buy your product, they buy your culture. People love the culture; they love the people. Before they. If your culture stinks people do not eat your food, but if your culture speaks to compassion. That is why I do not believe in making a country great again. I believe in making humanity great again. When
 10 you make humanity great again, people come and eat your fruit and your vegetables. That is the culture that I believe in: compassion and kindness in your attitude. I think that is what South Africans have, and that is why people love to come here and buy our products.

So, are there export capabilities? I think so. Yesterday, as I told you earlier, I tabled an export strategy which was approved by this Cabinet, and I am happy that we can increase that. We also have a thing called 'alternative crops', things like rooibos tea, honeybush tea. †Daar is so 'n lang lys. Heuning ook, dit is ook 'n [There was such a long list. Honey as well, it is also an] alternative
 20 crop. We need to invest more in those farmers so that those farmers can also export more in that particular context.

I am currently worried that we are also importing cheap honey. I love honey in my tea, †maar ek ken heuning. Ek kan sommer sien dit is ingevoerde plastiek-heuning [But I know honey. I can easily see when it is imported plastic

honey.] So, we need to increase our production in honey and export.

Lastly, in fact I want to invite all the hon members in this House. Next year, we have, through you, hon Chair, Made in the Cape. That is a platform where we say buyers and sellers. We bring them together. We have got the product.

Let us say you have made a new jam. You bring that jam through Made in the Cape. You put it on the Cape portal, your product. You describe it. If you do not know how, we can assist you. We do the food safety analysis; we do the
 10 labelling for you for your jam. You go through our agri-processing bus. We assist you. We are even happy to create a market for your product. You know, in the Coloured communities and other communities, the people love to make a bazaar. †Die tannie maak jam en koeksisters, [The lady makes jam and *koeksisters*,] but it stays there. The hon Premier said, 'step up'. So that, †almal by die bazaars, [all at the bazaars,] Mr Constance she must step up. And you know, there is a woman in the Karoo. I forget her name. †Daardie geel perskes wat orals hier in die ...[Tussenwerpsels] [Those yellow peaches that all over here... [Interjections.]]

20 † 'n AGB LID: Daardie perskes. [Tussenwerspels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Those peaches. [Interjections.]]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Perskes.

[An HON MEMBER: Peaches.]

† ‘n AGBARE LID: ’n Ingelegde perske.

[An HON MEMBER: A preserved peach.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Ingelegde perskes. Jy eet die heeldag daarvan. [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Preserved Peaches. You eat it all day.] So, those people must now export it ...[Laughter.] and so, when you export it, you get more money.

10 So, we have a market opportunity for those products. I know hon member Mbombo loves to make certain things. She loves to make things, but they stay there by her house. We want to taste it. We will bring it to the market. She can make money, but she keeps the stuff there by her house and we do not benefit from it. If she wanted to grow a business, she could put it on Made in the Cape. She puts the jam or whatever and then Made in the Cape brings in the people.

So, anybody in this House that has a product that you would love to promote, you go to the Cape Trade portal, you register your product on the Cape Trade
20 portal and if there is somebody in India and ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes. Hon Speaker, how much time is left?

The SPEAKER: Can I please ask that the Table Staff please stop the clock. There are nine minutes and 33 seconds.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): There is no limit on answering?

The SPEAKER: No. So, in terms of the Rules ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is a legitimate question being posed to the Chair. [Interjections.] Order! Hon Petrus, in terms of the Rules, the format of
10 questions posed is determined in terms of the Rules. How a Minister or the Executive responds to those questions, the Chair or the Rules do not dictate.

I must say that I am mindful of time and the Question Paper. I am listening carefully and once it is outside of the initial question or the relevance to the question, I will caution the hon Minister. I have listened carefully and the hon Minister is very much still in line with the initial question posed. So, hon Minister, my apologies. You may continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
20 TOURISM: Thank you. I would like to enquire from the hon Speaker if the hon member has asked you to give me more time or what?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, the hon member wanted clarity on the formulation and the answering of questions, and I have dealt with that already, so you may continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon member, I will respect the question of the hon member. As he can see, I am packing up and I have invited him earlier during the House, to join me to meet the Minister of Agriculture from Namibia. I just got a call that I have to wrap up, and I would very much like to know if the hon member would like to join me in meeting the Minister of Agriculture of Namibia.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Is that the end of your
10 contribution for the question?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: That is the end, and can I be excused? Me ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Yes, you may be excused.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...and the hon member.

20 The SPEAKER: No. Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question 2. Hon Minister, I am not going to get into a dialogue between you and hon Petrus. Hon Petrus, you may engage the hon Minister outside of the House. I will now move onto Question 3, and I recognise the Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Sileku.

GO GEORGE public transport service

3. Prof N Mbombo to ask Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

(a) What is the current progress of the GoGeorge public transport service, particularly regarding (i) its current operational performance and (ii) the plans or timelines for further expansion of the service to other areas in George and beyond, and (b) what are the key milestones that have been achieved to date?

10

†Die MINISTER VAN MOBILITEIT: Agb Speaker, baie dankie vir die geleentheid. Agb Speaker, eerstens, wil ek baie dankie sê aan die Voorsitter vir die vraag want dit is 'n baie belangrike vraag. En agb Speaker, ek moet vir u sê toe ons die vraag kry, moet ons 'n bietjie nou praat oor die geskiedenis. Ek moet sê daar was 'n paar artikels wat geskryf was en ek wil graag net 'n paar van hulle as inleiding net lees. Een van hulle sê:

"Chairperson shot and killed in Thembaletu."

20 En die ander een sê:

"Taxi protest march in George underway."

And then die laaste een praat van:

"GOGEOGE bus bomb."

Agb Speaker, dit sê vir my dat die GoGeorge op sy eie het deur pyn en lyding gegaan en daar was moeilike tye vir GoGeorge. Maar aan die einde van die dag het die mense dit ondersteun en die mense het volgehou. Vandag kan ons sê dat GoGeorge het omtrent so 11 jaar in bestaan en ons kan gereeld sien wat gebeur in George want ons sien gereeld die GoGeorge vervoer wat ons arme mense die geleentheid gee om veilig by hulle bestemmings te kom op 'n minimale bedrag. So, agb Speaker, ek wil graag net almal bedank wat voorheen
10 daar gewees het en dit moontlik gemaak het om GoGeorge tot op hierdie tyd te kry.

[The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon Speaker, Thank you for the opportunity. Hon Speaker, firstly I want to thank the Chairman for the question because it is a very important question. And hon Speaker, I must tell you when we received the question, we now have to speak a little about the history. I must say there were a few articles that were written and I just want to read a few of them as introduction. One of them reads:

"Chairperson shot and killed in Thembaletu."

20

And another one says:

"Taxi protest march in George underway."

And then the last one speaks of:

"GoGeorge bus bomb."

Hon Speaker, it tells me that the GoGeorge on its own have gone through pain and suffering and there were difficult times for GoGeorge. But at the end of the day the people supported it and people persisted. Today we can say that GoGeorge existed about 11 years and we can regularly see what happens in George because we regularly see the GoGeorge transport that gives our poor people the opportunity to get to their destinations safely at a minimal amount.

10 So, hon Speaker, I just want to thank everyone who had been there before and made it possible to get GoGeorge to this point.]

Hon Speaker, thank you, hon Chair, hon member Mbombo for raising this important question. It gives us the opportunity to highlight the significance of one of our province's flagship initiatives: the GoGeorge bus service. GoGeorge stands as one of South Africa's most successful public transport programmes and proudly remains the only non-metro integrated transport network in the country. At a time when our nation faces many challenges, GoGeorge shines as a true beacon of hope delivering safe, reliable and inclusive mobility that

20 transforms lives and communities.

As I said, GoGeorge recently celebrated its 11th year anniversary. As of 2024/2025, the service operates a fleet of 133 busses: mini, midi and standard. The network comprises of 33 routes covering approximately 166 kilometres. On an average weekday, the service carries over 20 000 passengers with the

service having picked up over 21 500 weekday passenger trips, following the rollout of Phase 4A, the route from Themba lethu to George Industrial area.

During a recent customer satisfaction survey concluded in April 2025, respondents indicated a 91% overall satisfaction over the service, as well as 97% on reliability. The service remains committed to universal access. All busses are equipped with ramps, hoists and supportive infrastructure to accommodate persons with disabilities, older persons and those with special needs. Overall, GoGeorge now functions as a fully-fledged integrated public
10 transport service, widely used, reliable, assessable and delivering substantial daily mobility for the community of George.

The most recent expansion involves rollouts of a second route to Themba lethu, which was launched in October 2024, connecting Themba lethu to the George Industrial area. The broader expansion plans envisage additional feeder or mainline routes serving outlying areas of George, including, but not limited to Uniondale, Herolds Bay, Wilderness and the George Airport. According to our current projects, the expansion for these outlying areas is planned over the next five years, 2025 to 2030, following the full integration of the Themba lethu
20 route expansion.

Supporting infrastructure upgrades are already underway and I must also thank my colleague, hon Minister Simmers, because during this year we went on site to look at the road infrastructure upgrades for GoGeorge. And also, to congratulate him for the kind of work that he is doing in supporting Mobility

to make sure that the infrastructure is ready for the busses to be ready when there is expansion.

The long-term vision, hon Speaker, remains to deepen integration, extend coverage, embrace technological improvements and further imbed sustainability and accessibility principles in the GoGeorge system.

I need to speak about the key milestones, hon Speaker, if you allow me. As I have said, the first formal scheduled bus for the town was an initial fleet of 12
10 busses and it was covering three routes. Over time, GoGeorge grew into the first non-metro IPTN in South Africa providing a structured schedule-safe subsidised public transport portion. From 12 busses and three routes in 2014, hon Speaker, to 133 busses to 33 routes covering 166 kilometres of road network. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired. Please conclude that sentence.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Okay, hon Speaker. All busses and mini-stops
20 designed that were fitted to accommodate persons with disabilities and special needs. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard. We now move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145.

I recognise the DA.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the significant progress made at the Vermont Older Person's Home in Knysna. For years, the conditions at this facility were not ideal and did not meet the standard of care for our older persons which they deserve. Concerns were raised regarding the state for the infrastructure, the quality of services and the general wellbeing of the residents. However, through thorough and sustained oversight by the Provincial Parliament, these challenges have been addressed with the seriousness they demanded.

Working closely with the relevant Department, community stakeholders and management of the facility, we have seen meaningful improvements in both the living conditions and quality of care provided. Hon Speaker, today, Vermont stands as a much-improved environment, safer, cleaner and more responsive to the needs of its residents. This turnaround demonstrates the crucial role of vigilant oversight in ensuring accountability and dignity for all our older persons.

I extend my gratitude to all who contributed to this positive change and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of our older persons in our province. I thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. South Africa hosted the G20 Summit under the theme Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability. The President, Cyril Ramaphosa took the task of hosting the G20 Summit at a time when the world is facing a series of crises such as climate change, inequality, poverty, hunger, unemployment, technological changes and the geopolitical instability.

10 The two-day Summit was a culmination of work done over the year since South Africa took the presidency in December 2024. As the African National Congress, we would like to congratulate the President, Cyril Ramaphosa, the Minister of DIRCO, Ronald Lamola, the Premier of Gauteng, Panyaza Lesufi, the Mayor of Johannesburg, Dada Morero, and everyone who played a part in making sure the G20 was a success.

The Summit was a success despite the attempts to distract this important gathering notably, the decision by USA President, Donald Trump, to boycott the Summit and refuse to send a delegation. The global community stood firm
20 and supported the Summit.

Leaders from across regions affirmed their confidence in South Africa's leadership by attending and adopting a strong progressive declaration. This demonstrates that multilateral cooperation cannot be derailed by unilateral grandstanding.

Under the presidency of Ramaphosa, the Summit elevated African and Global South priorities, including fair trade, climate justice, reform of global financial institutions and meaningful pathways to sustainable development. South Africa showcased the ability to coordinate global events, excellence and diplomacy, logistical coordination and political leadership. The unipolar world is dying, and the multipolar reality beckons of countries having a voice in the affairs of the world as equal partners.

- 10 We continue to be inspired by the words of Nelson Mandela, speaking in London's Trafalgar Square in 2005 that:

"As long poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

Congratulations to South Africa ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo ...[Interjection.]

- 20 Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...Ramaphosa ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...remember you in the journey to create a better world. Thank you.

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

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Ek dink ek gaan die geleentheid kry want ons gaan baie besig wees die laaste twee/drie weke.

Agb Speaker, terwyl ons die feestyd met groot afwagting tegemoet gaan, na 'n lang uitputtende werksjaar, is dit inderdaad, soos baie sê, 'n tyd vir feesvieringe. Maar dit is ook 'n tyd waarin ons maklik roekeloos raak en waarin
 10 ons maklik of waarin gemeenskappe weer blootgestel word aan 'n reeks uitdagings soos finansiële druk, bedrog en skemas wat mense aanbied, asook die onvermydelike verlies van lewens weens dronkbestuur en onvanpaslike gedrag.

Ons moet waaksaam wees want die feestyd bring nie net vreugde nie, maar ook gevare waarop ons voorbereid moet wees. Ek wil elke inwoner van die Wes-Kaap aanmoedig om matigheid voor oë te hou, om te onthou: moet nie drink en bestuur nie. Dit is 'n eenvoudige besluit wat letterlik lewens kan red. Veiligheid moet ons prioriteit wees by die huis, op die paaie, tydens sosiale
 20 byeenkomste en wanneer ons aanlyn aktief is. Kriminele elemente is besonders aktief in hierdie tyd.

Daarom moet ons ons eiendomme, ons gesinne en ons persoonlike inligting beskerm. Wees bedag op moontlike bedrog, kubermisdaad en enige situasies waarin jy jou veiligheid in gevaar kan stel. Laat ons saamwerk om hierdie

feestyd een van vreugde, nie tragedie nie, te maak. Laat ons mekaar dra deur verantwoordelike optrede, goeie besluitneming en die wete tot dat elkeen van ons 'n rol speel in die veiligheid van ons eie gemeenskappe. Dankie, agb Speaker.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I think I am going to get the opportunity because we are going to be very busy during the last 2/3 weeks.

Hon Speaker, while we are approaching the festive season with great anticipation, after a long strenuous work year, it is, in fact, a time for
 10 festivities. But it is also a time wherein we can easily become reckless and where we, or communities, easily become exposed to a series of challenges such as financial pressure, fraud and schemes that people offer, as well as the inevitable loss of lives due to drunken driving and irresponsible behavior.

We have to be alert because the festive season does not only bring joy, but also the dangers that we have to be prepared for. I want to encourage every citizen of the Western Cape to practice moderation, to remember, do not drink and drive. It is a simple decision that saves lives. Safety must be our priority at home, on the road, during social meetings and when we are active online.
 20 Criminal elements or especially active during this time.

Therefore we have to protect our properties, our families and our personal information. Be on the lookout for possible fraud, cybercrime and any situations where you put your safety in jeopardy. Let us work together to make this festival time one of joy, not of tragedy. Let us support each other through

responsible action, good decision making and the knowledge that each of us plays a role in the safety of our own communities Thank you, hon Speaker.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon member.] I recognise the DA.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, I rise today to address a crisis that quietly erodes the foundation of our education system, particularly in our most vulnerable communities: the critical lack of parent involvement in school
 10 decision making. Without strong parent participation, our principals and school governing bodies are effectively hamstrung, unable to pass budgets, unable to make essential decisions and unable to unlock opportunities for our learners.

This problem is most severe in our no-fee schools. During our Cluster A oversight visit in the Garden Route District, the principal of New Dawn Park Primary in Pacaltsdorp, highlighted this challenge with urgency, noting a significant lack of parent involvement, particularly in communities where many parents rely on social grants.

20 New Dawn Primary serves nearly 1 000 learners in an environment plagued by gangsterism, substance abuse and high unemployment. Listed alongside these immense social pressures was one more debilitating challenge and that is the lack of parent involvement. This is not an isolated case. When a school governing body is trying to fundraise for a sports field or a place, a roof, they need parents to stand with them. When a school identifies unoccupied land as

a safety risk and envisions transforming it into a sports facility for youth development, they need parents as partners to drive that vision forward.

The dedicated staff at schools like New Dawn Park are performing miracles under impossible conditions, but they cannot do it alone. When parental engagement is low, the burden on educators becomes unsustainable and far too many learners are denied the full promise of their potential.

Hon Speaker, we must find innovative, practical ways to empower, equip and
10 welcome parents into the educational journey of their children. For the sake of every child in the Western Cape, we must bridge this gap. Thank you.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters would like to take this opportunity to condemn the ongoing attacks directed at Western Cape schools and its staff by criminals. This follows yet another incident that took place last week, Friday, this time at Kayamandi Primary School where a school deputy principal was shot and killed
20 inside the school premises.

What is even more disturbing about this incident, hon Speaker, is that the attack was not only directed inside the school premises, but also in front of minor school children who were busy making their way home at the time. This incident did not only leave shock and grief amongst the family members of the

deceased but will also long-lasting shock amongst those minors who witnessed the incident. The situation was so bad, hon Speaker, that the son of the deceased had to come and scrub the blood of his father after his lifeless body had been removed.

Whilst this latest incident has sent shockwaves amongst the residents of Kayamandi and the Western Cape school fraternity alike, it also calls upon us to revisit the topic relating to the safety of our learners and teachers in Western Cape schools. This topic has been a subject for discussion for a very long time.

10 However, despite such efforts, little to nothing has been done so far as taking action is concerned.

Our teachers and learners are left to fend for themselves and when gangs infiltrate schools, it is these teachers and staff who must do something to block them. And in recent times, we have left them to do these tasks on their own without any assistance from SAPS and the Provincial Department of Education, among other departments.

The Economic Freedom Fighters calls upon the Western Cape Education
20 Department to ensure safety of all educators and learners, more so in those schools that are under attack, especially in drug and gang infested communities like the Cape Flats. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. †Plaaswerkers het ons as die Wes-Kaapse Regering se hulp dringend nodig. Vandag wil ek van hierdie geleentheid gebruik maak om 'n oproep op die Wes-Kaapse agb Minister van Landbou te maak om dringend in te gryp en ons mense op die plaas van hulp te wees. Ek praat vandag oor onbekostigbare elektrisiteit wat plaaswerkers moet betaal. By die vorige Sitting was ek beskuldig dat ek goed sê sonder enige bewys. Ek kom vandag met 'n voorbeeld as 'n bewys van waaronder ons plaaswerkers gebuk gaan.

- 10 In Grabouw is 'n plaas The Valley en die eienaar is Michael du Toit. Die naam van die plaaswerker is Denise Christians. Denise betaal R114, verskoon my, R1,014 vir 200 eenhede. Haar maandelikse uitgawe vir elektrisiteit is R2,028.

Agb Minister van Landbou, hierdie is 'n bevestiging van die erns rondom die probleme wat ons plaaswerkers ondervind. Kan u asseblief ingryp? Vandag wys die NCC slegs een van die vele probleme van ons plaaswerkers uit in hierdie Huis. Ons eis dringende optrede van die Wes-Kaapse Regering. Dankie.

- 20 [As the Western Cape Government, farmworkers urgently need our assistance. Today I want to make use of this opportunity to appeal to the Western Cape Minister of Agriculture to urgently intervene and be of assistance to our people on the farm. I am speaking today about unaffordable electricity that farmworkers have to pay. At the previous Sitting I was accused that I say things without proof. Today I come with an example as proof of what our farmworkers have to put up with.

In Grabouw is a farm The Valley and the owner is Michael du Toit. The name of the farmworker is Denise Christians. Denise pays R114, I beg your pardon, R1,014 for 200 units. Her monthly expenses for electricity is R2,028.

Hon Minister for Agriculture, this is confirmation of the seriousness around the problems experienced by our farmworkers. Can you please intervene? Today in this House, the NCC shows only one of the many problems of our farmworkers. We demand urgent action from the Western Cape Government. Thank you.]

10 †Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon member.] I recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, before tabling this statement we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of our former colleague, Sharna Fernandez, who was laid to rest this past weekend. We also apologise to the House for our absence during the earlier session at the Memorial Hall, as our caucus was attending to an urgent internal matter. We trust that the hon MECs and the members of the White cabal were present, given the concerning report that not a single White DA member attended her funeral.

20

As we gather for the final ordinary Sitting of the year, it is important to reflect on the deteriorating conduct within our committees, particularly the Programming Authority. In the recent months, DA members led by their hon Chief Whip, have turned the crucial Committee into a circus using bullying tactics, disregard for procedure and abusing their legal majority to impose

decisions that undermine the integrity of this Legislature. The Programming Authority is not a kangaroo court. It exists to provide strategic guidance, uphold fairness and ensure that all parties are heard. Instead, the DA has reduced the Legislature to a mere helpdesk for the Executive.

A clear example is the cancellation of the 6 November Sitting to accommodate the hon Premier's Investment Summit. Every Opposition party rejected this, yet the DA forced it through, disregarding the dignity of this House. This must never happen ever again, hon Speaker. The Programming Authority must return
 10 to being a forum grounded in fairness, structure and respect. When the Legislature becomes subservient to the Executive, our democracy suffers. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Prof N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Speaker, from 3 November to 3 December, we mark Disability Rights Awareness Month. In the Western Cape we are making significant strides to strengthen universal access and inclusion, particularly in Mobility. The GoGeorge bus service is key to this commitment, a leading
 20 example of accessible and inclusive public transport. Every bus is fitted with ramps or hoists for dignified boarding and clear priority seating is provided. However, hon Speaker, true governance is not just about infrastructure, it is about listening and acting.

In July, I conducted an oversight at GoGeorge. In October, I engaged with a

QuadPara Association. I hear the people's concerns directly. As a result, I initiated a meeting with the George councillors, the MMC for Social Development and QASA, which is the QuadPara Association. Concerns included and not limited to GoGeorge bus drivers who cannot assist wheelchair users. Wheelchair parking bays are misused and the George Municipality annual report 2023/2024 shows employees, zero people with disabilities.

Hon Speaker, these are the real concerns of disabled people in George. This engagement is the start. More of these conversations must happen across our
 10 province. This is the time for all spheres of government to review and priorities universal access. Municipalities, in particular, must become genuinely disability-friendly and that starts with ensuring full wheelchair accessibility and complying with national laws that require the employment of more persons with disabilities. These obligations apply not only to government departments and municipalities, but also apply to this very Parliament, hon Speaker. Thank you.

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

20

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus calls on the Western Cape Education Department to address the unplaced learners who are still awaiting confirmation that they have been successfully accommodated into a school, as we approach the end of this school year, even after lodging and appeal process in terms of the administrative

process. Parents are anxious and children are concerned that they will not be placed into a classroom by the end of this year. The lack of responses by the district offices needs to be looked at, adding further stress to parents and children.

The Freedom Front Plus wants to take this opportunity to wish the learners all the best for this year and that they will be successful. Especially the matriculants who have recently completed their final academic year of secondary schooling. My message to them is that the world is their oyster and
 10 that they should live responsibly during the festive season lying ahead. And as the year draws to a close, to contemplate on their future and become the best version of themselves and make this government proud.

Hon Speaker, I also want to call on the Western Cape Government to ensure that psychosocial support to struggling teenagers and scholars who are under tremendous emotional pressure during this year and for this time, to wait upon the final exam mark to be announced on 13 January 2026. I want to end with the famous quote that always says:

20 "You only fail when you stop trying to succeed."

Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, first of all I want to say thank you very much to all the workers at the Western Cape that ensure that the cleanliness of the premises of the Western Cape throughout the year was impeccable for the condition and they do a lot of great and hard work behind the scenes. They do not always get the credit for it, but I want to take this opportunity in thanking them, all the workers across the board behind the scenes that do tremendous work at the WCPP precinct.

Especially, I want to mention about the member support. Member
10 Ms Petronella Arendse, Ms Juliet Adams, Mr Luabu Baliti that also does tremendous work in supporting us as members. They are always available when we call upon them whenever we have challenges. They are always ready to pick up the phone to assist us. A very big thank you very much to the members who support us. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the ACDP. I recognise GOOD. And I recognise the DA.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, as we mark the 16 Days of Activism
20 for No Violence Against Women and Children, we are reminded of the deeply troubling impact that Gender-Based Violence continuous to have on our society. It affects families, communities, workplaces and every part of our social fabric. What I mean with that is the pain carried by survivors is felt far beyond the immediate moment of harm. It spreads into futures. It destroys futures that should have been safe and filled with potential.

We have a collective duty to support survivors with compassion, dignity and real action. We must speak out whenever violence raises its ugly head. Silence protects perpetrators while courage protects those who need it most. Each of us have a role to play in creating spaces where women and children feel safe, heard and valued.

Hon Speaker, above all, we must remember that our commitment to ending violence cannot be limited to these 16 days. These days are a catalyst, but the
10 real work must continue throughout the year. It must guide our decisions, our policies, our budgets and our conversations. Let this period strengthen our resolve to build a society where safety is guaranteed, justice is accessible and every person lives free from fear.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. Are there any hon members of the Executive? No. No hon members of the Executive. Let
20 me just. My apologies, I recognise the hon Minister Maynier, the Minister of Education. Hon Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would just like to give the hon Grant Marais the assurance that our Department is working around the clock with parents to ensure that all learners are placed ahead of the

2026 school year.

Also, I think that the hon Aishah Cassiem was correct to raise the tragedy which took place recently at Kayamandi Primary School. The House of course is aware of the good work being done by Safe Schools, which we traversed earlier today during the debate. But we must ensure that this case is investigated and that justice is done, and that justice is seen to be done for our deputy principal who was shot and killed at Kayamandi Primary School. Thank you.

10 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Are there any further inputs? No further inputs. That brings us to the end of Members Statements.

MOTIONS

The SPEAKER: Hon members, just for the record, in terms of Rule 151 for notices of motions, we received no Motions with Notice as given in terms of Rule 151.

20 We then move on to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 25 November 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have therefore been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 25 November 2025 political parties submitted the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming
 10 Authority as follows: hon G Bosman, hon T C R Walters, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon M Booysen, hon W F Kaizer-Philander, hon P Johnson, hon M K Sayed, hon N D Nkondlo, hon F Kamfer, hon A P Bans, hon B Ngqentsu, hon P Z Lekker, hon B Ngqentsu, and hon J Michels.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I move without notice:

20 That the House expresses its condolences on the passing away of Sharna Fernandez and conveys heartfelt sympathy to her family; notes that Ms Fernandez served as a Member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for ten years over two terms and served the people of the Western Cape with dedication as Speaker of the House and later as Minister of Social Development; acknowledges that her leadership was marked by compassion, integrity and an unwavering commitment to uplifting

vulnerable communities; further notes that Ms Fernandez was a tireless activist for social justice, the protection and care of the elderly and the fight against Gender-Based Violence; and recognises that her warm spirit, deep humanity and sincere devotion to public service have left a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire Members of this House and the people of the Western Cape for many years to come.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

10 Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences on the passing away of Dr Franklin Abraham Sonn and extends heartfelt sympathy to his wife, children and extended family; notes that Dr Sonn made his mark in the Western Cape as Principal of Spes Bona High School in Athlone and later as Rector of Peninsula Technikon (now part of CPUT) from 1978 to 1994; further notes that he served as South Africa's first democratic Ambassador to the United States from 1995 to 1998, representing our country with dignity and vision; recognises his role as a courageous anti-apartheid

20 activist, a pioneering business leader and a committed educator and public servant; also acknowledges his many awards, including the Silver Order of the Baobab; and notes that Dr Sonn's life embodied integrity, reconciliation and service, leaving a powerful legacy for the Western Cape and all South Africa.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with sadness the tragic suicide death of a 9-year-old learner at the Delft North Primary School in Cape Town last week; acknowledges the deep impact that such a loss has on the family, the school community and the broader Delft community; extends its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, teachers and classmates of the young learner during this time of immeasurable grief; and calls for continued support, compassion and strengthened mental health resources for children and families across the province to help prevent such tragedies in future.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its deepest condolences to the families, friends and fellow athletes of the two participants who tragically lost their lives during the Ironman 70.3 Mossel Bay race held on Sunday 16 November 2025; notes that the race –ordinarily a celebration of human endurance, determination and sporting excellence – was overshadowed by grief following the announcement of these heartbreaking fatalities during the gruelling event; acknowledges the emotional impact this tragedy has had on the endurance sports community, organisers, volunteers and the many

athletes whose sense of achievement at the finish line was tempered by the loss of their peers; further conveys gratitude to the emergency personnel, medical teams and organisers who acted swiftly and professionally under deeply distressing circumstances; and calls for continued support to all affected as the community mourns this devastating loss.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I move without notice:

10

That the House notes that November is globally recognised as Diabetes Awareness Month, with World Diabetes Day being commemorated on Friday 14 November 2025; further notes that this year's theme "Diabetes across life stages" highlights the reality that diabetes can affect individuals at any point in their lives – from early childhood through to old age; acknowledges the importance of raising awareness about prevention, early detection and effective management of diabetes to ensure that those living with the condition are able to lead healthy, fulfilling and productive lives; calls on communities, healthcare providers and

20 government stakeholders to continue strengthening education, support and resources for diabetes care across all life stages; and commends the ongoing efforts of organisations and advocates dedicated to improving outcomes for people affected by diabetes.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sorrow the tragic death of three-year-old Khy'ree Jordan who passed away on Sunday evening after being struck by a vehicle in Elsies River; extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of young Khy'ree Jordan during this time of immeasurable grief; and calls for a thorough and transparent investigation and for appropriate support to be provided to the affected family and community.

10

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Durbanville Primary School and the Courtrai Primary School after winning their respective national titles at the Rising Star Tennis Tournament held in Gauteng East from 31 October to 2 November 2025; notes that both teams went undefeated, with Durbanville securing the first-ever boys' national victory for a Western Cape school, and Courtrai's under 13A girls team adding to wins at several major tournaments; and commends these young athletes, their coaches and schools for their outstanding achievements.

20

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Koketso Mogashoa, a master's student at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, on winning the Best Oral Presentation Award at the SMLTSA Congress; acknowledges her outstanding research on the early detection of endothelial dysfunction in type 2 diabetes; notes her dedication and resilience, and the support of her supervisors and collaborators; notes that this achievement brings honour to her, to her family and to CPUT; and wishes her continued success in
10 her academic and research endeavours.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing away of Dr Franklin Sonn, esteemed educator, diplomat and business leader; acknowledges Dr Sonn's extraordinary service to South Africa, first as a principled and visionary educator, rising to Rector of the Peninsula
20 Technikon, and later as the country's first democratic-era Ambassador to the United States; further recognises his contributions to business, his advocacy for economic empowerment and his lifelong commitment to justice, equality and nation-building; notes his leadership, integrity and moral conviction have left a lasting legacy in education, public service and in the hearts of the many people he inspired; and extends its deepest

condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and all whose lives he touched.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

10 That the House notes with deep sorrow the passing away of June Philander, a 75-year-old Hanover Park resident, following weeks of distress related to her housing situation; notes that her death, amidst this crisis, highlights the severe challenges faced by vulnerable residents in the province; and extends heartfelt condolences to her family, loved ones and the broader Hanover Park community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

20 That the House notes with deep sadness the passing away of Sharna Gail Fernandez, former Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and former provincial Minister of Social Development; honours her distinguished legacy of public service, from her early community activism beginning in 2011, to her election to Parliament in 2014 where she served as Speaker, and later as Minister of Social Development; notes that she was a passionate advocate for vulnerable residents, social grant

beneficiaries and the elderly; further acknowledge her personal courage and resilience, having overcome serious illness earlier in life, she led with humility and compassion, placing people at the centre of her work; notes her commitment to women's rights and her steadfast fight against Gender-Based Violence remains an integral part of her legacy; and extends sincere condolences to her mother, her son and her extended family and friends during this time of grief.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

10

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

That the House notes with profound sorrow the passing away of Vincent Mthathi, a respected senior manager at the Codeta head office; notes that Mthathi served with unwavering dedication, integrity and commitment, contributing significantly to the organisation's operations and leadership; notes that his professionalism, guidance and steadfast service earned him the respect of colleagues, stakeholders and the broader transport community; further notes that his passing away is a deep loss to his family, to Codeta and to all who had the privilege of working with him; and conveys its heartfelt condolences to his loved ones, friends and the Codeta fraternity during this difficult time.

20

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep sorrow the tragic death of Angelo Adams of Mitchells Plain who was fatally struck in a horrific multi-vehicle crash on Eisleben Road; and conveys its deepest condolences to his family, friends and all who mourn his loss.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the tragic passing away of Susan Kok (78) whose body was found abandoned in a field on Waarburgh Road in Joostenberg Vlake; and conveys its deepest condolences to her daughter, Shireen Christians, her grandchildren, family, friends and the broader community who mourn her loss.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

20 Mr J MICHELS (NCC): I move without notice:

That the House warmly congratulate Kelly Shay Newman on her election to the Women's Springbok team; notes that her dedication and hard work have truly paid off; congratulates Dimitri Erasmus on his participation in the Junior Springbok rugby team that won the World Cup; notes that his

achievements are a testament to his talent and perseverance; expresses immense pride in both athletes; expresses the hope that their success will inspire many more people not only in Grabouw, but also further afield in the Western Cape; and thanks the athletes for being an inspiration to many young people, and for positively inspiring the youth.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The SPEAKER: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the
 10 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, in each individual member's name as if the member had read out the motion aloud.

I will now afford the opportunity to hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that the 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d), will now start. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

20

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

That the House notes with deep alarm the recent reports of a disturbing rise in child rapes in the Western Cape, including the horrific cases of a 1-year-and-nine-month-old child and a 7-year-old learner who were

allegedly raped; the House further notes that these incidents highlight severe failures in child-protection systems, including inadequate safety measures in schools, weak community safeguarding structures, and insufficient preventative and support mechanisms; the House recognises that these crimes represent a profound violation of children's rights and dignity and that urgent, coordinated government action is required to protect vulnerable children across the province; the House therefore calls on the Western Cape Government to urgently convene an inter-departmental task team comprising the Departments of Education, Social
10 Development, Community Safety, and SAPS to develop a comprehensive and time-bound response plan to address the rising incidents of sexual violence against children; the House further calls on the Standing Committees responsible for Social Development and Community Safety to conduct immediate oversight on these cases and to require the relevant departments and SAPS to report on investigative progress, child-safety protocols in schools, victim-support mechanisms, and preventative interventions in at-risk communities; the House urges the provincial government to strengthen safeguarding measures in schools, ensure that all cases are swiftly and thoroughly investigated, allocate additional
20 resources for trauma counselling and child-protection services, and engage parents, school governing bodies, community structures, and civil society organisations in prevention efforts. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

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

10 That the House notes with serious concern the escalating measles outbreaks reported across the Western Cape, particularly in communities such as Khayelitsha, Mfuleni, Eerste River, Somerset West, Mitchells Plain, Kraaifontein, and Wesbank, where children are most at risk; the House further notes that the provincial Department of Health and Wellness has recorded a significant decline in childhood vaccination coverage, with immunisation for children under one year dropping to approximately 67,4%, far below the 95% target required to achieve herd immunity and prevent widespread transmission; the House recognises that measles is a highly contagious yet vaccine-preventable disease that can lead to severe complications, including brain fever and blindness, especially among infants and vulnerable children; the House welcomes the National Immunisation Catch-up Drive currently underway in the Western Cape, 20 during which all public health facilities and outreach teams are providing free routine and catch-up immunisations to close immunity gaps; the House expresses alarm that declining vaccination rates threaten not only individual children but the entire population, placing communities at greater risk of further outbreaks; the House therefore calls on the Provincial Government to urgently intensify community-based vaccination

outreach programmes in high-risk communities, to strengthen public health communication campaigns to address misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, to ensure a stable and sufficient supply of measles vaccines in collaboration with national authorities, and to improve disease surveillance, early detection, and reporting mechanisms to enable rapid response to emerging cases; the House urges all parents, caregivers, and communities to utilise the available public health services and ensure that all children are fully immunised to safeguard their health and protect the broader public. I so move.

10

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you hon Speaker. I move without notice:

20

That the House notes with deep shock and outrage the brutal and senseless killing of 27-year-old mother, Simnikiwe Nkinisa, who was allegedly stabbed multiple times by her boyfriend, Olwethu Silelo, in PA Hamlet, Ceres; the House further notes that this horrific act has left the Witzenberg community traumatised and once again exposed the devastating and escalating reality of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in the province; the House expresses grave concern that this tragedy occurred

during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, a period intended for intensified action against GBV, yet another woman has lost her life at the hands of an intimate partner; the House acknowledges with sadness that Simnikiwe had reportedly sent her twins away from home due to the toxic and abusive environment created by the perpetrator, an act that reflects both her courage to protect her children and the silent suffering many women continue to endure; the House welcomes the swift action of the South African Police Service (SAPS) in apprehending the suspect, who is currently in custody at the PA Hamlet Police Station; the House should call for the harshest possible sentence to be imposed upon conviction and emphasises that justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done to restore community confidence and protect other women from similar harm; the House should convey its heartfelt condolences to the family of Simnikiwe, particularly to her young children, who now face life without their mother because of a cowardly and senseless act of violence; the House further asserts that enough is enough, our society cannot continue burying women and children while becoming numb to the violence that surrounds us. I so move.

20 *[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House take note and be seized with the looming conflicts of licensed taxi operators versus unlicensed and illegal operators that are operating in Witzenberg between PA Hamlet and Ceres route; this conflict has led to women taxi operators being intimidated and their drivers threatened by the unlicensed operators on this route; this matter has been reported to the local police and a case of intimidation opened, with the woman taxi owner applying for an interdict against these illegal operators;

10 we wish to call on Minister Sileku and the Mayor to take serious this situation whose potential could be deadly and sacrifice passenger lives. In this period of 16 days, it is unfortunate that women continue to be harassed and are easy targets to such lawlessness in full view of authorities and the security of the state; we call on the Minister to urgently engage the municipality on the challenges in transport planning that lead to this crisis whilst the very municipality approves, and has witnessed the heightened growth of the town due to influx; why is transport planning lagging behind? The very housing, shopping malls and other related developments that drive economic activities, and thus transport need for

20 people to commute. It is shocking to hear from Ceres Taxi association that no new operating licenses had been approved in the area since 2011, an area with a population that was 115 946, projected at 162 725 for 2025 and an annual growth rate of 1,9%. The Department must answer as to how many operating licenses exist currently for such a population and provisions made for new and renewals to cater for that almost 2% growth

in the town. Licencing must not be withheld and misused to drive conflicts that are deadly for citizens and feed the narrative of a violent taxi industry; the municipality and the Department must view and treat the industry as important stakeholders in the planning, the licensing, and accord them the respect and recognition given to big business; we thank hon member Benson Ngqentsu, including the HOD of Mobility for allowing the Chief Director of Transport Operations and an official from Transport Law enforcement to join the stakeholder meeting that sat on this issue. Further calling on SAPS and law enforcement to act decisively to restore safety in

10 the town. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

20 That the House notes and welcomes the SIU action to investigate land acquisition of over R64 million in Killarney Gardens, under the pretext of urgency to relocate the people of Siyahlala Informal Settlement which to date have not been moved. The money was spent whilst the urgency of the Presidential Disaster brought by COVID-19 to decongest the area to save lives, was ignored in this province and the City. The matter served

in SCOPA for hon member Brett Herron in the last Parliament and as usual, the DA in House used their majority to summarily conclude this matter to halt any further discussions ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, I am going to stop you because that motion is number 15 on the agreed sequence, and for that reason, I am not going to enter ...[Interjections.] No, no, no! There is no need to object. It has not been put. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, the motion has not been put to the House for a decision, so there is no need to object. I am going to
 10 ask the hon member, if the Table Staff can please stop the clock, that we revert back to the agreed order and if you can please return to that motion.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that the provincial government must look at the situation of cost of living in the City of Cape Town that has a negative effect on affordability for citizens, and a driver if inequality; the lack of affordable housing, and increasing costs of basic services is indirectly displacing the low and middle income earners out of the City centre and
 20 towards the periphery; property prices and rentals have escalated dramatically, far outpacing local wages. Half of Capetonian households earn less than R20,700 per month and can afford a maximum rental of around R6,900, whilst average one-bedroom apartments in well-located areas cost R12,000 to R18,000 per month; Housing costs in the City of Cape Town is becoming expensive to its own residents who are facing a

high cost of living versus their income levels. The market is being influenced by increased immigration, a rise in tourism, and foreign investment in lifestyle properties; rising property prices and the proliferation of short-term rentals like Airbnb, exclude low-income families from integration in affluent, well-located areas, leading to further social and economic segregation; this is a policy choice of the DA government that is oblivious to the economic hardships of its own citizens and local realities, whilst obsessing about foreign investment and driving exclusionary growth; price surges, especially for utilities like electricity prices that are increasing by almost 68% and water by 50% between 2020 and 2025, and food, have significantly reduced the purchasing power of low-income families, forcing them to compromise on basic nutritious food; residents living at the extremities of the city often spend up to 40% of their income on transport, leaving very little for housing and other necessities; household poverty has become extreme with Khayelitsha and Gugulethu rated high with most families experiencing extreme hunger. This is a horrible indictment on the government that claims a well-run City and province, whilst its decisions are sending children and families to bed on empty stomachs; we await how the very DA has condemned the City of Tshwane on the very issues, including the cleaning levy, as DA councillor Brink had a press conference on this matter, whilst his party here in the City imposed the very levy even against public rejection of this decision during public hearings. The double speak of the DA that aims to fool and hoodwink citizens with headlines in their drive for votes; this move is nothing other than apartheid 2.0 we have been raising and the DA

misgovernance of the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, can I please put the question to the House and then, you may follow the process. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

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That the House notes that 1 December marks World AIDS Day, a global day of solidarity dedicated to raising awareness about HIV and AIDS, honouring those who have lost their lives, and recommitting to the fight against stigma, discrimination, and inequality; the House further notes that South Africa continues to carry a significant HIV burden, making it essential that Government, civil society, and communities work together to strengthen prevention, treatment, and support programmes; the House acknowledges the progress made through expanded access to antiretroviral therapy, ongoing public education, and community-based initiatives, while

recognising that more must be done to address gaps in healthcare access, especially in vulnerable and marginalised communities; the House therefore calls on all sectors to intensify efforts towards achieving an AIDS-free generation and reaffirms its commitment to supporting evidence-based interventions, protecting human rights, and ensuring that no person is left behind in the fight against HIV and AIDS. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bans. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the ANC, I move without notice:

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That the House notes that the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children commenced earlier this week, underscoring once again the devastating toll of gender-based violence in the Western Cape, a crisis that continues to intensify under the watch of a Provincial Government that has repeatedly failed to prioritise the safety, protection, and dignity of women and children in this province; the House further notes with deep alarm the persistent rise in cases of rape, femicide, domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual offences, particularly in

vulnerable and marginalised communities where policing is weak, response times are slow, and support services are severely overstretched; the House is deeply concerned that shelters, safe houses, and psychosocial support centres remain underfunded and unable to meet the growing demand, while survivors continue to face secondary victimisation due to inadequate investigative capacity, delays in the justice system, and limited survivor-friendly facilities; the House acknowledges the tireless advocacy of civil society organisations, community structures, activists, and survivors who continue to demand urgent action and accountability, while

10 asserting that symbolic gestures and public relations campaigns are meaningless without concrete, adequately resourced interventions aimed at preventing GBV, supporting survivors, strengthening policing, and ensuring swift prosecution of offenders; the House expresses disappointment and concern that the hon Speaker declined a formal call for a special debate on the GBVF crisis in the Western Cape, this at a time when women, children, and vulnerable groups are under unprecedented threat; the House notes that denying this debate undermines the urgency of addressing GBVF, silences critical parliamentary oversight, and delays the development of meaningful, coordinated solutions that could save

20 lives; the House further welcomes the declaration of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) as a national disaster, recognising that this unprecedented step affirms the severity of the crisis and the need for extraordinary measures across all spheres of government; the House acknowledges that this declaration creates new opportunities for accelerated funding, intergovernmental cooperation, and streamlined

interventions, and calls on the Provincial Government to align its GBVF response with the national framework to ensure maximum impact; the House therefore calls on the Provincial Government to urgently enhance and fund GBVF prevention and response programmes; increase support for shelters, safe houses, and psychosocial services; strengthen cooperation with National Government to improve policing visibility, investigative capacity, and specialised units; expand and properly staff survivor-friendly health and justice facilities; and fast-track GBV-related cases to ensure justice is not delayed or denied. I so move, hon Speaker.

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[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

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

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The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, just for procedural guidance, I just wanted to ask is an hon member allowed to use Motions as an opportunity to question or challenge the decision of the hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I cannot even remember the hon Chief Whip being recognised. I heard him speaking without being recognised. Can you rule on that before we get to what he is asking.

The SPEAKER: I did look at the hon Chief Whip, so the hon Chief Whip was, indeed, recognised. My apologies. In future, I will just say it for the record. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that? Did you have a point of order or was that your point of order? He was, indeed, recognised.

10

Hon members, I will address it. I do not want to get into a dialogue about that. The motion I have put to the House. There has been a decision of the House, but I will address the matter at the end of Motions because I think it is important for the House to note the context of that motion and for the citizens that are watching after that motion has been delivered in the House. So, I will address the matter factually at the end of Motions. But in that vein, we will continue with Motions.

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The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, just for clarity. In terms of Rule 61, the motion that was just read into the record, I know you said you are going to address us afterwards, but I think it is important that you rule now in terms of Rule 61 in terms of the admissibility of even reading that motion out loud. I think it undermines the authority of the hon Speaker of the House.

The SPEAKER: Hon member ...[Interjections.] Hon members, so the rules

make provision. I have made a ruling; I have put it to the House. [Interjections.] Order. I have put the question to the House. The rules also empower the Speaker to amend a motion, and I will take legal and procedural guidance before the final Hansard is published. But I will address the facts after Motions. With that being said, I recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker, again. On behalf of the ANC, I move without notice:

- 10 That the House notes with shock the latest findings indicating that the Western Cape, together with KZN and Gauteng, accounts for over 60% of all child murders in South Africa, revealing a national crisis that is hitting this province hardest; the House further notes that more than two-thirds of these children are killed by someone known to them, exposing a devastating collapse of protection systems that should keep children safe; the House expresses deep alarm that these horrifying statistics emerge during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, a stark reminder that symbolic campaigns alone are not saving children's lives; the House condemns the continued failures in the Western
- 20 Cape to protect vulnerable children, including weak policing in high-risk areas, long DNA and forensic backlogs that delay justice, and chronic shortages of specialised child protection capacity; the House therefore calls on the Provincial Government to immediately strengthen Child Protection Units, fast-track the clearing of forensic backlogs, establish integrated child-centred Justice Hubs in high-risk communities, and table

a concrete action plan before this Legislature within 60 days outlining decisive steps to reduce child murders in the province; finally, the House affirms that the murder of children is a direct assault on our collective humanity and demands urgent, coordinated action to ensure that every child in the Western Cape is safe, protected, and valued. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Lekker. My apologies. It is hon Bans and then, hon Lekker. My apologies. Hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without
20 notice:

That the House notes with outrage that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors in Beaufort West, in the Western Cape's Central Karoo, are forced to travel up to 200 kilometres to reach the nearest state shelter because the DA-led Provincial Government has failed to establish any

government-funded safe house in the district; the House further notes that in the absence of official facilities, a local survivor, Marinda Lottering, has had to convert her own home into a makeshift safe house, using her personal resources and risking her safety to protect women escaping abuse; the House condemns the continued neglect by the Provincial Government which despite an official budget for 26 shelters, leaves rural communities severely underserved and vulnerable women and children exposed to life-threatening danger; the House recognises that the extreme travel distance itself places survivors at grave risk, delaying access to urgent protection, support, and justice, and further notes that the reliance on informal community-led shelters reflects systemic failure and political negligence; the House is alarmed that during a period meant to highlight the scourge of GBV, including the 16 Days of Activism, the Provincial Government continues to allow such service gaps to persist, prioritising bureaucracy over the safety of women and children; the House therefore calls on the Provincial Government to immediately establish at least one fully functional state-funded GBV shelter in the Central Karoo to ensure that survivors in Beaufort West and other rural areas have access to safe refuge; the House further calls for a ring-fenced and substantially increased budget for rural shelter services under the Victim Empowerment Programme and urges the Department to accelerate the conversion of unused state-owned buildings into fully equipped, trauma-informed GBV shelters. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed ...[Interjections.] The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Lekker. Hon Lekker, you may continue. [Interjections.] Order, hon
 10 members! [Interjections.] Hon members! There is an hon member on the floor. Hon Lekker, you may continue.

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

That the House notes with outrage that shack dwellers from the Siyahlala Informal Settlement in Table View continue to suffer due to bureaucratic inaction and the ongoing blame shifting between the DA-led ...[Interjection.]

20 The SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, can I please ask that the Table Staff stop the clock. Hon Lekker, in terms of the submission, you are one motion ahead. We have the agreed motion. You should read into the record Motion 10 and not 11. You may ...[Interjections.] Order, there is an hon member on the floor.

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

That the House notes with deep concern the ongoing sewage crisis affecting ACJ Phakade Primary School in Nomzamo and the surrounding community, where blocked drains and overflowing waste have created a persistent health hazard and an unbearable stench; that the House further notes that the blockage has been exacerbated by the illegal occupation of the detention pond adjacent to the school, which has compromised both stormwater and sewage flow, and is alarmed that despite repeated warnings and pleas from the community, the DA-led Provincial Government and the

10 City of Cape Town have failed to act decisively to resolve this crisis; that the House recognises that untreated sewage poses a severe public health risk, including potential bacterial contamination and disease transmission, and that the continued neglect of basic sanitation infrastructure reflects a disturbing disregard for the dignity, health, and safety of learners, teachers, and residents; the House therefore calls on the Provincial Government to urgently intervene by coordinating with the City to prioritise and expedite the repair, clearing, and upgrade of the sewer and stormwater infrastructure in the Nomzamo and Lwandle area, particularly around ACJ Phakade Primary School. I can take you there tomorrow if

20 you like. The ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Since when is the school like prerogative of the ANC councillor? ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

†Me P Z LEKKER (ANC): Is julle nie skaam nie? Is julle nie skaam nie? [Ms P Z Lekker (ANC): Are you not ashamed? Are you now ashamed?] If that is true ...[Interjection.]

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

10 Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ...that is the prerogative of the ...[Interjection.]

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

†Me P Z LEKKER (ANC): Julle is so *cheap*, man ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [Ms P Z Lekker (ANC): You are so cheap, man ...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Me P Z LEKKER (ANC): Julle is so *cheap*!

20 [Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You are so cheap!]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Your children are not subjected to sewage ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ...in their schools.

The SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, hon Lekker please take your seat. Please take your seat. ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Your children are not subjected ...[Interjection.]

10

The SPEAKER: Is ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): ...in their schools to sewage over ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order. Hon Lekker, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order. [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order! Hon Lekker ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, there was an hon member on the floor in the middle of a motion. [Interjections.] Hon Lekker, you will still have the floor.

20 You may continue and can I please ask that you speak to me and not to the hon members across the floor. [Interjections.]

Hon Lekker, please take your seat. Honourable ...[Interjections.] Order! Hon members, the time for Motions has expired. I am going to ...[Interjections.] Order! Hon Lekker and hon Masipa. I am going to allow the hon member to

deliver the motion and then, I will put it to the House. I cannot understand. Hon members, we have been doing this for over a year. There is no need to debate the content. You will have an opportunity in terms of the Rules to do so. If you disagree, object. Hon Lekker, you may continue.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC):

10 ...to conduct a full risk assessment and immediately implement mitigation measures, such as temporary drainage or sanitation facilities, to protect the school community; to resolve the illegal occupation of the detention pond to restore proper water flow and prevent future blockages; and to require the City to submit a detailed report to this Legislature within 60 days outlining the timeline, budget, and technical plan for a permanent solution with regular progress updates; that the House emphasises that the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of schoolchildren cannot be sacrificed due to political negligence, and urges the Provincial Government and all relevant authorities to treat this crisis with the urgency and seriousness it demands. I so move.

20 *[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): They have objected once ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: I now put the question. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): There is an objection to the motion being moved without notice.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Notices without Motions. Motions without Notice, my apologies. [Interjections.] Order!

10

Hon members, before we adjourn, I think it is important because it was raised in a motion, to give you the context of the motion with regards to the request by the hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. So, under normal circumstances, I would not do this, but I think it is important to put the context to the House, especially because of the subject matter that was proposed in terms of Rule 143 and thereafter, Rule 144.

Now, the hon members would know that in terms of Rule 143 there is a criteria set for a debate to be granted by the Speaker. So, what it technically means is
20 that the Speaker overrides the Programming Authority and the decisions made by the Programming Authority, i.e. the order or the orders as per the Order Paper. In order to do that, there need to be certain thresholds that need to be adhered to.

With regards to and that has been standard practice, democratic practice, in this

Institution since 1994. So, it is not a Speaker decision that we have now implemented certain criteria.

When I declined the request in terms of Rule 143 for not meeting a certain threshold because I also need to adhere to the rules, the request came for Rule 144 which has significant higher thresholds for a debate to be granted, in terms of Rule 143 and Rule 144. With that being said, I think it is important for the House to note that I have agreed with the hon Chief Whip of the Opposition that I do agree with her that it is important for the House to debate
 10 this subject matter. But in terms of those Rules, 143 and 144, I could not grant the request.

I therefore, proposed to the hon Chief Whip of the Opposition that we do a Speaker's Debate on that topic in terms of Rule 147, which I have had the rules and power to bring to the House today for debate. The hon Chief Whip of the Opposition declined that proposal in terms of Rule 147. So, I thought it is important that I put on record the events that flowed to that motion. I will also, in the interest of transparency and accountability, submit to the Programming Authority the letters between the hon Chief Whip and the Office of the Speaker,
 20 for noting at the next Programming Authority.

With that being said, that brings us to the end of ...[Interjection.]

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Joh, kan ek? Kan ek maar? [Agb Speaker
 ...[Tussenwerpsel.]]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Joh, may I? May I? Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: You may.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): ...ek weet nou nie hoe ek dit moet... Ekself het 'n *Motion without Notice* ingedien. Ek weet die tyd is op, maar ek voel nie *happy* dat sekere *speakers* van spesifieke partye, meer as een gepraat het terwyl my, terwyl ander partye soos ons nie kans gekry het nie. Ek wil net sê ek is ontevrede daaroor. Ek wil dit net noem want ek dink dit is nie regverdig nie,
 10 terwyl ander partye meer as een keer die vloer gekry het. Dankie. Dit is net vir die *notice* dat ek dit noem.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): ... I don't know how I must.... I myself have submitted a Motion without Notice. I know the time is expired, but I do not feel happy that certain speakers of specific parties spoke more than once while my, while other parties like us, did not get a chance, I just want to say I am unhappy about that. I just want to mention that, because I think it is unfair while other parties got the floor more than once. Thank you. It is just for the notice that I mention it.]

20 The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much. I think it is also important to address that matter now because it is a valid concern and in particular, in the interest of the fact that the hon member is a new member.

So, hon member, the Motions without Notice are agreed upon by the Programming Authority and the sequence is also agreed by the Programming

Authority. I have previously ruled on the content of motions and the structure of motions because I agree with you. The Rules provide for 30 minutes for Motions, and the structure and the content is important for us to provide opportunities across the House to do Motions.

I am once again, going to ask the Administration to liaise with hon members so that we can get Motions without Notice correctly, and the structure and the content, so that we do not duplicate Member Statements in Motions without Notice. But your point is well taken, and we will ensure that the Administration
10 also liaises with you from the Table Staff, just so that you understand the process in terms of the Rules.

With that being said, hon members, that brings us to the end of this sitting, and the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:33.