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TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Good morning to everyone here in the House on today's formal Sitting. Before we proceed I would like to remind the members about some of the logistical arrangements. Just a reminder that all the members that are online that are participating virtually and not from the Chamber, to ensure that you have good data connectivity, good audio and video, and there is no disturbance where you are. Please note that the hybrid system is functioning well. Any poor audio or video is not attributed to the system but rather the quality of data connectivity.

We also granted access on Microsoft Teams to our media and just a reminder to the media and the guests that no members of the press may use the chat room or speak or activate cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

Hon members are reminded that no interjections are permitted during the hybrid Sittings and to this end I draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules.

I will now ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

#### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 1: Premier – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2023]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I recognise the hon Premier Winde.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. To the hon Cabinet colleagues and members of this House, to our officials in this Government, to members of the media, and of course I want to say, most importantly, the citizens of this great province, the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, in my State of the Province Address I emphasised the need for fierce urgency to tackle our most pressing challenges, chief amongst them

the energy crisis. This urgency is our North Star, informing our drive to become energy-secure to shield ourselves from the ongoing damaging rolling blackouts. These rolling blackouts are causing our citizens and of course our economy to be in grave despair and, of course, Deputy Speaker, as we move forward, in building this province into an adequately and aptly prepared province for the future.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "The best way to predict the future is to create it."

This rings true for what the Department of the Premier and the Western Cape Government are doing. We are innovating. We are thoroughly preparing ourselves.

Deputy Speaker, we are confronting the rolling blackouts with a fierce urgency of now. This is what I emphasised in the SOPA this year, [Interjections] Deputy Speaker, to plot a future that is characterised by hope and prosperity.

Deputy Speaker, I do this and I say this as we have to deal every single day with an absolutely failed National Government. In every aspect across all of society we are forever having to pick up the pieces of total failure of the ANC Government.

Deputy Speaker, at the recent Western Cape Water Indaba I spoke of another crisis that could be looming and that is that of water security. We are a water-scarce province impacted by climate change and I warn that if we let our guard down, if we fail to prepare ourselves adequately, we will face then twin-crises, one of water insecurity, as we are at the moment with energy insecurity.

Deputy Speaker, I think back to when we averted Day Zero because of partnerships working together and I really think about society, our citizens and what they did and how they stood up to bring about change.

Speaker, at this event and of course earlier this year in Cabinet, Minister Bredell tabled out a 15-year Integrated Water Resilience Plan, this really to understand that while we are focusing on an energy shortfall, at the same time bearing in mind that the next crisis probably will be again one of water. [Interjection.]

It is interesting that the hon Leader of the Opposition mentions lots of plans, because again this failed ANC Government has got zero plans. In actual fact at this very Water Conference where once again... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

An HON MEMBER: What is your plan? What is your plan for it?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: At this very Conference, surprise, surprise! We get alerted that the Clanwilliam Dam is again delayed, again delayed. What is going to happen is when we run out of water in the next water crisis and the people say so where was the plan, what have you done?" You can say that at a national level, nothing! Zero! Nothing! Because none of these plans happened at the end of the day, talk after talk, and if I think about the Clanwilliam Dam we have an election coming up. I bet you in the not-too-distant future we will be invited to go to another big tent organised outside the dam... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: No, we will not invite...

The PREMIER: Dig a spade back in the ground... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, members.

The PREMIER: That we have been doing, Madam Deputy Speaker.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: We are not... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: The National Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore! Order, members! I cannot hear.

Thank you.

The PREMIER: Again, we will have done now for the fourth time since 2008 when it was first announced that we were going to lift the wall. The Province has done its job. We have moved the road, we have implemented all of our sides of the plans years ago already, but since 2008... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: SANRAL did the...

The PREMIER: ...promise after promise, after promise and nothing happens from this failed ANC Government. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: SANRAL...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: Madam Deputy Speaker, we cannot avoid a drought but we can avert a scarcity crisis if we plan better and work together, breaking down silos like we are doing with our efforts to address the power crisis. Deputy Speaker, the energy crisis has been devastating for our economy, and our national psyche is as much of a lesson as it is a disaster. So, Deputy Speaker, coming to this budget, Vote 1, the Department of the Premier's Main

Budget for 2023/24 is a R2,047 billion budget.

Deputy Speaker, we have new money in this budget and I must thank the Minister of Finance for enabling us in this Government to deal with this energy crisis with new money of R1,1 billion. That R1,1 billion will be used across departments in this Government to avert and come up with mitigating plans... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It is like you said [Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: ... for the ongoing energy crisis that we face. [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: We saved the plan.

The PREMIER: Of this R85,6 million has been earmarked within this Department to respond to the energy crisis through the following interventions, which form the backbone of our Energy Resilience Plan, which is being driven by the Department of the Premier.

Deputy Speaker, this will deal with the Integrated Resource Plan. We need to develop our own one, because we cannot rely on National. It is outdated and it is not giving us the energy that we need and it is not giving the clarity for investors into the energy that we need. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: When it comes to the Demand Side Management Programme, this involves communication programmes that raise awareness about power-saving incentives. It is looking at lessons learnt from the Day Zero Plans on how we mitigated and became the best in the world when it came to reducing the amount of water used by the citizens in this region.

At that stage Australia held the record of 250 litres per person per day and we could bring it down, the citizens of this region, to 50 litres per day, still recognised across the world as the best ever! So, we need to be doing exactly the same about Demand Side Management. How do we make sure that we reduce our demand in order to make sure that we save power to avert levels of loadshedding?

Now again, we have done it before and we will be embarking on a plan to do it again, but, and I have raised this, I raised this on Saturday with our new Energy Minister, Minister Ramakgopa, who, on his visit to this province coming to have a look at Koeberg, which just like the Clanwilliam Dam delayed, Koeberg now is sitting at 45-days delayed in their programme. Now this is a risk for our energy supply in winter because the plan is to bring Koeberg back online so that we can deal with winter and then take the second energy production line of Koeberg down to refuel and refurbish for longer term, but the Minister warned us that there is a risk because we are now 45- days delayed.



Again, these are big risks that we seem to be facing whether it is water or electricity, but part of that discussion was how do we incentivise Demand Side Management? It does not help asking the citizens of this province, "please use less energy" and there is no incentive to do so. I raised this at a national level with the President, I raised it again with the Minister of Energy. We need to look at what those incentives are and, I promise you, the citizens of this province will get up and do it again. We will reduce our usage so that we save, not only this province, but South Africa levels of loadshedding. [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: What is your proposal on saving, what is your proposal? [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: I will tell you what, hon Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: If the hon Leader of the Opposition really wants to understand what that proposal is and get down to details, I think he should speak to the President or the Minister of Energy, because it is obvious that he does not at the moment. I will... [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: What is your plan? [inaudible, speaking simultaneously.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, members!

The PREMIER: Second of all, Madam Deputy Speaker, emergency loadshedding packs, because while citizens who can afford it are putting inverters into their households while businesses that can afford it are putting solar panels onto their roofs and battery systems, they are finding other ways of mitigating this disaster. They are using gas cookers instead of electrical cookers. They are going around all over the place finding ways to mitigate this absolute disaster of insufficient energy in our system, but there are citizens, the indigent citizens of our province who are not able to do that. They cannot afford to go and buy an inverter. They cannot afford to put a solar panel on their roof. They cannot afford to put a battery system in their house and so that is where this loadshedding pack will come in, where we will look at how do we provide lighting, how do we provide some form of charging for a cell phone, how do we help with some kind of cooking, heating mechanism, and I must say that we have also had meetings with Local Government, with Mayors, speaking to them about it to partner with us, as well as business. I had a meeting with Accelerate Cape Town in this last week, and I spoke about exactly this and there is an exciting movement now where business is saying they will join Government, so let us help the indigent in our province with these emergency packs.

Then of course there is municipal pool buying, because our municipalities, some of them and some of our towns only use a small amount of power, a few megawatts, but how do we pool the buying because to get five or 10 of 15

megawatts into a town through a municipal system and a bidding process, that energy is going to be way too expensive, so if we can pool the buy between municipalities... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Our expense to grid price [speaking simultaneously.]

The PREMIER: Link it to grids, both nationally and locally. Link it to those grids that are going to enable us to get cost effective energy into the system as quickly as possible to alleviate this absolute crisis that we are all facing.

And then of course there is the Core Energy Team and that team comes from the various departments, and those departments, the kind of work that they are doing and how they are all pulling together, I want to thank them very much for what they have done just this year alone in putting this budget of R1,1 billion together in getting these plans on the table and negotiating and engaging across the board, both internationally and locally and at Local Government level.

To address this power crisis effectively we have had to reallocate funds to offer our citizens dignity and hope amidst the crisis that they have been forced to endure for years.

This Government will continue to do everything it can to mitigate the impact of loadshedding and speed up our Energy Resilience measures through the

whole-of-government approach and at that point, Madam Deputy Speaker, what I think I must do is of course talk about the Energy Council and thank those members specifically from outside of Government to coming to the Council to give us their ideas, to update us on where we are, the last Energy Council, Eskom gave us a full briefing of exactly what our system looks like in this country, where the risks lie and how over not just a few months but over a few years that risk is going to be here.

I want to thank them for coming to us to put the detail on the table and then of course, we will keep our citizens abreast of what is happening and that is the newly launched again weekly Digicons that I have been hosting now. We have had the fourth one already. Again there Local Government coming on board, Disaster Management coming on board, explaining openly to the public exactly what is happening around this disaster, exactly what we did through the pandemic. And then I must say that I heard a comment from the hon Dugmore again, and I know that the last time he had the opportunity he spoke about "not one megawatt", and probably that came because it is exactly what I have been saying to the President.

In actual fact, where we stand today in South Africa we have less megawatts than when the President announced that he was taking charge of this energy crisis in our country. But let me say to the hon Dugmore, who last time in this House said, "but there is not one megawatt in this province" and today he just said, but what about the MER Programme?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: What about the MER?

The PREMIER: So let me explain to the hon Dugmore that beyond generating electricity the role of the Provincial Government is to enable the ecosystem for households, businesses and municipalities to generate power, a new space and a new environment. It is not in our constitutional, it is not in the provincial mandate but we are stepping into that space because of absolute failure in the ANC. [Interjections.]

The number of megawatts that have been generated in the Western Cape so far in wind... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...and solar, I am talking about the bigger plants that are going into systems, is 1 008 megawatts in the Western Cape and then in small embedded generation we are sitting at 197 megawatts of small embedded generation that has being registered to date, and I say "registered" because in the City of Cape Town alone we know that there are about 80 000 registered users and there are thousands of others that are not registered yet or have not joined onto the system.

What we also know is that through the MER process and programme the City of Cape Town has recorded 1 040 applications for SSEGs from January to March this year alone, 600 of them just in February.

These are new megawatts coming into the system because of the programmes set up in this Government in energy, which is actually not a mandate of this Government, but we all must be prepared whether it is drought and water or energy, we will step up where others fail.

An HON MEMBER: I hope that included... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you very much to the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, because at the beginning of this year understanding these risks we released R88 815 000 to municipalities of mitigating the disasters of not having sufficient water or sewerage pump capabilities across our municipalities when we have really high levels of loadshedding, Level 4 to 6. We have seen what happens to many of the water availability systems across our municipalities when this happens, our citizens cannot get anything out of the tap. We have to make sure that we mitigate those risks, once again, understanding the disaster and the failure from the ANC, and making sure that this Government steps up beyond its mandate and make sure that we are there for the citizens to mitigate the risk. [Interjections.]

But beyond that, Madam Deputy Speaker, on Saturday, this coming Saturday, the Infrastructure Department will come into existence and Minister Simmers is leading that new Department.

We are not only going to be now looking at the building of roads and bridges and homes, but we are going to be looking at building modern innovative societies, understanding those risks, taking a much stronger role in engaging with National Government where they fail to build those water facilities, because we know there is a risk coming and doing whatever is needed to make sure that we are expanding our water system to do whatever is needed to make sure that we will be stepping into the infrastructure space around energy. We will be stepping into infrastructure that is risky for every single citizen of this province, wherever it is, it will become our responsibility because of that failed ANC. [Interjections.] They cannot even muster enough energy to keep the lights on. They cannot muster enough energy to keep going as a political party. They are failing the citizens of this country. [Interjections.]

Madam Deputy Speaker, we will also see on Saturday our new Mobility Department and the new Minister, Minister Ricardo Mackenzie. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

Having hit the road running... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Order! Order, members!

The PREMIER: Having hit the road cycling... [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: They are too busy with National.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: ... but nothing has happened.

The PREMIER: A Minister, in his first week of appointment mitigating a taxi strike, saving the economy of this province a billion rand, getting involved from day one, thank you very much Minister, and I am looking forward to this new Department and the role that this new Department is going to play. Again, it is about an innovative Government, bringing changes to the fore to make sure we get the biggest difference in the interests of our citizens... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members, on both sides of the House, please!

The PREMIER: Deputy Speaker, while some in our country... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel, hon members, please! Please take your seat, Premier. Hon member, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, it is not a point of order. Can the Premier take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask, yes, he may. You may proceed.



The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Does the Premier think that because of his unwarranted national focus he was unable to give guidance to his party, hence they lost in Barrydale?

An HON MEMBER: *Ai suka wena!*

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Lost to the PA in Barrydale.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you very much, Premier, are you willing to answer that? [Interjections.] Order members! [Interjections.] hon members, please!

The PREMIER: When I said, yes, I will take a question, the hon member was like searching for what am I going to ask him. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): That is fishing now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Members!

The PREMIER: I would like to say to the hon member that I think he should put his mind to much bigger things in our country. You know that...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members! If you ask a question you should be able to listen to the answer.

The PREMIER: Exactly! Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, hon members!

The PREMIER: When this hon member stands up and asks questions like this, it reminds me of the hon Leader of the Opposition yesterday in a political debate in a country where the ANC is totally failing, in a province that is totally succeeding, where we have a R81 billion budget, and they fiddle around with two court cases in the whole input from the Leader of the Opposition and I wonder about that and I listened to the question from the Deputy Chief Whip of this failed party and I think, "my goodness, my goodness! [Interjections.] Is that all that is left of the ANC; all that is left of the ANC?" [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members, if we can continue, please.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Your Barrydale to us. It is the same party. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The PREMIER: Madam Deputy Speaker, when some in our country want to shut down the whole country, if you really want to fight for economic freedom you need to open up the country, you need to open up the economy,

you need to enable people to get to work, and I want to thank all of the SAPS officials, the law enforcement officials, the Neighbourhood Watches and the citizens who continued on Monday, despite the threats of looting and the threats of wanting to spark violence and intimidation in our province. Thank you very much to each and every one of you that actually do believe that economic freedom comes from opening up and enabling people to exercise their free choice to move freely...

An HON MEMBER: Two days later they... [Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: ...to move freely in this province. Speaker, the Department of the Premier's future planning capabilities in the Western Cape in collaboration with the Provincial Treasury is but one way we are preparing ourselves for pressures down the line.

The aim of this intervention is to create strategic foresight capacity in the Western Cape Government to ensure that service delivery needs can be anticipated and consequently planned and budgeted for. The additional allocation of R15,5 million towards this capability is welcomed, again something new and something about thinking about the future.

I have mentioned it before, and that we do not spend enough time planning and thinking about the future and the lessons that we have learnt in our own interactions with the Futures Department at Stellenbosch, but also with Helsinki understanding that they themselves table 100-year plans at the same

time as they table their five-year strategic plans. We need to start spending more time thinking about that future that we are all moving towards.

Deputy Speaker at the foundation of our work, are our priorities: jobs, energy, resilience, safety, dignity, wellbeing. For this, we are building our province into a destination of choice, not only for our people who choose to relocate their lives here so as to seek out opportunities and hope, but also for investment in our economy and our collective future. We cannot afford to underestimate what the future holds in store for us.

To this end, we are preparing now for that future. You know that our preparation says that in 2030 our population will be at 8 million, but getting the detail and data from Minister Bredell's office thinking about the pressure that Minister Mbombo's Department is on or Minister Maynier's Department is on by the growth in population in our province, that eight million or 126 000 citizens that moved to this province last year, that eight million are going to be achieved far earlier than 2030 and one can see it in the data and the numbers. When you saw the jobs numbers come out in this country for the last quarter up to December the mind boggles, 169 million new jobs in South Africa up until December of that quarter.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: 169 million?

The PREMIER: 169 000, I apologise. I wish it was million. 169 000 new jobs in the whole of South Africa, 167 000 of those jobs in this province

alone. [Interjections.]

Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP: Herhaal dit! Herhaal dit! Herhaal dit!

[Applous.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Repeat that! Repeat that! Repeat that!

[Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: EPWP. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: In all of the other provinces put together all run by the ANC, only 2000 jobs to the positive.

†'n AGBARE LID: Dis 'n skande!

[An HON MEMBER: It's a disgrace!]

†'n AGBARE LID: Skande!

[An HON MEMBER: Disgrace!]

†Die PREMIER: Skande! [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The PREMIER: Disgrace!] [Interjections.]

This province passes more plans than Gauteng. We are 15% of South Africa's economy, Gauteng is 35% of South Africa's economy. We pass more plans but we do not just pass more plans, we build more by value than Gauteng. Let us not even talk about the other provinces. We heard the Opposition

Leader saying "what about the Safety Plan?" Again, the one province where in the murder hotspots the numbers come down, only in this province, nowhere else; where the ANC is in charge, they keep on going up. [Interjection.]

The province that builds more classrooms than anywhere else, four times faster than ever before, the province that was building a school for 500 learners... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ...in 60 days in this province. New hospitals; and I could go on and on. It is this province versus the rest of South Africa where it is all run by the ANC and failing the citizens of this country dismally. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms A BANS: You are talking... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier, just take your seat, please.

The CHIEF WHIP: Hon Deputy Speaker, the members on the opposite side are in constant contravention of Rules 30 and 40.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The CHIEF WHIP: Can you please rule accordingly. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel and hon Bans!

Ms A BANS: Deputy Speaker, we are actually responding to the Chief Whip now ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, but I do know that there is ongoing interjections so we do not mind interjections, but not ongoing conversations, on both sides of the House, if I can ask the Premier to continue please. Thank you.

Ms A BANS: They are working for the same useless...

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and while mentioning safety I would like to say that earlier this week, no, late last week – sorry – I had an opportunity to meet with IPID, nearly six months after Judge Tulare announces that there is infiltration by gangs into our top police officers; nearly six months later IPID comes to meet with me and they say: "What should our terms of reference be for this investigation?"

I welcome that they are now investigating this issue when you see

photographs of gangsters sitting in the anti-gang units' cars or gangsters being shown through police precincts during loadshedding.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): That is not the mandate of IPID.

The PREMIER: How many gangsters have been arrested since the establishment of the Anti-gang Unit by the President five years ago.  
[Interjections, speaking simultaneously.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The PREMIER: But, Deputy Speaker, getting back to this budget, the Department's determination to put citizens first, we are seeing additional funds of R10 million, R12 million, and R15 million over the allocated period or the MTEF period, going to the Western Cape Government e-Centres. This is to increase access to information and technology, to enable digital skills development opportunities and to connect citizens with opportunities, particularly educational and job opportunities. An exciting innovation in this space is the opening of two mobile e-Centres to reach deep rural sites where it is not feasible to establish a brick-and-mortar facility and to create a footprint in the City of Cape Town Metro area with the specific focus on the provincial hotspots.

An additional allocation of R4 million, R5 million and R6 million over the MTEF for the Department, this is the Cyber Security Strategy to compromise



the around 26 – or compromises of around 26 initiatives; a three-year roadmap was developed for the period 2022/23 and 2024/25, and it is prioritised based on the critical need for the capability and existing technology investments that can be leveraged and become an invaluable resource.

The Western Cape Government Broadband provides services to just over 1 900 sites now, which include all Western Cape Government facilities, and to certain municipal buildings, such as libraries, Thusong Centres, and Cape Access Centres.

Another data point, which is really interesting is that on a single day in South Africa, more data run through our education system in the Western Cape than run through every single other education system in all other provinces put together, and that just also tells you that over time, you will also see a broadening of the difference between where the DA governs and where the ANC governs.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the officials in this Government and the officials in the Department of the Premier for working day and night and it does not matter whether it is a legal issue, they work through the night, sometimes, whether it is a risk analysis from our team, whether it is dealing with HR matters, whether it is the way that we offer shared services, the responsiveness, I really want to say to the officials in this Government, thank you very much. I really do appreciate every single thing that you do. We

have to be leading from the front. We have to be innovating and we have to be taking this budget in the best interest of every single citizen in this province to make sure that we get results because everything that we do in this province is about building hope and everything that we do in this province is not only about the citizens of this province, but it is about this country, South Africa. Thank you. [Applause.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, in the January the 8<sup>th</sup> statement of the African National Congress adopted this year, we resolved that what we need is decisive action in the interests of the people and that we need to renew this organisation and that organisation, which has helped liberate our country, stabilise this country and begun to develop prosperity and as a record of the housing delivery of access to education, which is in fact the best in the world in terms of the time available.

The issue, however, the fact that we are talking about decisive action and also renewal goes to the fact that our movement, the African National Congress, also acknowledges that in this period of governance, there have been mistakes made and that the renewal of the organisation is what we are busy with. The fact, as one of our hon members, member Sayed indicated now, that the African National Congress won the Barrydale Ward and that

also latest opinion polls are beginning to say that the ANC is turning the corner and a perception can only exist if it is based on some reality, and whether the Premier of this province wants to acknowledge it and he talks about a failed state, the reality is that issues of state capture, which happened in a particular period, actually predate democracy and it is that, particularly in the context of Eskom that we also need to consider as we seek solutions. The reality is that companies in this country had 30- to 40-year sweetheart deals to supply coal to Eskom, way before the post-democratic leadership. Those contracts effectively benefited the particular companies that actually funded and supported the National Party and if one fails to look at that history, one is actually missing the point, one cannot deny that our President... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members on the right side.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...has overseen a dramatic increase in the services provided by the South African Revenue Service. SARS is a very different place than it was five years ago.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: The National Prosecuting Authority has been strengthened. The SIU is clearly working without fear or favour and we have even seen in regard to the letter that we wrote to the SIU two years ago, now we are beginning to see the arrest of corrupt officials in Cape Town

in the City Housing Maintenance Department, and it is a cesspool of corruption. So the SIU has been strengthened, the Hawks have been strengthened and anyone who wants to talk about a failed state, the Premier stands up here and he says: "We fixed the roads in Clanwilliam." The Premier must not mislead the House.

An HON MEMBER: Really!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: The South African National Roads Agency did that and if you look at the roads in our country, that is the responsibility of the National Government. Anyone who wants to say that this country is a failed state, in fact, Deputy Speaker, the Premier is beginning to sound like Rob Hersov. Rob Hersov is someone who stands up and wants to slag the country, create an instil fear, and I want to say to the Premier, you must be cautious of projecting a climate of fear and the fact that this country is failing. The fact that tourists still come, not only to our province, but increasingly to the Kruger Park, increasingly to the Eastern Cape and many, is a fact that not only is it a good deal for them to come here, but they actually trust our country, and when the Premier of this province stands up, mouthing on about failed states, he is actually contributing to a narrative that is bad for this country. Be honest, yes, but do not actually mislead people and instil fear.

The Premier spent quite a lot of his speech today, Deputy Speaker, talking about energy. Now, the reality is that in this country we have an energy mix.

That energy mix includes coal, over 90% of current coal supply as much as the availability factor has been reduced, and that must be acknowledged. We have nuclear, we have hydro, we have renewables in the form of solar and wind, and there is also increasingly, geothermal.

Now, I want to put it on record here today that for some members on the other side, they want to create a hero out of André de Ruyter. The facts are beginning to emerge that instead of focusing on the six coal power stations, which are required to up the energy availability factor, Mr De Ruyter spent his time simply talking about renewables engaging in trying to facilitate international loans... [Interjections.] Loans, not grants, and in that way, if you look at, and the ANC Government does actually have an energy plan, which we are busy implementing. You talked about plans through this Deputy Speaker, but you did not actually mention what. You mentioned categories, but you did not say what you are going to do and the first key thing that our Energy Minister is doing, is to ensure that the 4000 megawatts that we have lost because of the fact that six power stations are not working, that is the focus, that is the focus and we must avoid... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: We must avoid the denialism or the proposition that renewables are going to be able to be provided quicker, quickly enough, to solve this particular problem. So this particular plan talks about obviously, Eskom has had 10 different CEOs in the last 11 years. That

is totally unacceptable. We know that, but the reality is, and we know that there are syndicates, syndicates which have managed to intervene in the coal market in the coal supply that has damaged with sub-grade coal our power stations and that is something that we are aware of. We are in support of private investment into new generation capacity but I would – it is a pity that MEC Bredell is not here, but I see the colleagues on Local Government are here.

This energy plan that the Premier talks about, firstly, they must acknowledge that in 2020 they announced the Municipal Energy Resilience Plan. Three years ago, they did not actually involve Local Government, we were in the Committee the other day and they had to concede that they were not involved. No surprise that over the R100 million that was spent on that did not produce a single megawatt, but the real issue for sustainability... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I am not sure, you know what... [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: No-no, I am talking about your then... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Not one, so now the issue is this: if municipalities and I would like to Premier to pay attention to this, if municipalities rely on the resale of electricity for their sustainability, and we

know that that is the case, there is no thinking that we are hearing from the hon Premier to say, what is the sustainability going to be of local governments if they are not actually able to resell as they are currently doing from mainly Eskom. That is a huge financial challenge, hon members, and our hon member America, who is dealing with Local Government, this is an issue that we need to look at because the Premier's plan does not tell us how much that electricity is going to cost. He does not talk about what is the impact on Local Government sustainability. Member Marran, member Bans, member Windvogel all have been in Local Government. They will tell you how much the municipalities rely on electricity. So we are going off now, but we do not have the figures worked out about the future sustainability. That might require re-looking at the Financial and Fiscal Commission Plans, but you have to be aware of that, do not pretend to people, through the Deputy Speaker, that this will simply resolve itself. You have to plan for that and your own officials in your own Department are saying that the Premier and them are blindsided about this. You are not actually talking, they are actually telling us that you are not actually talking about the future sustainability of Local Government and I think that is an issue.

Then the reality is, this Province in terms of energy, you are talking about safety packs, energy safety packs for the poor but why do you not just address one thing: when a person from Mitchells Plain or Khayelitsha Witzenberg wants to buy R100.00 of electricity, when they go to that municipality they only get R20.00 or so because they have a water account that is outstanding. So in fact, that would help thousands of people, how

many energy packs are you actually going to give? The real solution lies, and MEC Bredell is not here now, he is not giving us the actual legal opinion because we would argue that that is against the indigent policy, so for poor people, and you talk about water. The reality is why can a poor person only get R10.00 or R20.00 worth of electricity when they pay R100.00? That is what is – it is nothing, yes, but that R100.00.

The PREMIER: That is nothing... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: That R100.00 could have bought... [Interjections.] No, how much is it?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: For a poor family a R100.00 buys a huge amount of electricity. You say it is nothing, not for a poor person. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, hon Dugmore, talk to me!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Not for a poor person.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So the reality is the Premier also



talked about water ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! I cannot hear hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: The Premier also talked about water, Deputy Speaker. This Premier must explain to the House... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: What happened to the desalination plants in the so called Day Zero days? How much was spent? Does he know about corruption there? Does he know about the assassination of a particular person that happened related to this? The City of Cape Town needs to explain. None of those desalination plans are working; not a single one. Millions, hundreds of millions were spent and now you are talking about Day Zero.

Please, Deputy Speaker, the Premier needs to be honest and not to mislead the people.

He also ended his speech – sorry, the hon Premier ended his speech about the amount of WiFi activity in our schools. Why is it then that the Western Cape has over the last four years actually failed to be number one in regard to Matric? So you talk about WiFi connectivity in schools, but the results in this province under MEC Schaeffer have gone down and down and down, but

worse than that for me is the fact that our province has the lowest number of learners signing up for Maths on the higher grade and Science. Do you know why, Deputy Speaker? It is because this Government does not have the political will to actually get Maths and Science teachers into our schools. What future do we want for our children from Mitchells Plain, Bonteheuwel? We want them to be scientists, but when you do not actually offer those subjects, lower than KZN, lower than the Eastern Cape, you should be ashamed of yourself, because that is actually the quality that you are denying the majority of children in this province. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Yesterday the hon Premier spoke about safety. Yesterday, we made it clear that the City of Cape Town is giving housing contracts to the families of gangsters. When there is not a contract awarded, like in Delft, a construction worker is being killed every week. Now you nod your head? That is all you do.

What are you doing about that corruption and the influence of gangs in one of the local governments run by the DA? You are not doing anything? MEC Allen is looking at me. He knows the situation.

Mr P MARRAN: He knows, yes.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So when are you actually going to be open about this relationship that exists between certain officials and politicians in the City of Cape Town and organised gangs? They just simply demand: "We want 10% of this, if you are not giving us 10%, we do not mind who builds. We are going to start taking people out."

That is what is happening; and you nod and you so on, but you come and talk to us about energy and a billion rand, but what about the safety of the children and the young people in our province, and then the last point before getting into the actual speech. You talked about R5 million for Tafelberg. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You talk about R5 million for Tafelberg but the real issue is that you made a choice, the Premier, Deputy Speaker, and Helen Zille, despite that Human Settlements wanted to use Tafelberg, they had a formal proposal: "Use Tafelberg for social housing." Instead, they were lobbied by certain private interests and they offered to sell that. Former member Lennit Max helped us to expose that. That building is still available. Domestic workers in Sea Point have saved up for years to get accommodation but still you spend R5 million trying to block the use of Tafelberg for social housing. That is a disgrace and it shows the ideological anti-poor approach of this DA Provincial Government. It is not surprising

that the people of Barrydale rejected the DA and Premier Winde, you know very well that Helen Zille took the side of the Mayor, she ignored Mr Pokwas and others and believed them and that reaction against the DA was about budgets, because those members wanted to work with our members to make a change in Swellendam. Helen Zille... [Interjection.]

**Me R WINDVOGEL: Dis 'n skande!**

**Ms R WINDVOGEL: It's a disgrace!**

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: And we really hope that you re-elect her. We really hope that you re-elect her at your National Conference, because she is destroying your party. She is actually destroying, she is moving you further and further to the right so any social democrats amongst you do not have a place, if there are social democrats, I thought at one stage, hon Nkondlo, that Premier Winde described himself as a social democrat. So, Helen Zille, please elect her because that will just add to your decline.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Elect her.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Speak to the people of Barrydale, but one Friday soon our province will remember the 329<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I beg your pardon?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Did I have 16 minutes?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you did. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I am supposed to have 16 minutes.

[Inaudible, speaking simultaneously.]

An HON MEMBER: ...speak about the budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just stop the time, I do not want the – I am still going to go on 30 so [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Is it how much is it?

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 30 seconds.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: 30 seconds.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been speaking...

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Well, Deputy Speaker, I needed to respond to the Premier, but this speech is going to be given free of charge to all of you. [Laughter.] You will be able to read it and internalise it. [Interjections.] And I will also write, I will also write... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! I cannot hear. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...a lead article, so I am concluding...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Baartman! Hon Baartman! Hon Baartman! [Interjections.] One minute, I am going to continue, just close this time.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I am concluding in 30 seconds.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you may conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: The African National Congress is committed to decisive action... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...in the interests of the people and to

renew the ANC. Do not undermine the ANC's ability to renew itself and to actually lead the people of the country. That is what we will do and I will also write a lead article about the speech that you can all read it. Thank you.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore.

[Interjections.] Hon members, order please! I note that hon Klaas has issued his apologies so we will move straight over to the hon Fry.

†'n AGBARE LID: Mooi, gooi!

[An HON MEMBER: Good, throw!]

Mr T FRY: Hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, Cabinet members and hon members of this House and most importantly to the citizens of the Western Cape. Recently I attended a Christmas Band Competition. It is a time-honoured integral part of the culture of our province. Many of the bands have a long history of service to their various communities and while the competition across the various categories is fierce, the spirit of camaraderie and friendship among the choirs is palpable. It even extended to the supporters in the stands.

Now, in every band, there are different roles that every member plays in order to make the band what it is. I would venture to say though, that the most important person of all is the drum major. The drum major is the standard bearer of the band. He or she is the person leading the band in the

march wielding the baton, or a mace, showing the direction and rhythm to which the band has to march to.

The person always marches and leads from the front, he shows and he commands respect from the band, demonstrates initiative, drives enthusiasm and ultimately gives the band every chance to deliver their best performance at all times. The drum major must be competent, be accountable, have integrity, be responsive, be caring and be innovative. An effective drum major is the conduit for excellence. Hon Deputy Speaker, this budget tabled before us today and headed by the Department of the Premier is the drum major that will lead us to excellence.

For this Vote, the Budget has increased by 13,4% or R241 million from R1,8 billion to R2 billion with an Equitable Share funding increasing by nearly 11% from R1,59 billion to R1,68 billion. Further to this, the Provincial Revenue Fund financing has increased by R284 million to R360 million, an increase of 26,5%. This shows that this Government is serious about serving the people of the Western Cape with excellence.

To demonstrate this further, I would like to focus on three programmes that outline the seriousness of serving the people. Hon Deputy Speaker, when looking at governance within the Department, this budget is geared for improved performance, especially in the Financial Management Sub-Programme. The Financial Management Capacitation Plan, which involves proactive initiatives to prevent irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure,



is evidence of this. Ultimately, this will strengthen governance and accountability. R101,9 million is set aside for this programme.

Secondly, hon Deputy Speaker, as far as the Provincial Strategic Management is concerned the focus will be the Provincial Strategic Implementation Plan. The pillars of this plan are growth for jobs, safety, wellbeing an innovation, culture and governance. Underpinning these pillars are interventions that are data-led and evidence informed. This data-led approach is informed by the lessons learnt during the management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, while being responsive to business and public demand.

In order to do this, the Department will build strategic partnerships across the data industry, as well as the continued use of the Provincial Data Office. Under this programme, the Commissioner for Children will continue its work of promoting and protecting the rights and interests of children in this province. To this end R13,3 million is budgeted for this office for the 2023/24 financial year, and hon Deputy Speaker, what would this budget be? What would this budget be if again we did not speak about the provision made for dealing with the energy crisis that is threatening our very existence? To this end, this Government is leading from the front showing initiative and driving enthusiasm by focusing on the following areas: Demand Side Management, where R9,7 million has been allocated in this year to, among others, drive an Energy Saving Campaign, incentivise the use of energy efficient products and services by the public and pilot a Load Management System to assist in managing peak demand times. R60 million

will be used to procure and distribute emergency loadshedding packs to poor households that need them.

Municipal-pooled buying, which seeks to establish a business case for multi-jurisdictional municipal pooled procurement of renewable energy, R3,3 million is budgeted for this and R7,5 million is budgeted for a Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan, which will seek to estimate the energy demand.

Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to highlight the Centre for e-Innovation. This is a vital part of increasing Broadband access to all our citizens, as well as expanding the Cape Access e-Centres footprint in the province, strengthening cyber-security across all Western Cape Government departments, and building a new platform to replace the current portal.

This will show the Government's desire to lead from the front in offering our citizens a world class digital service, as well as safeguarding our Department's online presence in protecting our systems and users from, among others, ransom-ware attacks. R1,378 billion has been allocated to this programme of which R555 million in this financial year has been allocated to the Broadband 2.0 Project, which will address the termination of existing Broadband service agreements on 1 October to 2024 while maintaining the current nearly 2000 Western Cape Government sites that have connectivity, as well as the 1 424 WiFi hotspots that provide free data to our people to the value of six gigabytes per person per month.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the hon member, Leader of the Opposition says that his party is on a drive to decisive action and renewal, stating that the SIU, SARS, Eskom, the Hawks and NPA, amongst others, are being renewed. The question we have to ask is, after 29 years, why do they need renewal?

Hon Speaker, in closing, as I have previously stated, the drum major is the standard bearer of the band. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr T FRY: This provides direction for the band to follow as to which excellence is the goal. This budget is the standard bearer. This budget will lead our people, all our people, to a better tomorrow. This budget is for you. The DA supports this vote. I thank you, Speaker.

Thank you very much, hon Fry. I now recognise the hon Premier Winde.

[Interjections.] Order members!

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much to the members contributing. I will start actually with the Chair of the Committee because the Leader of the Opposition has probably just stepped out for a while, so... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: He is absent...

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The PREMIER: Oh, there he is. So he could maybe just move forward. If the real leader of the ANC will just take up his seat in the front, we can leave the hon Dugmore in the back benches, but I will still remain with the Chairperson.

Chair, thank you very much, first of all for the role that you play as the Chair of this Standing Committee, for enabling the discussions and the processes of getting to a budget and getting to a debate like this, where we are passing a budget that is in the interests of the people, and as you say for you, the citizen, thank you for that role. Thank you for the interactions. Thank you for pushing where it needs to be pushed or tweaking where it needs to be tweaked. We really do appreciate that and the role that you play in the Standing Committee.

Then to the hon Leader of the Opposition, maybe before I get there, which I have written here on the top of my sheet here – is it Velokazi?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Velokazi, ja. Velokazi.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for joining us. I believe that you are a shadow law student from UCT shadowing the Deputy Chief Whip. Be welcome here, and I really am encouraged because we need more people to

understand not only just law that happens outside, but the laws that get made, get passed; the budgets that get passed in this House and get signed into law that eventually end up changing the lives of citizens in this province.

You are more than welcome. [Applause]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies, hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry, just a point of order, Deputy Speaker, I noticed that the Premier was talking directly to a member of the gallery but I would also like to say to that young student in the gallery that it is better to do your internship with the ANC. [Laughter.] It will give you a broader perspective, so you can come, I have got an LLB myself.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon Dugmore, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.] Order members! Hon members, I am going to, that concludes the debate on this Vote. Thank you very, very much. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: That was a point of order in the middle of my speech.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, oh you have not finished Premier, my terrible apologies! That was a point of order in the middle of your speech. Hon Dugmore, you threw me there for a second. Premier you may proceed, humble apologies... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. You can rule that that

was not a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was not a point of order for the record.

The PREMIER: It was a speech from a member who should know better, you know, so, I promise you will not learn anything from the ANC, they do not even know how to make points of order, but Madam Deputy Speaker...  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The PREMIER: In reaction to the hon Leader of the Opposition's input into this Budget Debate, I noticed that he tabled his speech, he even said "at no cost", so one wonders if normally he charges for his speeches to be put out there into the public domain, but I think we all noticed that he never said one word about the budget. So ja, I will get to the details that he raised, because of course, he was speaking about something that is really serious in our country and in our province.

He spoke about the ANC's renewal, which is a renewal from their demise, which is where our country finds itself, and that is why we have to spend so much time talking about energy and water, which is what he focused on, because the ANC have failed this country totally... [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: You have failed.

The PREMIER: ...when it comes to energy and water, let alone everything else that they have failed us with, and so, ja, he had to speak about the renewal of the ANC because of their failure.

He also spent some time speaking about ending corruption but then he went off about justifying corruption almost because of what happened in the apartheid years and so we need to blame the apartheid years... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The PREMIER: ...as to why in this window period of the ANC rule, we have so much corruption. That is unacceptable. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: Corruption is corruption and that is a key part of why we find ourselves in a position that we find ourselves as South Africa today. I also want to say that he again, said “not one megawatt”, and I will say I agree, not one megawatt, but 197 megawatts... [Interjection.] ...and he spoke about, and now he changes the question of grid, but I will tell you which grid it is in as well. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: So it is not one megawatt, it is 197. He obviously did not listen to me when I was speaking earlier. [Interjection.] But the MER Initiative, the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, delivered through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) in this province, was focused on lower carbon generation in the Western Cape, and the utility scale projects were 558 megawatts in 2020, and now, in 2023, that adds up to 1 008 megawatts in utility scale energy going into a mixture of Eskom grid and municipal grid.

Then DEDAT and Green Cape were both involved in those projects delivering the 1 008 megawatts, and then of course there is the small scale embedded generation which is only in municipal grids and that is the 197 megawatts that I spoke about that goes into the City of Cape Town's grid.

Of that, 130 megawatts come from the energy game changer, now at 197 megawatts. That is the 1 040 applications added to the 1 097 megawatts which will now exponentially take that up, of which 600 were just in February, but the 1 040 applications, this is only in the City of Cape Town for 2023. So these are not one megawatt. These are many, many megawatts, which is way in excess of the megawatts that the President has enabled into our system from the day that he took over as Deputy President and making that announcement so many, many years ago that loadshedding will become a thing of the past.

Then also to say to the hon member, he spoke about Local Government



financing, and absolutely that is a big issue.

Last week, in engaging with the Mayors, there is a team put together now to go and have a look at between Treasury, Local Government, to go and have a look at what does this new system look like? But it is not as if just last week that happened, Minister Bredell has been engaging through our PECs, Provincial Committees, where we have all the municipal managers and all the Mayors present, on designing and looking at a new financing system, because our municipalities, when we are not able to generate income from the sale of electricity, because so many of these megawatts that are coming on board, are not enabling them to buy in power and resell it, but not totally so because many, many of these cases where, for example, the City of Cape Town is buying in power, they might be paying a small incentive to enable it, but in actual fact they still will be able to sell and wield that power to other users, but it is a real question that he asks, the sustainability of our municipalities, because of their financial model.

Some of our municipalities making between 18 and 20% of their income from the sale of electricity... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Even more.

The PREMIER: ...and those systems are going to go away and they have got to find ways in which to continue to generate income, especially those households and businesses that are going off grid, because what they are

saying now is, why should we even pay an availability charge, and I get that, it is a great question, but at the same time they also have to understand that when you leave your driveway and you go down the road and there is a streetlight outside, or there is a public building with electricity in it, or a service that runs on electricity, like a water pump or a sewerage pump, that that also still has to be paid for, whether it is energy that you are using in your household, which is one thing, but energy that is used in a municipality in the best interests of all citizens also has to be paid for, somehow. But there definitely is work being done and we need to look at that new system; that new financial system.

The hon Dugmore also raises an issue with desalination plants, and I gather that he is speaking about the two desalination plants in the City of Cape Town that have been decommissioned. I gather those are the two plants that you are speaking about, because they are not the only plants in the Western Cape and of course, they were decommissioned because bear in mind that desalination is very, very expensive... [Interjection.]

But of course those desalination plants, like the one in Hessequa, which is still operational, the one in Mossel Bay which is still operational. Unfortunately the one in Lambert's Bay is not operational, we are trying to get it back on stream, but of course, that is because of the ANC Government in that municipality who really did not enable that commissioning properly of that... [Interjection.]

(Electronic insert: Siri: ... also still has to be paid.)

[Interjection.] [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Technology.

The PREMIER: Even Siri knows that they failed in Lambert's Bay with their energy system. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members! Order!

The PREMIER: And then, Deputy Speaker, perhaps a last point on that, and that is the plan at the moment in the City of Cape Town, and I know the Standing Committee was invited to the two-day Water Workshop, I do not know if anybody from the ANC came to the workshop? [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The PREMIER: Deputy Speaker, I know for certain that the Standing Committee was invited because the other Standing Committee members were there. It is probably the ANC that does not read their emails, but you could have, you would have heard about, not only innovation in water, but you would have heard about the recycling plant that is being put in place now in the City of Cape Town, and this is a massive investment on recycling of current water usage within our systems, and this is critical because going forward in a water-stressed environment, we are going to have to be recycling

more and more of our water. We cannot just use water run through a system that goes out, goes through a sewerage plant and then disappears. We have to be able to recycle that water over and over again.

Many, many countries around the world reuse it five, six and seven times, and we are going to have to be going down that same route, and the first one which is going to be one of the biggest recycling plants of water on the African continent is being planned right now for the City of Cape Town, and these are the kinds of innovations that are going to have to become commonplace around all of our municipalities and again, not only electricity that is going to put financial pressure on the financial models at our municipalities, but our water systems and the cost of water are also going to put huge pressure on the economies and the financial systems of our municipalities.

With that, Madam Deputy Speaker, thanks to those that are supporting the budget. We really need to make sure that these budgets are supported, passed, in the best interests for you to citizens of this province.

Thank you very much to everybody who took part and, once again, thank you very much to the Department and to my office, who are there to support me and make sure that we get this work done. We have so many challenges in our country, and so many more that our Province has to take on every day that our systems are not working because of other failures in other parts of the mandate of provinces, where national issues should be delivered and they are

not, and we will take them head on. We will find ways to scrape together budgets, and so to our full team, thank you and then last of all, to the Ministers and the members who, in each of our departments make sure that these budgets get pulled through in the best interests of the citizens of our province. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Premier. That brings us to the end of the Premier's Vote.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we are going to suspend the House for about two minutes, just to make sure that everybody is, all Minister Meyer's guests are in the House and seated. I will assess. Minister Meyer, maybe is your HOD in your Department coming through?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes? So we will suspend for a few minutes. The House is suspended.

Business of the House is suspended at 11:16.

Business of the House resumed at 11:20.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much. Before we begin, I would like to wish Minister Meyer a very, very happy birthday today on his Vote speech. [Applause] May this be a wonderful day for you, Minister Meyer.

The Secretary will now read the Second Order of the Day.

Die SEKRETARIS: Debat oor Begrotingspos 11: Landbou – Wes-Kaapse Begrotingswetsontwerp [W 2–2023].

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 11: Agriculture – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2-2023].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I now recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Premier, hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, hon members of Cabinet of the Western Cape, Leaders of the Official Opposition, hon Members of the Legislature, special guests, the media present here today, councillors, attending Mayors, diplomats present here today, and very importantly, the industry representing Agriculture.

I am particularly happy that we have here today Professor Danie Vermeulen from the Free State University. I am particularly happy that we also have Mr Heinie du Toit, the Vice President of Agri Western Cape, as well as the Casidra Chief Executive Officer, Dr Keith du Plessis. I am very happy to

have also in the House Mr Christo van der Rheede, Chief Executive Officer of Agri South Africa, and thank you for your work; and also pioneers for Land Reform in South Africa, Mr Lennox Plaatjies from PALS and Mr Gerrit van Vuuren. Thank you for your presence, Dr Von Schlicht as well, and Sakkie Franken, very important to me, members representing the agricultural sector. Thank you, Anton Krueger from the Fresh Produce Organisation and thank you our diplomats and particularly also our farmers and our winemakers here in the gallery.

†Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek gebruik graag hierdie geleentheid om my spesiale gas by die Wes-Kaapse Wetgewer te verwelkom, met haar kenmerkende kappie, draai sy haar roosterkoeke behendig om. Sy is een van Laingsburg se bekendste inwoners en haar stalletjie lok toeriste en reisigers van oral.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek is geëerd, hierdie Huis is geëerd om die legendariese Tannie Poppie van Laingsburg vandag hier in die Huis te verwelkom. [Applous] Ek salueer Tannie Poppie, want sy bring die Karoo se eenvoud in hierdie Huis, en met daardie eenvoud maak sy meervoud. Sy het Laingsburg op die *map* geplaas, maar so was sy ook in Italië, en vandag is sy hier in die Wes-Kaapse Parlement. Tannie Poppie, 7 miljoen inwoners van die Wes-Kaap kyk op na u hier in die Wes-Kaap. Ons salueer u vir u bydrae wat u gelewer het vir landelike gemeenskappe, vir landelike vroue, en ek wil my dank en waardering uitspreek teenoor Aletta Theron, wat al die moeite gedoen het om Tannie Poppie te vervoer al die pad van Laingsburg tot hier in die Parlement.

Dankie ook aan my vriend en kollega Noko Masipa van die Nasionale Parlement wat ook vandag hier teenwoordig is.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity to welcome my special guest in the Western Cape Legislature, with her typical bonnet she expertly turns over her *roosterkoek*. She is one of Laingsburg's most well known inhabitants and her kiosk draws tourists and travellers from all over.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am honoured, this House is honoured, to welcome the legendary Tannie Poppie from Laingsburg here today in the House. [Applause.] I salute Tannie Poppie, because she brings the Karoo's simplicity into this House, and with that simplicity she's creating plurality. She put Laingsburg on the map, but she had also been to Italy, and today she's here in the Western Cape Parliament. Tannie Poppie, 7 million residents of the Western Cape look up to you here in the Western Cape. We salute you for your contribution to rural communities, to rural women, and I want to express my thanks and appreciation to Aletta Theron, who made all the effort to transport Tannie Poppie all the way from Laingsburg to here in the Parliament.

Thank you to my friend and colleague Noko Masipa of the National Parliament who is also present here today.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, in his speech during the SOPA on 16 February this year, Premier Alan Winde called for urgency and a vigorous and positive



action. Hon Deputy Speaker, no sector understands better the urgency of “the now” than the agricultural sector. This is because the sector deals with what we describe as the envelope of the possible, the land, the water and the climate.

The magic happens when we bring together land, water, climate and people, mixed with the skills and the market access, with the technology and the capital.

†Agbare Adjunkspeaker, op 'n baie basiese vlak verstaan ons almal dat daar 'n tyd is om te saai en daar is 'n tyd om te oes. Dit is om hierdie rede dat die bekroonde graanboer Alfreda Mars, wat vandag hier by ons aansluit, ek weet sy is in die wintergraanboerderygebied, daarom kan sy nie net in Julie eers begin saai nie. Sy verstaan ook dat sy gemengde boerdery moet toepas om winsgewend te wees in die bedryf. Om die rede is sy 'n graanboer en ook 'n skaapboer, eenvoudig maar diepsinnig. Ek vra Alfreda Mars om op te staan hier in die Huis. [Applous.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, at a basic level we all understand that there is a time to sow and there is a time to harvest. It is for this reason that the award-winning grain farmer Alfreda Mars, who is joining us here today, I know she's in the winter grainfarming area, therefore she cannot only start sowing in July. She also understands that she has to apply mixed farming to be profitable in the industry. For this reason she is a grain farmer and also a sheep farmer, modest but serious. I ask Alfreda Mars to stand up here in the House.] [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, faced with the envelope of the possible, another element is present in the agricultural sector. It is the power of hope, in Xhosa it means *ithemba*, but in Xhosa it not only means hope, it also means trust, and we put our trust in our farmers, our producers and our agri workers, because there is power in hope.

Hon Deputy Speaker, agriculture has been at the forefront of the economic recovery in the Western Cape.

Ascon South Africa must succeed, and this product of the Western Cape must be exported so that we have success all over South Africa. That is my dream. This is my country. This is what I love. We shall do it together. Hon Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Ja.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker... [Applause.]  
hon Deputy Speaker, agriculture has been at the forefront of economic recovery. Agriculture will continue to inspire hope through growth, through jobs, and through responding to the urgency of now.

†Agbare Adjunkspeaker, landbouhoop beskaam nie. Die krag van

landbouhoop word versterk deur onder andere die sektor se handelsprestasie en sy bydrae tot indiensneming wat reeds gedokumenteer is in hierdie Huis.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, agricultural hope does not disappoint. The power of agricultural hope is reinforced by amongst others the sector's trade performance and its contribution to employment that has already been recorded in this House.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I feel the fears of urgency, I feel the fears of the now, the Premier coined it, resilience, and let us do things now. The crisis is deep. The poverty is deeper and people need hope, and we as public representatives must be the instruments and the injection of hope. Thank you, Tannie Poppie, that you are the injection of hope not only in the Karoo but in the whole of South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I felt this urgency when I met with Jannie Strydom. Today he is represented by Heinie du Toit here today, the CEO of Agri SA, Agri Western Cape, when I met with him and the President, Villiers Loubser. They spoke to me about the devastating impact of the electricity crisis and the blackouts on the harvest, on the irrigation, and on the cold storage.

I felt it when I met Anton Kruger, the Chief Executive Officer of the Fresh Produce Export Forum. He told me about our exporters, challenges they experience specifically as a result of the war in Ukraine.

I felt it when I met with Justin Chadwick, the Chief Executive Officer of Citrus South Africa and his colleagues when they spoke to me about the inefficiencies at the harbour and the ports. I recently met them also here in Cape Town and also in another province.

I felt it when I visited Nooitgedacht Farmers Trust, a commercial egg production enterprise in Atlantis, there is urgency because loadshedding significantly impacted on the profitability of the small-scale enterprise.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am honoured today to table a Budget of R960 million. The Western Cape's three strategic objectives, namely jobs, safety, wellbeing and dignity; and I want to thank my Cabinet colleagues that are leading the Jobs Cluster, hon Minister Mireille Wenger, the Minister of Finance.

I want to congratulate and thank the Minister Reagen Allen, who is pioneering the work of the Safety Cluster, and I am deeply thankful and honoured by the work of Minister Sharna Fernandez for the work that she is doing in the Well-being Cluster, and that is driving my budget that I present today.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, I also have five ministerial priorities that is in the Engineering compartment of my budget, namely structure, trading and education and research. Nothing happens in agriculture without solid research. Support to my farmers, rural safety, market access, and very critically the impact of climate change.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what is the economic performance of the sector?

Hon Deputy Speaker, agriculture and agri-processing contribute 11% to the GDP of this province. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey, quarter four statistics of 2022 highlighted that the agricultural sector employed 227 893 workers in the Western Cape and the agri sector, and particularly the agri-processing sector also employ 236 000 workers in the same quarter. Combined, hon Deputy Speaker, both primary agriculture and secondary agriculture, the agricultural sector is contributing to 426 000 jobs in the Western Cape.

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Now this, hon Deputy Speaker, is 78 000 more than the same quarter in the previous year and 105 000 more for agri-processing in the same year in the previous terms, and so, hon Deputy Speaker, this means the agricultural sector employed 16,2% of the total number employed in the agricultural sector.

Hon Deputy Speaker, agriculture is inspiring hope through growth, employment and responding to the urgency of the now.

†Agbare Speaker, hoe lyk die uitvoerprestasies, en ek is baie bly om te sien dat beide die Distriksburgemeester van die Kaapse Wynland, Dr von Schlicht

is in die Huis, asook die Distriksburgemeester van Overberg, want daardie twee streke speel 'n betekenisvolle rol in die uitvoerbedryf hier in die Wes-Kaap. Agbare Adjunkspeaker, Agri se hooflandbou-ekonoom, Wandile Sihlobo skryf dat Suid Afrika se uitvoere in 2022, verlede jaar, 'n nuwe rekord van R12,8 miljard bereik het.

[Hon Deputy Speaker, how do the export performances look, and I'm very pleased to see that both the District Mayor of the Cape Winelands, Dr von Schlicht, and the District Mayor of Overberg, are in the House, because those two regions play a significant role in the export industry here in the Western Cape. Hon Deputy Speaker, Agri's chief economist, Wandile Sihlobo, writes that South Africa's exports in 2022, last year, reached a new record of R12,8 billion.]

So it is \$12,8 billion US dollar. That is phenomenal. That is growth. That is offering hope. That is responding to the sense of urgency, and that is 4% higher than the previous year.

†Goeie nuus vir die Wes-Kaap is dat mielies, wyn, tafeldruiwe, sitrus, bessies, neute, appels, pere, suiker, avokado en selfs wol onder die top uitvoerprodukte is.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, graag betuig ek my dank en waardering vandag aan Arisa wat vandag hier in die Huis is. Hierdie uitvoerkwaliteit pruipe wat op ons lessenaars geplaas is word deur Arisa Pakhuis in Swellendam geskenk. Groot dank en waardering aan ons vriende van Arisa. Hierdie is

uitvoer kwaliteit en al hierdie lede wat vandag hier in die Huis is, elkeen van julle het al verby die pakhuis gery wanneer u daar in Swellendam in die Suid-Kaap beweeg, dan kyk u regs en u sien Arisa Pakhuis. Vandag word hulle verteenwoordig deur Arlene van Rensburg, Madelein van der Westhuizen en Natasha Greeff. Groot dank en waardering. [Applous]

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, agt van die tien belangrikste uitvoerprodukte in die Wes-Kaap het ook 'n landbougrondslag. Vir elke 5% toename in die landbou-uitvoerbedryf, word 22 000 nuwe werksgeleenthede geskep, of anders gestel, as ons 5% minder groei, verloor ons 22 000 werksgeleenthede, en ek is trots dat die landbouers, die agri-werkers, die bedryf, hier daarin suksesvol geslaag het om te verseker dat ons 22 000 werksgeleenthede kan skep met 'n 5% toename. Meer as 50% van Suid Afrika se landbou-uitvoere het sy oorsprong in die Wes-Kaap.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, my Departement streef voortdurend daarna om dienslewering te verbeter. Ons sal dus deur 'n eksterne evaluering ons verder laat evalueer om die impak van die implementering van marktoegang en ondersteuningsintervensies te bepaal. Landbou inspireer hoop deur groei en werksgeleenthede en reageer op die dringendheid van die nou.

[Good news for the Western Cape is that mealies, wine, table grapes, citrus, berries, nuts, apples, pears, sugar, avocado and even wool are among the top export products.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to Arisa that is

here in the House today. These export quality plums that were placed on our desks are donated by Arisa Pakhuis in Swellendam. A big thanks and appreciation to our friends of Arisa. This is export quality and the members here in the House today, each one of you had driven past the warehouse when you're moving out there in Swellendam in the Southern Cape, then you look to your right and you see the Arisa Pakhuis. Today they are represented by Arlene van Rensburg, Madelein van der Westhuizen and Natasha Greeff. Big thanks and appreciation. [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, eight of the ten most important export products in the Western Cape also have an agricultural basis. For every 5% increase in the agriculture industry, 22 000 new jobs are created, or put differently, if we grow 5% less, we lose 22 000 job opportunities, and I'm proud that the farmers, the agri-workers, the industry, successfully managed here to ensure that we can create 22 000 job opportunities with a 5% increase. More than 50% of South Africa's agriculture exports has its origin in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, my Department is continually looking at improving service delivery. We will therefore through an external evaluation be further evaluated to determine the impact of the implementation of market access and support interventions. Agriculture inspires hope through growth and job opportunities and reacts to the urgency of the now.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, Sustainable Resource Use Management, very important in the Western Cape. This Sustainable Resource Use Management



Programme provides agricultural support services to land users to ensure that sustainable development and management of natural resources happen here in the Western Cape, and therefore, please, and while we are doing so we are also creating hope for our youth, for example, out of the 1 204 jobs created during 2022/23, more than 50% were taken up by the youth.

The Department will then continue to support and strengthen the operations of the Lower Olifants River Water-use Association. Through this the Department can improve water surety in nine towns in Matzikama in the West Coast, serving a regional population of 73 000 people, 860 farms and providing irrigation water to agriculture spanning more than 12 000 hectare.

Hon Deputy Speaker, agriculture is inspiring hope through growth, jobs and by responding to the urgency of now.

Hon Deputy Speaker, agricultural producer support and development in the Western Cape will continue to be implementing the commodity approach as a strategy for farmers' support across the value chain. This partnership with commodity organisations represented here today in the House, supports and refers to land reform farmers. Key to this process is facilitating access to markets and mentorship, support provided to land reform farmers by commodity organisations.

Hon Deputy Speaker, successful land reform must happen for us to have sustainable agriculture and a sustainable future in South Africa, and that

must happen when people have access to natural resources, skills, mentoring, blended financing, technology, market; and so for me they must make money. This is what we do in the Western Cape.

Grain farmer again, Alfreda Mars, and I visited her; table grape farmer, Warren Bam, and citrus farmer Piet Smit, are also with us today. Can they please stand?

An HON MEMBER: They are not here.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: They are not here?

An HON MEMBER: They will be here.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I am grateful. Thank you for your support.

I am also pleased that our partnership with Grain SA and they have an exhibition downstairs, will also find expression in another edition of the Western Cape's most significant agriculture, so Nampo Cape. Last year, 32 640 guests visited Nampo Cape over four days to visit more than 500 exhibitors. This is phenomenal in the Overberg region represented by the Mayor Sakkie Franken here today.

I am looking forward to welcoming members of this House, both sides, also

Mr Shaun August, I am waiting to welcome you at Nampo Cape in September this year. It is something you must attend.

Thank you, hon member Pat Marran. I know you are always attending. I am looking forward to receive you again there.

By the way, the Mayor will receive you. Also the success stories underscores the Western Cape Government and the commodity organisation's commitment to fostering redress and equity and, hon Deputy Speaker, PALS through Lennox and Gerrit has fundamentally transformed land reform, not only in the Western Cape, but across South Africa. I want to salute them because they did not arrive with a single model. They built and constructed through experience, they built a framework, so depending on the commodity, depending on the situation, depending on your product, your history, your blended financing system, and your irrigation access and your experience, they built a framework to plug and play according to your needs. I salute PALS for active land reform. [Applause.] And for those who are wondering, PALS stands for Partnership in Agriculture Land Solutions and these are real solutions taking forward land reform in this country.

Hon Deputy Speaker, land reform success in the Western Cape is not just a matter of statistics. Sometimes I can put statistics here above it and I know the hon member laughed at the statistics that I quote, but it is more than statistics. It is about making a difference in the lives of people and that is what PALS is doing.

But hon Deputy Speaker, on the advice of my Head of the Department, Dr Sebopetsa, an outstanding HOD leading my Department, I was advised that we need again to do an external impact and design evaluation of our services and land reform from beneficiaries. So we are not immune from external evaluations. We are also not immune from critique. We are happy to do that, because when we get the external evaluation, and we do certain things that can be improved, we are going back to the drawing board because we are disciples of the learning organisation and we will fix it and we will encourage anything that you know that we can fix, but we fix it through science, through data and through evidence, not in political rhetoric, or macaroni without cheese. [Laughter.]

**Die ADJUNKHOOFSWEEP: Sê vir hulle!**

**The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Tell them!**

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, veterinary services, I think members of this House will know that there is a crisis in South Africa in veterinary services. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Veterinary Services Team continues to expand the radius footprint because the province is a densely populated area.

**Tannie Poppie, ons praat nou van die rabies van die diere en van die honde veral. Tannie Poppie, we are now speaking of the rabies of the animals and of the dogs especially.**

And therefore Vaccination Campaign will continue to ensure that the Western Cape stays rabies-free and its citizens are protected. The Campaign also promotes a heightened awareness of animal disease and the risk to citizens.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as announced, last year we have committed R23 million and I want to thank the Minister of Finance, the Premier and the Western Cape Cabinet, because we have now allocated R23 million to revamp and refurbish the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory. I can confirm that the work has already started, progressing well, and I want to thank the Minister of Infrastructure and the support of his Department, because we will inaugurate that new Vet Lab in November 2020. Thank you, Dr Jen, thank you Dr Ilse, your team is doing good work.

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Our Veterinary public health officials continue to render comprehensive audits of food producing outlets utilising the Hygiene Assessment Scheme as a tool. Doing so reduces food poisoning, increases food shelf life and improves public health.

Deputy Speaker, in line with my commitment to focus on bio-security and animal health I will now announce that I plan to have the first Western Cape Provincial Veterinary Services Week ever in this province during the month of September. There is lots of work. I want to thank my colleague and friend,

Mr Noko Masipa, member of the National Parliament, for driving the issue of bio-security. It is through the conversations that I had with you with Agri Western Cape, Agri SA that I have now decided we need a more dedicated, more specific focus, a week-long focus on Veterinary Services.

†Agbare Speaker, ek is ernstig en diep bekommerd oor die dreigende krisis wat veroorsaak word deur die Nasionale Regering se versuim om te voldoen aan die aanvraag na entstowwe vir vee. Die meeste entstowwe wat vir vee in Suid-Afrika teen siektes moet beskerm word by die Staatsbeheeronderneming Onderstepoort Biologiese Produkte geproduseer.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, die tekort aan entstowwe vir vee kan 'n negatiewe impak hê op vleis en die suiwel en voedselketting en die welstand van die betrokke diere. Dit kan, agbare Speaker, lei tot die toename en die verspreiding van siektes. Sekere bystand- en verligtingsprogramme sal boere en diere-eienaars verskeie wetlike vereistes noodgedwonge moet laat oortree as gevolg van die krisis.

[Hon Speaker, I'm seriously and deeply concerned about the threatening crisis that is caused by the National Government's neglect to adhere to the demand for vaccines for livestock. Most of the vaccines that have to protect livestock in South Africa are being produced at the state controlled enterprise Onderstepoort Biological Products.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the shortage of vaccines for livestock can have a negative impact on the meat and dairy industry and food chain and well being

of the specific animals. It can, hon Speaker, lead to the increase and the spreading of diseases. Certain support and relief programmes will necessarily cause farmers and animal owners to violate various legal requirements as a result of the crisis.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier said that this Government is data-led and evidence-based and so we are doing research and drive our research agenda.

Hon Deputy Speaker, more than 100 young delegates attended the first Climate Change and Agriculture Youth and Young Researchers Convention successfully hosted in 2022 in Elsenburg, and thank you, Dr Ilse, I watched the videos, I read the reports of that Convention. It was so successful that this event for the youth in climate change will now be repeated in this financial year.

Hon Speaker, 150 delegates from 18 countries attended the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops. South Africa showcased its experience in irrigation farming to international visitors and scientists. I am happy to announce today that preparations are now underway in my Department for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture to be held in June 2024 in Cape Town.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture Commissioned the development, and I think hon member Marran will appreciate it, that we have now developed the Western Cape Cannabis

Framework and the implementation plan also known as CanPlan for the agricultural sector. I am happy to announce that this plan, hon Deputy Speaker, has been finalised and this plan I will release tomorrow on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

I want to thank Dr Ilse who led that process of developing the CanPlan. The plan identifies initiatives for the development in other provincial departments for supportive approach and linking it to the National Cannabis Master Plan.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Government also believes in partnerships and collaboration and so the agreement between the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, has led to various interactions and I want to thank my colleagues, Dr Dirk Troskie and Asiya Petersen for the work that they have been doing and Dr Ilse Trautman and the Climate Change Team and Dr Sebopetsa leading the discussions. What I have proposed to the Minister of Agriculture in Sacramento in California is to bring together a Mediterranean Agriculture Working Group on Climate Change which can open up new research and opportunities. I think members of this House will know that California and the Western Cape are both Mediterranean regions and there are only five Mediterranean regions in the world and therefore we represent 40% of the world's Mediterranean agricultural regions combined with California and so we are looking forward through the whole-of-society and the whole-of-government approach to work together with the University of Stellenbosch with the School of Climate Studies and we will partner with the



Department of Local Government, my sister department, as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me now turn to Agricultural Economics. The Western Cape worked tirelessly to strengthen land reform, domestic market access for our producers. One example is La Gratia based in the Garden Route District Municipality which attained the SA-Gap Certificate in the year June 2022. Apart from that, confirming that the Agri-business La Gratia produces safe food, the certification has led to the buyer issuing a letter of intent to purchase gooseberries valued at R712 000.

Agri-businesses Free Heim Eggs Cooperative Limited, has benefited from the Department's financial record-keeping programme. When joining the programme this Heim Eggs Cooperative Limited had no financial resources and no financial statements and no records. As a result of our training course they are now complying with statutory requirements such as UIF, Pay-as-you-earn, Value-Added Tax.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is significant if you believe in internal resource mobilisation as a financial instrument. Today Heim Eggs Cooperative Limited has a sound financial record-keeping system and complies with UIF, Pay-as-you-earn and Value-Added tax. The director Dorothy Joseph is thrilled because she indicated that the business can now make sound financial decisions and has managed to access funding using the financial statements she received through this programme.

Hon Deputy Speaker, market access is critical for us and we are now also on the export platform for countries like China, Angola, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya. Those were developments in 2022, but we are now looking forward because we have already established delegations of 18 companies to Accra in Ghana in West Africa but the highlight of this initiative, Deputy Speaker, is Ubuntu Extra Virgin Olive Oil, which managed to secure a deal worth of R27 million facilitated by my colleagues in the Department of Agriculture. Ubuntu Extra Virgin Olive Oil has benefited from the Department's Product Development Compliance Marketing Support Services and the Agri Hub at Elsenburg.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Agri-processing on Wheels was launched last year in February 2022, as a result approximately 238 existing and expiring agri-processes have been capacitated through that process. The words of one of these people that benefited said: "With the agri-processing skills that I have acquired during the capacity building sessions at Elsenburg, I now know that I can move into developing new products using different processes that can take my garden to a fully developed business."

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me now turn to Agricultural Education and Training. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am pleased here because today we have updated the document, members have received it right in front of them, the updated version of the Department's Looking Into the Future of 30 careers in Agriculture, and this was today handed over to me by the HOD Dr Mogale

Sebopetsa and I have now also asked my Department to also make it available in the House and I am so thankful that hon member and my friend is reading through a very important book. There is a career opportunity, if your politics is a short career, Mr August, if you no longer want to be in politics, and you get tired, that booklet will give you and me a post-political career access opportunity to study agriculture, because we need another job after this and agriculture can benefit from us as farmers. [Interjections.]

I had the technical, conceptual, analytical, historical, practical, normative experience in this House. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: 'n Boer kan net boer.

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: A farmer can only farm.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agbare Adjunkspeaker, kan ek daardie vraag skriftelik beantwoord?

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, can I reply to that question in writing?]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Asseblief.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please.]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Want daar is baie detail.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Because there is a lot of detail.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ja, that is fine.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agbare Adjunkspeaker, Elsenburg Landbou Opleidingsinstituut gaan voort om landbou-opleiding en ontwikkeling vir die jeug te verskaf deur die fasilitering van formele en nie-formele opleidingsprogramme. Ek is baie trots op wat daar gebeur by die opleidingskollege en ons is ook nou baie opgewonde dat Sibabalwe Xamlashe, 'n B.Agric-student by Elsenburg, ook nou 'n kontrak onderteken het met Toyota, met die Vrystaat Cheetahs onderteken het, om ook 'n professionele rugbyloopbaan te begin, 'n student van Elsenburg.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE Hon Deputy Speaker, Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute continues to provide agricultural training and development to the youth by facilitating formal and informal training programmes. I'm very proud of what is happening there at the training college and we are now also very excited that Sibabalwe Xamlashe, a B.Agric-student at Elsenburg, now also signed a contract with Toyota, with the Free State Cheetahs, to also start a professional rugby career, a student from Elsenburg.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Hoor, hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: As gevolg van ons internasionale interaksie het ons ook vier studente vanaf 27 Junie verlede jaar tot 8 Julie verlede jaar, aan 'n internasionale studietoer na Nederland laat deelneem as deel van die ooreenkoms met die Universiteit van Stellenbosch en die Nederlandse Universiteitstigting vir Internasionale Samewerking, ook bekend as NUSI, wat in tuinbou spesialiseer. Die Voorsitter, Stefanus, en ondervoorsitter van die SR, Emma Claassen, sluit ook vandag by ons aan.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: As a result of our international interaction we had four students participating in an international study tour to the Netherlands from 27 June last year to 8 July last year as part of the agreement with the University of Stellenbosch and the *Nederlandse Universiteitstigting vir Internasionale Samewerking* (Netherlands University Foundation for International Cooperation), also known as NUSI, specialising in gardening. The Chairman, Stefanus and vice-chairman of the SRC, Emma Claassen, are also joining us today.]

Elsenburg plays a very significant role also in the education in the wine industry. Therefore, I am glad to confirm that the rehabilitation of the Elsenburg vineyard is continuing and new seller equipment is being procured for student training.

†*Agbare Adjunkspeaker*, [hon Deputy Speaker], I now welcome Mr Nigel Klaasen to please stand because he is the Western Cape Agri Worker of 2022.  
[Applause.]

Thank you, Mr Nigel Klaasen, and thank you Councillor Rita Andreas because the best Agricultural Worker of this province has recently returned from the Netherlands and he returned from Germany and during the media interview on his return from the Netherlands and Germany, Nigel said that the experience made him realise how competitive our global fresh-produce value chain is and I quote, he said:

"I also learnt the significance of improving market share by staying relevant with the latest trends and technology."

As a result, hon Deputy Speaker, Nigel Klaasen was inducted by the Deputy Director General, Mr Darryl Jacobs, into the Western Cape Agri Prestige Workers Forum in December 2022, and he is now a full member, and I want to thank the Premier because he was inducted into the Western Cape Prestige Agri Worker Forum at the official residence of the Premier. We salute Mr Nigel Klaasen. [Applause.]

Deputy Speaker, our agri-workers are highly skilled. This was confirmed during my recent visit to Haygrove Heaven in the Overstrand in the Overberg region. Hydro-farmers grow berries worldwide with farms in the United Kingdom and South Africa. The main crops grown are strawberries and raspberries. I was forever blown away by the skill displayed by the pickers who just returned also from spending time in the United Kingdom, outperforming all foreign peers in the industry. Haygrove is today represented by the managing director, Sean Tager, and Head of Finance,

Anton Munich.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the image of the agricultural sector and the wellbeing and dignity of agri-workers are close to my heart. It is for this reason that I developed the hashtag #For the Love of Agriculture. It is now a global hashtag. I even put that hashtag on a French cold-storage truck. I want that also all over Europe and any Minister now that will travel anywhere around the world will get the hashtag sticker. They can also put it on the plane wherever they go because wherever they go, Mr Anton, I want people to love agriculture the way you love it, the way Alfreda Marsh loves it, the way Paul love it there from Goederust, we must love agriculture.

We are in the business of loving agriculture and so we are supporting the commodity organisations and the agri-workers throughout.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I conclude. Hon Deputy Speaker, therefore I make the key announcements of my Budget 2023/24, R60,844 million to ensure operational support to the Department, including human capital, and R5 million is earmarked for upgrading the security services. R134,757 million to promote the sustainable use of Management of National Resources, R38 million is earmarked for Ecological Infrastructure and R18,5 million for River Protection. We have seen what has happened now in the last week with the rivers and floods; R222,192 million towards producer support. We have an earmarked allocation including transport of R113 million, the Ilima / Letsema of almost close to R60 million,

R59,9 million; R27 million, hon Deputy Speaker, to Casidra to support the Department with the Project and the State Farm Management, R64,15 million to provide for Animal Health, for me very important, very significant, this year, to prevent and control diseases; a further R2,5 million goes towards the upgrade of the Veterinary Laboratory, R103 million goes to improved agricultural production through Research, Technology and Development; R42 million is set aside for Research Infrastructure and our research farms.

We have seven research farms well managed and I want to thank the manager and the leaders of that programme, both previously under Dr Ilse and today under Dr Chris, and I want to thank them for the work. R57,9 million towards education and training in Agriculture Skills Development; R10 million to enhance the image and socio-economic conditions of agri-workers and their families here in the province; but also R7,6 million, hon Deputy Speaker, is allocated also to promote and grow the agri-processing initiative and the value chain.

Hon Speaker, Premier Alan Winde and I also recently attended the inaugural Made in the Cape Expo. The Expo aims to ramp up support for Western Cape exporters with 30 buyers from around the globe gathering in Cape Town in the first three days of March to meet more than 300 exporters. What struck me, hon Deputy Speaker, is that we can do much more in an individual capacity to promote Made in the Cape products. I for example use every opportunity to promote the ostrich industry made in the Cape. Not only does ostrich meat offer healthy benefits, hon member, pardon me. [Interjection.]



The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: No-no-no, no, you make a big mistake.

[Interjection.]

No, no-no, that – I will bring them to you. You will be blown away by the product and the meat. I want to invite you for lunch, ostrich meat, you will never eat any other meat... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I will never eat...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order please!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: And also it is very important that you understand Cape *Bobotie* and ostrich meat were also recently served in the past weekend during a lunch hosted for the King and the Queen of Belgium. They ate ostrich meat. They ate Cape *bobotie* and I am inviting you to join me for lunch. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, Agriculture is ready to inspire hope through growth and jobs responding to the urgency of the now and it therefore gives me great pleasure to table the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Budget of R960,165 million for discussion in this House. I thank you. [Applause.]

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

**KAREN 1**

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] No, he can ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: ... keep my time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may go.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, before going into, hon Deputy Speaker, into my speech.

The Premier in his Budget Vote spoke about water and water security, and the question that begs is water security for who?

This morning in a council meeting in Witzenberg the DA coalition put forward a policy that would limit specific communities to only 6 kilolitres of water per month. Now we know that National Government got a water programme that speaks to the 6 kilolitres.

So they limit a specific community, which is black, coloured and Indian, to only 200 litres of water per day and 6 kilolitres per month, and that specific meter that they will install, if you have reached your 6 kilolitres of waters for that month, you either buy and if you do not have money you must wait for the next month. [Interjections.] 6 kilolitres is free water. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It must be free?

Mr P MARRAN: Yes, it is free water.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

Hon member Marran, speak to me. [Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: So [Interjections.] ... you ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr P MARRAN: So, MEC, you also spoke about water, and you do not compliment National Government for the investment that they have done in this province. [Interjections.] National Government, they have committed themselves to spend R3,5 billion [Interjections.], to spend R3,5 billion when it comes to water infrastructure over the next five years.

Hon Premier, your Department, when we entered this Sixth Parliament, you stood there and you said that you are not going to wait for National Government. You will spend the Province's money when it comes to the Western Cape. It does not matter whether it is a national competency.

In that specific year you budgeted R20 million for the Brandvlei Dam.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Correct!

Mr P MARRAN: When you found out that the people that will benefit, that will mostly be black, you withdrew the R20 million. [Interjections.] You can answer whether you withdrew the R20 million or not. You have withdrawn that R20 million.

An HON MEMBER: Why [Inaudible.]

Mr P MARRAN: Two months back [Interjections.] ... two months back, two months back, National Government completed that particular project, they have spent R21 million on that project, and you know what? It will unlock 5 000 hectares of agricultural land, it will create between 5 000 and 10 000 job opportunities and it will benefit [Interjections.], and it will benefit 70% black businesses. Money that you are not willing to spend at a certain point in time. [Interjections.]

†'n AGB LID: Skande, agb Premier, skande!

[An HON MEMBER: Disgrace, Premier, disgrace!]

†'n AGB LID: Skande, agb Premier, skande!

[An HON MEMBER: Disgrace, Premier, disgrace!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr P MARRAN: That is the reality. That is the reality.

An HON MEMBER: That is why the people [Inaudible.]

Mr P MARRAN: You can deny or admit whether you have withdrawn the R20 million that was budgeted for that particular project. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, only a few days have passed ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr P MARRAN: ... since the farmworker strike in Paarl. Now, MEC, I have heard you speak about the agri prestigious event and the winner of that [Inaudible.], but I have not heard you speak about the well-being of farmworkers in particular. I have not heard, not once in your speech, you speak about housing issues, speak about labour issues. I have heard you have said you have met with many farmworker organisations over the last couple of days ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr P MARRAN: ... but you have not met with one farmworker organisation, not one.

†'n AGB LID: Sies! Skande!

[An HON MEMBER: Siss! Disgrace!]

†'n AGB LID: Sies! Sies!

[An HON MEMBER: Siss! Siss!]

Mr P MARRAN: So when you stood there and spoke, we could clearly see in you a farmer, but not a farmworker. [Interjections.] If you manage to drive a tractor, you do not speak for farmworkers, that is clear.

An HON MEMBER: That is why [Inaudible.]

Mr P MARRAN: Time and time again I have stood fighting for these very same people in this House. Agriculture and farmworker-related issues seem to be the middle child of this Provincial Government, where they are overlooked and left to fend for himself.

In December I stood here in a very similar setting, raising the issue of farmworkers being neglected and how it needs to be addressed, and I will reiterate, farmers as well as farmworkers are the responsibility of this Agriculture Department.

These workers have to take to the streets for what is their legal right that they are being deprived of. In the Committee meeting the ANC specifically asked about the minimum wage increment in relation to farmworkers, whether

the Department supports it or not, and the MEC said a whole bunch of nothing in his response. [Interjections.]

This comes as no surprise is the Democratic Alliance's Michael Cardo and Jan de Villiers, both of them are in National Parliament, and they are spokespersons for employment and labour, the other one for small businesses, publicly opposed the 9,7% increment of the minimum wage. They are suggesting a 7,9% that will be a reasonable increase.

It is very palpable that even though workers play a vital role in the agricultural sector, the DA-led Government does not see these workers as of importance. Inequality is inconsequential to this Provincial Government and litigation measures taken to ease those are harshly affected by inflation and high cost of living, and are not taken as a significant factor.

According to a study that was recently conducted on 50 women who work at 18 Fairtrade certificated farms, by Celeste Fortuin. 25% of these surveyed farms have poor or very poor housing for farmworkers. 31% of farmworkers earn less than the national minimum wage of R25.42 per hour, and it does not come as a surprise when a national leader of the DA in the manifesto proposed a minimum wage which is equal to the old age pension grant, with is R1 800. What a shame.

55% of women surveyed are exposed to pesticides in vineyards, frequently or at home, which is not in line with international best practices.

35% of women workers surveyed do not have access to toilet facilities in the vineyards where they work all day long. These are the gruesome conditions that our farmworkers have to endure every working day of their employed lives. A reality that no one should ever experience.

We need the Department to take firm action. Hon Speaker, these matters need to be addressed and this budget does the exact opposite to that. We are faced with a Provincial Government that does the bare minimum and expresses praise for the little they do for the citizens of this province.

The DA-led Government has failed the farmworkers time and time again, and continues to fail them to date. The aim of the minimum wage increment of farmworkers and domestic workers by the National Government, was to protect low earning workers of this country, while also providing a platform for inequality reduction.

The protest by the DEA should speak volumes about this Government. Which leads me to the oblivion and lack of support for black farmers in this province.

The budget once again fails to address the issue of black farmers of the Western Cape. In 2021 agricultural exports had a total of R1.8 billion and when probed about the black farmers' contribution of this astronomical figure, the MEC, Dr Ivan Meyer, and his Department could not provide us



with any relevant detail.

They tell us they do not know how much black farmers contribute to this figure. They do not have the figures. They are not interested in this figures, and they [Inaudible.] with it. This suggests that the Department does not have any database on, nor support African and Coloured farmers who benefit the agricultural economy of this Western Cape, as they are unaware of the number of black farmers that exist in the province. Unaware.

The hon Premier at one stage quoted here figures of land reform in this province, and I have asked the question in the Committee meeting: where does the Premier get his figures from if the Department does not have any information about how many black farmers are in this province? Thumbsuck. [Interjections.]

In the Department's Annual Performance Plan the MEC, on his Executive authority statement, states that the Department has established an excellent track record of working successfully with the various stakeholders of the agricultural sector. We just established partnership with commercial agriculture. Which brings one to assume that with the Department not having any information on black farmers in the province, black farmers are not included in these established partnerships.

This Vote's budget suggests the DA-led Government is supporters of economic exclusion of black people in the continued suffering of exploitation

of farmworkers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC is concerned that Government funds are not invested correctly towards pressing issues in the agricultural sector. The Department spends more money in outsourcing employment rather than filling up vacant posts in the Department.

The budget for outsourcing has increased from 93% - has increased by 90,3%, yet the agricultural skills development has decreased. If a department outsources services, that means they lack the required skill. Why then not capacitate the employees with the relevant skills?

The reduction of Agricultural Skills Development Budget is a clear indication of the unwillingness of the filling of these posts, something we as the ANC have been concerned about for quite a number of years now. I believe that even the hon Van der Westhuizen could agree with us, as he also questioned the reduction of the Educational Training Budget in an unequal society that has the potential to play a huge role in helping people uplift themselves.

This reduction is an interruption in the upskilling of employees to meet the potential where it could play a role in eradicating poverty and inequality.

Like the late Tata Madiba once said, and I quote:

"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is

through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of a mine, that the child of a farmworker can become the President of a great nation. It is with that what we have made out of what we have, not that we are given, that separates one person from another."

This should be the vision and end goal of this country, to develop and to be developed, and therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC declines to support this Budget Vote. I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

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

I now recognise the hon member Cassiem, who is online. [Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Ms A CASSIEM: Despite the odd changes here and there with the empowering of small groups of black people in the sector, it is a reality that after 15 years agriculture in the Western Cape still remains the same and has not changed as the ownership patterns of the agricultural sector remain,

making it no different to what it was [Inaudible.] to our democracy.

The agriculture sector is labour intensive and it can absorb much of our unemployed, who include youth and women. However, agriculture is still monopolised by white people and the working conditions of our farmworkers remain a serious concern as they are still seen as cheap and disposable labour.

I was hoping the Minister would speak more to the issues of the actual farmworkers and inviting them to the House today, instead of praising farm and business owners, because it is a great concern that these poor farmworkers who put food on our tables and who enrich our pockets with their blood and sweat, are still troubled with poverty when they go home. A majority of them have little benefits and protection despite working for years on these farms.

It is also concerning that the dop system, where workers get paid with alcohol, is still firmly in place in many rural areas. This alone shows us the disrespect and poor treatment that our poor African and Coloured farmworkers, who are also trying to put food on their tables, are getting.

When you speak about facilitating farmworker development through partnership and funding via different projects in farmworker communities, be specific and tell us which communities are you referring to? Where and how are you doing it? As many of our farmworkers for many years continue to

suffer, working long hours with small amounts of money, with no benefits, no protection and empowerment.

When will this Government start taking these poor farmworkers seriously and protect them too from abuse in the sector? Tell us how many of these farmworkers and their children, since governing, has this DA successfully taken back to school so that they too can benefit from the agriculture bursaries available to study, in order to later establish their own businesses or to even manage farms, in a bid to prevent generational entrapment as unskilled and cheap labourers?

Tell us, people with a beautiful story like *Tannie Poppie*, who is sitting in the gallery today, after today how will you assist her and how will you assist the family to grow in their small business? What have you to offer her to empower her and to grow her business before sending her back on today?

Furthermore, the CASP system in its current form is also failing to address the inequalities of the past. All it did was to enrich land thieves whereas the true owners of this land are once again still seen as cheap and disposable labourers, and yet nothing is being done to address the continued injustice towards people of this land.

So let us ask ourselves, does this CASP system really benefit our farmworkers and black people in general, if many are still excluded and struggling?

We do not only want transformation, we want justice as well, and when you speak about transformation tell us once again how many black farmers did you help establish over and above ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM: The EFF rejects this budget, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

I now recognise the hon Shaun August.

Mr S AUGUST: Hon Deputy, thank you very much.

Hon Minister, I have put my speech down. I would like to speak directly to you through the Speaker. I would have loved you to speak about black empowerment and I am not going to repeat what the previous speakers have said.

I would like you to look at #SaveOurFarmChildren. I would like you to, like you said, you want to fix the problems. You have been giving us outputs, what you have been exporting, what you have been exporting to the other countries. I would like to hear, through you and the Chairperson, that on this year coming we are going to hold you accountable. I would like you to look

at hotspots, I would like you to look at where the alcohol syndrome children are born, how the school, the farm schools are benefiting from your Department, I would like to hear from you how this child does not see a *trekkerdrywer* tractor driver as my future, but to see something else in the Agriculture Department. I want you to bring that to the table.

I want you to talk about the hotspots where the Education Department and Social Development and Sport play a role in that specific farm areas, so that we can ensure that we do not have our children falling into drugs, falling into alcohol, etcetera.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I would like our Minister to focus on those kinds of things and we will bring that to the dashboards, we will bring that to the talk shops, we will bring that to the engagements on the portfolio, because in Oudtshoorn, hon Deputy Speaker, we did not, when we asked the questions about the ostrich farming, when we asked about the black children emerging into these programmes, we could not get proper answers.

So that is the reality. I do not want to politic around it, I support your budget, but we need to keep ourselves accountable. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you very much, hon member August.

I now recognise the Democratic Alliance, hon member Van der Westhuizen.

[Interjections.]

Mr A VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I also would like to acknowledge our distinguished guests that we have here today.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Van der Westhuizen, my apologies. I have overlooked hon member Marais online. Could you please take your seat. [Interjections.] Apologies. [Interjections.]

Hon member Marais – hon members, give me a second. [Interjections.] Hon members, can I please preside? Can I just check that the hon member Marais is online. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No! [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: I am virtually online. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: That is the case. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just – hon member Marais [Interjections.] – hon member Marais, [Interjections.] if you just hold on one minute, please. [Interjections.]



To the African National Congress, we have, the Speaker has delivered his ruling on this matter. We cannot do any double jeopardy or continue the matter in - this [Interjections.] has really nothing to do with the Vote.

An HON MEMBER: He did not apologise.

An HON MEMBER: Recognise the ruling. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point is that we cannot take this into the Vote, this is completely different.

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So I have to allow the hon member Marais his rights as a member of this Parliament. [Interjections.]

Hon member Marais, you may proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Minister Meyer, who I have known for quite some time, his father too, is certainly ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: ... energetic and competent, hardworking ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, just one minute.  
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, please can you make a decision here, it cannot be that you can drown out. [Interjections.] This is really not good. [Interjections.] We have got a number of guests here, hon member Sayed. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Deputy Chief Whip, please can you rule on this matter with your party? [Interjections.] Can you rise, please, hon member Sayed. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Chair, why am I being asked?

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: There is a Chief Whip as well.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, both [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I mean why I am being asked  
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because the Chief Whip is not doing anything.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Why am being singled out to rise?  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may, you can. Yes, I am asking to decide on  
this because it is no use drowning out ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Ja, but why [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... we have an entire Sitting. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... why would you want us to stand up? Why would  
you want to address us about this?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am saying are we going to, we cannot be allowing

your party to drown down a speaker. [Interjections.] Either you make a decision as the Chief Whip, you control your own party.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I hear you?

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

I think you are exerting your power over than it is necessary. I do not see any reason why you would fail to address members who are heckling and you demand that the two of us must be addressed by you instead of you exacting the Rules. You are the Speaker, I am not the Speaker of this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Why are you failing to do your duties?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are the Chief Whip of the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: No, but you are failing to do your duties.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All I am saying to you is that we are going to have to let the hon member Marais speak, and it would be very unfair [Interjections.] – well, then hon members, I am terribly sorry, but I am

exercising his right as a member to speak. [Interjections.]

Hon member Baartman, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you, Chair.

I am rising on two points of orders, both on 66(5), dealing with the fact that we may not challenge a ruling in the House. [Interjections.] To my knowledge, we cannot challenge hon Speaker Daylin Mitchell's ruling ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... in the House, and second of all, in terms of Rule 45. Yesterday when the respective member refused to abide by the respective ruling, hon Speaker Mitchell ordered that the respective person leaves the House and the hon member must withdraw and they did withdraw from the House respectively, and therefore I am asking that we not go back to challenging the Speaker's ruling previously on this matter in the House, but that it gets referred in terms of Rule 66(5) accordingly. Thank you. [Interjections.]

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

Hon member Lekker, do you have a point of order?

†'n AGB LID: Dis 'n skande, man!

[An HON MEMBER: It's a disgrace, man!]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker, I cannot hear because your members are shouting above you. So maybe it is time to control your party. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Deputy Speaker, I think what is important today is for members of this House not to exploit the Rules that we have at hand. As far as I can hear I do not see any members of the ANC challenging a ruling that was made yesterday.

So I think you really need to attend to the issue of heckling instead of the ANC challenging the ruling that was made. So the Deputy Chief Whip at this point is misusing the Rules Book. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, hon Deputy Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Chair, I rise in terms of Section 2 of the Powers and Privileges Act that governs on this Provincial Parliament. [Interjections.]

If we are asking a member not to debate tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, hon member Philander might be asked not to debate, hon member Maseko might be asked not to debate, so we need to follow the Rules of this House and if there is a challenge on the rulings of hon Speaker Mitchell, then that must follow the Rules of the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The hon Speaker has indicated that the utterances of the Freedom Front member was unacceptable. [Interjections.] A ruling has been made on this matter and if we wish to challenge the Speaker in this manner, than the correct platform must be followed. [Interjections.]

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

Before everyone continues, hon member Kama, I have seen your hand and [Interjections.] – hon members, can I get hon member Kama to raise his point of order? [Interjections.]

Hon member Marran, hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.] Hon member Nkondlo, hon member Nkondlo, can we just allow hon member Kama to raise his point of order.

Hon member Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, definitely there is no one who is challenging the Rules, or the ruling of the hon Speaker. I do not know where is the Deputy Chief Whip of the DA coming from, but here yesterday, hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Speaker made a ruling which we, I think our Deputy Chief Whip immediately even said that we support the ruling of the hon Speaker.

What then transpired is that when the hon Speaker was giving the ruling, the hon member became unruly and continued with the utterances that he was making ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr M KAMA: ... in that even breaking many Rules.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think you would have to listen to the point that I am making, as you have listened to what the Deputy Chief Whip of the DA was saying, because I am still making a point on the point of order that I am making, because the member even crossed the line.

He was walking as he pleases in the House, moving from one side of the House to the other, not listening to anyone, continuing to offend us and calling us foreigners in this House, and you are expecting us now to just sit



here. He does as he pleases. As the hon Speaker gives the ruling, he walks out of the House and when he comes back we must ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr M KAMA: ... sit here and listen to him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... you have to finish off [Inaudible.]

Mr M KAMA: The Rules must [Inaudible.] us. This is a democratic institution that must ensure that it protects the values of our Constitution at the very same time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr M KAMA: So I think there must be a ruling that you are making in that regard so that we do not have racists that sit with us here in this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, so this is my ruling. First of all in terms of 66.4, we do not raise points of order on points of order.

Secondly, if you are aggrieved with my decision, which is I am going to allow hon member Marais to speak, it is his right as a member in this House until, until [Interjections.] as such as it changes.

At the moment he is a fully-fledged member of this House, he receives his salary from this House, so I am going to – hon members, I am going to rule on this and if any aggrieved member in terms of 66(5) [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Is it because you agree with what he was saying?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... may challenge the ruling, can write to the hon Speaker or leave the House. [Interjections.]

We will now proceed to hon member Marais. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the ruling is done. It is done, we are moving on. [Interjections.] Otherwise I am going to have to ask, hon member Nkondlo, that you leave the House, please. [Interjections.]

Well, you have no choice.

Mr M KAMA: It is not possible that people who are [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, you may proceed.

Mr M KAMA: ... [Inaudible.] here in the House must be the ones that are leaving. [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 66.5, hon member Nkondlo. The ruling is done. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

An HON MEMBER: No! [Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: ... Minister Meyer ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... do not let me have to name you. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: You can call me out, I am not going to listen to hon member Marais who called me a foreigner.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then you must leave the House, that is your right.

That is your right. [Interjections.]

Hon member Bans, I am not entertaining any further points of order. [Interjections.] Sorry, the ruling is done. The ruling is done.

Hon member Marais has a right to speak and he will be given this right to speak today in this House, in front of our guests, in front of Minister Meyer's guests, and we will allow him as a fully-fledged member, in a democratic society and South Africa, under the constitutional rights of his Bill of Rights and the Rules of this House.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] special rights if they do not take into protection your rights? [Interjections.] What are those rights that you are talking about here?

Ms A P BANS: Hon Deputy Speaker, my hand has been up. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said I am no entertaining this point of order.

Ms A P BANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unless you have something completely new.

Ms A P BANS: ... but you can entertain hon member Marais?

An HON MEMBER: The moment someone from that [Inaudible.]

Ms A P BANS: Stand up immediately. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have ruled on the – I have made a ruling. There is no further points of order.

Ms A P BANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it is. According to what point?

Ms A P BANS: Hon Deputy Speaker, you are inconsistent. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, please leave the House.  
[Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have now named you, please, leave the House.

Ms A P BANS: No, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is really unacceptable now. [Interjections.] Ja.

Hon members, I am asking again, you are in front and being witnessed by a

lot of people here today.

Ms A P BANS: [Inaudible.] racist [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was not in the House at the time, and that ruling has nothing to do with this moment.

Ms A P BANS: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Marais does not comply to the Rules made by the hon Speaker. He leaves the House, he gets privilege of speaking. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot ...[Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: While we are here inside the House, we are now acknowledged. How ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: ... what type of consistency is there?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bans, let us think about this. The hon Speaker is not in the Chair at the moment.

Ms A P BANS: Yes, but this is unfair. Hon member Marais is benefitting more than us that are here inside the House. [Interjections.]

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

Ms A P BANS: Inconsistency!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... is still a fully-fledged member of the House ...[Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: I am not speaking to you yet, I will speak to you. I will talk to you when the time comes. I am speaking to the hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we will have to adjourn.

Ms A P BANS: You are not, you are not in a committee here, *wena*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am going to suspend for a few minutes, thank you very much. The House is suspended.

*[The House is suspended \*\*\*]*

*[The House resumes at \*\*\*]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... with me asking you to leave the House in terms of Rule 46(1). I did ask you earlier, are you going to comply? [Interjections.]

Alright, hon member, can you stand up please? I asked you to leave the House.

Mr M KAMA: On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you going to comply?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Why should I leave the House? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I asked you to leave the House. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Why should I leave the House?

Mr M KAMA: Why?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There was a reason why I said to you you should leave the House.

Ms N D NKONDLO: You must put the reason on record. Why should I leave the House?

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: I am asking, I have been here ...[Interjections.]



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I named you a few times and you refused.

[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Why should I leave the House?

Mr M KAMA: On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker, a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I named you a few times and you refused.

So I am going to say you are not going to comply ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Why? On a point of order.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Why should I leave the House?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, in terms of Rule 46(1), if the Presiding Officer – and I will read it:

"If the Presiding Officer is of the opinion ..." ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER:

"... that a member's conduct ..." ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER:

"... is of a serious nature, then an order to withdraw from the sitting, either from the Chamber ..." ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER:

"... or electronic platform, for the remainder of the day's Sitting ..." ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: On a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER:

"... is adequate, the Presiding Officer may name ..." ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER:

"... that person."

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, I named you.

Mr M KAMA: On a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I named you.

Ms N D NKONDLO: I am ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: You are abusing the Rules. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am asking ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: You are abusing the Rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... you a [Inaudible.] why am removed from the House? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please take your seat, the Chief Whip is ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: You are abusing the Rules. How can someone ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip.

Mr M KAMA: ... who react to being called a foreigner must leave the House, and the one who calls people a foreigner must remain because he has rights? What is that?

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

Mr M KAMA: What is that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... hon member Kama [Interjections.] ...

Mr M KAMA: What is that, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. In terms of ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: ... that the person who is called a foreigner...

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... [Inaudible.] one ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: ... must leave the House?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... to move Rule [Inaudible.]

Mr M KAMA: And the one who calls foreigners must stay in the House?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... that hon member Nkondlo [Inaudible.]  
suspended from the service of the House, hon Deputy Speaker, I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr M KAMA: On a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the move?

Mr M KAMA: Point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections?

Mr M KAMA: On a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Agreed to. Hon members, in terms  
...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker, you are not going to explain to me  
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... of Rule 46(2) ...[Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: ... why you are removing me from the House?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... the member has been named. [Interjections.]  
Hon member Nkondlo, if the Sergeant-at-Arms could please escort  
...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: You are even applying the Rules wrong.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... hon member Nkondlo out of the House.

Mr M KAMA: You are applying [Inaudible.] Rules.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, hon Deputy  
Speaker!

Mr M KAMA: Point of order.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] no, it is not going to happen. Hon Deputy  
Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, you are asking for this, but you are looking on  
the one side, you do not look at us.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, what did the member do?  
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Deputy Speaker, you are asking for an objection,  
you are looking at the one side ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Point of order!

An HON MEMBER: ... you say no objection, but you are not recognising us.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, what did the member do?

You are not ...

An HON MEMBER: No, you are not consistent, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: No, *man*, you are not consistent at all.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are protecting racists. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are going to live with that. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] that is what we are doing now.

An HON MEMBER: Inconsistent, defending racism.

Mr M KAMA: You must remain, you must remain with the racist Peter Marais here, you must remain with him, you agree with him.

†'n AGB LID: Hou julle vrugte vir julleself. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Keep your fruit to yourselves.] [Interjection.]

†An HON MEMBER: Very inconsistent. He sits there, bye-bye. Ek wonder wie is *next*. [Tussenwerpsels.] [I wonder who is next.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Hon members, I would like to now call on hon member Marais to be able to address, or to be able to put his speech forward in front of the House in terms of Vote 11.

Hon members Marais, the floor is over to you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Minister Meyer, who I have known for quite some time, I even knew his dad, also Minister of Agriculture, he is certainly very energetic, he is hardworking, he is competent in administering his portfolio, which is a very difficult one.

I cannot criticise it, I cannot ask him unnecessary questions and I will not delay this matter any further. The only thing I would like to say in Afrikaans:

†Minister, die suksesvolle verkoop en die bemerking van kwaliteitprodukte geproduseer deur bruin opkomende boere, moet asseblief meer aandag kry en



ek sal graag sien dat hulle produkte bemark word, suksesvol bemark word deur hulle in te voeg met die bemarking van die produkte van kommersiële boere, gevestigde boere in die kommersiële sektor. Dit is al.

Vir die res is daar nie enige kritiek nie, behalwe dat ek is bly die waterprobleem word aangespreek en dat ons moet ook seker maak dat die kwaliteit van wat hulle produseer van 'n gehalte is wat kompetend is.

Dit is al wat ek wil sê en ek wil net sê veels geluk aan die Minister en ek het niks verder om te sê nie, dankie.

[Minister, the succesful sale and the marketing of quality products produced by brown emerging farmers, must please receive more attention and I would like to see that their products are marketed, successfully marketed by including them in the marketing of the products of the commercial farmers, established farmers in the commercial sector. That's all.

For the rest, there is not any criticism, except that I'm pleased that the water problem is being addressed and that we must make sure that the quality of what they are producing is of a quality that is competitive.

That is all I want to say and I just want to say congratulations to the Minister and I have nothing further to say, thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, die agb lid Marais.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais.] Thank you very

much.

I now call on the Democratic Alliance, the hon Van der Westhuizen, over to you.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek wil my stem by dié van die Minister voeg deur 'n hartlike woord van verwelkoming te rig aan almal wat gekom het om vandag hierdie debat by te woon, maar ongelukkig, agb Adjunkspeaker, moet ek ook, en ek dink ek praat namens al my partygenote aan hierdie kant, 'n opregte jammerte uitspreek, of skaamte, vir dit wat u vandag hier moes ervaar.

Ek kan net dink hoe u moet voel dat u belastinggeld gaan vir 'n vertoning soos wat ons vandag hier gesien het, en namens hulle wat ek dink nie beter weet nie, wil ek tog my opregte verskoning aanbied. Vergewe hulle, ek glo van harte dat hulle tot ander insigte sal kom.

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to add my voice to the Minister's by saying a hearty welcome to all who came here today to attend this debate, but unfortunately, hon Deputy Speaker, I also have to, and I think I speak on behalf of all my party colleagues on this side, express a sincere regret, or shame, for this that you had to experience here today.

I can just think how you must feel that your taxes go into a performance like we have seen here today, and on behalf of those who I think do not know any

better, I want to offer my sincere apology. Forgive them, and I sincerely believe that they would come to different views.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the core mandate of the Department of Agriculture is to support and promote agriculture in all its forms in the Western Cape. In order to do this the Western Cape Department of Agriculture provides a wide range of development, research and support services to the agricultural community in the Western Cape.

The agricultural sector stimulates economic growth in the province and plays a major role in creating sustainable job opportunities. Fortunately the people in this province are able to benefit from the DA difference. That is why we have a lower unemployment rate than other provinces and that is why job seekers are streaming to this province in search of hope.

Unfortunately many of this Department's achievements and intentions are being opposed, even sabotaged by the ANC National Government, and we have seen some efforts to sabotage this House here today.

Despite this, let me highlight some of the wonderful work of this Department. Work that the ANC is opposing through its opposition to the budget of this Vote.

Firstly, the LandCare initiative that has been allocated R74,4 million and that will create 1 000 jobs. Jobs with the composition that will aim to have gender

equality, as well as a 2% uptake for disability involvement. LandCare will also empower 5 000 children with environmental awareness drives through the more than 1 000 LandCare services.

Producer support services through a budget of more than R222 million will deliver support to, inter alia, 13 red meat producers, two grain producers, one citrus producer, 26 black commercial farmers and the development of 40 farm assessments.

The important extension and advisory services will be allowed through this budget of almost R34 million, to be conducting 3 100 farm visits and render mentorship support to 35 projects.

The budget for Programme 4 will inter alia be used for the Department's hygiene assessment system. This tool is to objectively determine legal compliance at our abattoirs. This helps to ensure food safety relating to animal products. We also believe in supporting the private sector and disease surveillance and monitoring and other related sample testing will often be sub-contracted to other laboratories.

Hon Chairperson, the Western Cape has thankfully been free from the numerous outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. For this we need to thank the Department, but also our red meat farmers and other players in the district, in the industry and we have some of our veterinarians here today. I want to applaud the wonderful work that they have been doing to protect the red meat

industry in this province.

Then, hon Deputy Speaker, this proposed budget allocates R10,3 million for the fight against such possible diseases. Research is clearly and rightfully a priority within the Department, there is almost R148 million allocated towards this programme, showing that the Department is committed to innovation and technological advances, which will increase food security.

The drought conditions of the last number of years are testimony of the challenges in the sector and much of the Province's research effort will have to mitigate this in the future. For this reason a high demand for research and technology development services is continuously experienced in order to assist farmers in sustaining their production against the set of climate change challenges.

Research projects and spatial intelligence tools have and will assist in identifying resource limitations and opportunities of the sector. Numerous farmers have expressed their appreciation for the spatial analysis tools, such as Farm Mapper, with its various overlays. The research efforts will continue to focus on yield increasing and/or cost decreasing, climate smart technologies in plant and animal production.

Considerable attention is given to alternative crops, which also offer other benefits, for example, less water consumption as well as the export basket and mix, new value chain avenues for agri-processing and job creation. The

Western Cape is unique in its focus on skills development programmes and its recognition for the achievements of agri-workers.

The proposed budget, which is not supported by the ANC, will offer skills development to 2 500 farmworkers. The focus is the provision of education and skills development to youth from all farming sectors, including smallholder, subsistence and commercial farmers, as well as agri-workers, to grow knowledge, prosperity and a competitive sector.

Yet this House has seen the ANC objecting to a motion to congratulate Mr Nigel Klaasen from Elgin, the winner of the 2022 prestige agri-worker awards, and therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, let me formally convey the Democratic Alliance's congratulations to Mr Klaasen on a wonderful achievement. He joins a special group of past winners in the prestige Agri-Worker Forum.

The blended learning programme of the Department combines theory with applied practical, authentic work experience on a farm, all within agri-business, and online learning through which competencies can be applied. Overall almost R58 million will be allocated to this programme, split with R48 million towards higher education and training, and R10 million for agricultural skills development.

The Rural Development Programme will continue its service delivery to agri-worker households and rural farming communities through the referral system

utilised to ensure access to services.

The inadequate rural safety and security offered by the National Government through the South African Police Service, remains a threat to farmers and agri-workers in the agricultural sector. The high level of crime perpetrated against farmers, agri-workers and farming communities, poses a significant threat to agricultural growth and jobs for rural people and requires urgent attention from all sectors of government.

In this regard the programme will be implementing various measures, in collaboration with SAPS and other relevant stakeholders, in order to facilitate a safe, protected and secure agricultural environment and farming community. The programme also fosters the strengthening of partnerships with safety structures in the districts, as well as other stakeholders and Government departments to promote a safe and protected agricultural environment. These are just some highlights of the Department's work.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me show you how the National Government, under ANC rule, is unfortunately sabotaging the dreams of millions of South Africans. It is even sabotaging its own plans, as I will show.

In 2011 the ANC Government published the National Development Plan. This plan was intended to address the lack of socio-economic rights of South Africans. The very socio-economic rights that the Leader of Opposition spoke about yesterday. The National Planning Commission was led by senior ANC

politicians. It was chaired by the former Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, and the Deputy Chair was later to become the State President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

This plan of more than 444 pages, was widely welcomed, even us, as the Official Opposition in Parliament, despite some points of criticism, by and large endorsed the key targets and implementable action steps in the plan. These were intended to lead millions of South Africans from poverty and unemployment to greater employment and prosperity.

The plan was to create an additional 11 million jobs in the economy and to decrease unemployment to 6% by 2030. If effectively implemented, the plan would be able to achieve similar results, than the so-called New Deal that the USA developed under former President Roosevelt after the Second World War.

Unfortunately, the ANC Government, in an act of sabotage, soon after turned its back on this plan and I am going to highlight just one example. This plan, the National Development Plan, devoted a full chapter, Chapter 5, to the transition to a low carbon economy. This is needed to mitigate the potential devastating effects of climate change, and we have already seen the negative effects of climate change in the form of deadly floods, but also prolonged droughts.

Climate change will completely change the face of agriculture in our farms.



Yet despite setting a clear path towards a low carbon economy, the ANC chose to ignore that path and we have heard the Leader of the Opposition earlier today again defending the coal-fired power stations and criticising the move towards renewable energy.

This move towards a lower carbon economy with its benefits and international subsidies, has been sabotaged by our ANC Minister of Mineral Affairs and Energy with his opposition to renewable energy sources. It is further sabotaged by plans to bring fossil fuel driven power ships for electricity generation for the next 20 years to South Africa.

The National Development Plan also plan to create 1 million additional jobs in agriculture. Yet that plan is also being sabotaged by the job killing policies of the ANC. The plan stated that land reform should be undertaken in a way that will unlock the potential, and I quote:

"For a dynamic growing and employment creating agricultural sector, it proposes a more rapid transfer of agricultural land to black beneficiaries without distorting land markets or business confidence in the agribusiness sector."

Again the ANC Government is sabotaging this ideal. The ANC Government has been decreasing the budgets available for land reform for a number of years now, and still the hon member Marran is ignoring the fact that land reform is a national mandate in terms of our Constitution. He is trying to

blame the ANC's failures on that of the Western Cape.

What we all know, however, is that due to the Western Cape Government's support and the hard work of this Department, that the success rate of land reform in the Western Cape is the highest in the country. May I remind the hon member Marran, where he is probably watching online, that it was his Minister that admitted in the National Assembly that the national success rate of land reform was as low as 10%, and I shudder to think what the rate would have been without the positive contribution of the Western Cape.

The ANC Government is still sabotaging the business confidence in the agri business sector by its efforts to change the expropriation legislation in order to allow Government to grab private assets. The uncertainty caused by this had a devastating effect on investments, the banking sector and eventually economic growth.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have seen the effects of large scale corruption and sabotage at Eskom power stations, to the extent that even the army had to be deployed to try and protect our country's electricity generation capacity. Electricity is important. No, it is essential for labour intensive farming practices. The inability to provide the South African economy with a reliable source of electricity is sabotaging our farmers' ability to produce food and to create jobs.

Is the meagre 2 000 jobs [Inaudible.] created amongst the eight ANC-run

provinces during the last quarter of 2022, not a sign of just how severe the influence of the ANC sabotage on the national development plan is?

The continued failure of the ANC Government to start construction of the work on the Clanwilliam Dam is sabotaging the creation of more than 5 000 jobs, and let me remind this House that 80% of the additional water allocations were promised to emerging farmers for land reform.

Now if I must use the hon Marran's narrative, we must then today deduct that. The delays in the construction of the Clanwilliam Dam is because the ANC do not want those 80% additional water to be allocated to emerging farmers. If not, I would love to hear from him what then are the reasons for this delay, and what about the failure not only to concentrate on the increase in the dam wall height, but also the distribution network for water downstream from the dam, because water in a dam is only a potential. To realise the full potential of that you need to distribute it to where it is highly needed, and this Standing Committee on Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, paid a visit to the community of Ebenhaezer in 2022.

This successful land reform and land claim initiative is reliant on water. They are sitting on high potential soils, but they need water to really unlock the full potential of the land that was given back to them.

Now their prospects are being sabotaged by the ANC Government's lack of support and inability to plan ahead and to bring water to them.

Their prospects are not only sabotaged by the delays in providing the water, but also by cutting the budgets for the support of emerging farmers, and it was heart-warming when we engage with that community to hear that they actually spoke of themselves as the, *as die uitsoek kind van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou, die voorgetrekte kind*, as the chosen child of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, the privileged child, and they said they could just pick up the telephone and ask for support, and the next moment the Department of Agriculture of the Western Cape would be there giving them the support they needed. I think the Department deserves an applause for that. [Applause.]

Then the hon Marran also referred to the canal running from the Holsloot River to the Brandvlei Dam. After years of pressure and after the Western Cape took the initiative to remove all obstacles and to obtain all the rights needed, it still took the National Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation three years to start construction on the rising of the banks of the Holsloot Canal. A relatively small construction project, initially budgeted for at R20 million and again, as we now also see with the work in terms of the upgrade of the Koeberg Nuclear Plant, again the work was running late.

We missed the opportunity to divert last winter's water runoff to the Brandvlei dam, and as the hon member Marran quite rightly said, this project was only completed in the summertime, some two months ago.

Land owners that were hoping to benefit from this project again are still anxiously waiting for the National Department to allocate the additional water rights, and without the water rights no investment, no job creation can take place, and again the dreams of more than 5 000 job seekers have been sabotaged by the poor political leadership of the ANC.

Last year the rainfall was too low to fill the Clanwilliam Dam. Farmers and the communities downstream are lamenting the enormous volume of water that flowed unharnessed to the sea in the previous year's rainy season. If the Clanwilliam Dam had been completed in 2015/16, as originally planned, the surplus water would have been enough for the farmers to receive their full quotas this year. Instead they are only receiving 41% of their quotas, despite having to pay as if they are receiving their full quotas.

## **KAREN 2**

I want to ensure the people of Matzikama, of Ebenhaezer, just as we kept up the pressure on the construction of the Holsloot canal, we will keep up the pressure for the construction work at the Clanwilliam Dam.

The DA will not relinquish. This project is too important and the money spent on the upgrading of the N7 road cannot be in vain, and if these are not enough reasons, the dangers of the ageing existing dam wall are too high to abandon this important project.

We will also keep up the pressure for the increase in the wall height of the Buffeljags Dam. This dam will also allow extensive farming practices to be

turned into labour-intensive farming and again create thousands of much needed jobs.

The National Development Plan stated that one in five children are suffering from malnutrition and that malnutrition is directly linked to food insecurity. Unfortunately the ANC is trying to sweep this serious problem under the carpet. A medical doctor at a public hospital that expressed their concerns about this during the COVID-19 pandemic, was threatened with disciplinary action by ANC cadres.

The poor policies of a lack of performance by the ANC National Government has led to food prices currently standing at 13,6% year-on-year. This is twice the percentage increase that most employees stand to receive this year, and it is the poor that is the most vulnerable to such price increases. It is those already struggling to get by that are exposed to malnutrition, and again the ANC is making life harder for the poor.

Hon Deputy Speaker, despite the National ANC Government putting all kinds of obstacles in the way of economic growth and job creation, specifically for the agricultural sector, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture has been working hard in supporting farmers to feed the nation, to earn valuable foreign valuta, and to keep the costs of food down.

The ANC's threats of expropriation are meant to disguise their utter failure at successful land reform. All it achieves is to scare potential investors to invest

in farms and agri businesses. This is economic sabotage.

What do you call it when South African exported fruit is stuck for weeks in the Cape Town Harbour, and then needs to be destroyed at its intended destination because the delays have led it to rot? What do you call it when farmers suffer economically due to poor harbour management and maintenance? And what must we call it when some farmers have to retrench workers due to losses caused by such Government failures? This is sabotaging the Western Cape's effort to improve the lives of South Africans.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I conclude. As you would have seen this Department deserves not to be undermined. It deserves our respect and support and I am therefore proud to say that the Democratic Alliance supports this budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

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

I now call on the hon Minister Meyer.

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

The hon Premier had just advised me, since there was a discussion about water and the importance of water for agriculture, that 7% of the people in South Africa has no water. It is a responsibility of the National Government of Water Affairs.

- In Ingquza Hill, 77% of the people have no access to water.
- In Port St Johns, 77% no access to water.
- Winnie Madikizela Municipality, no water.
- Nyandeni, ANC municipality, 66% no water.
- Nongoma, 61% no water.

7% of the population in South Africa have no water. It equates to 4 million people.

This is from the report from the Department of Water and Sanitation that is run by this Government. So it is shocking that people speak about water to the hon Premier when this picture is under the own management, and so *Tannie Poppie*, during the break, asked me, † “Die mense wat nou so uitgestap het, gaan hulle betaal word?” [Gelag.] Sy is bekommerd, want sy sê as sy nie werk nie, kry sy nie geld nie, en sy, dr Ilse, is erg bekommerd dat mense nie opdaag vir die werk nie, want in Laingsburg, as jy nie opdaag vir werk nie, gaan jy nie betaling kry nie.

So, agb Adjunkspeaker, van *Tannie Poppie* na u kantoor, mense wat nie werk nie moenie betaal word nie. [Applous.]

[“The people who have now walked out, are they going to be paid?” [Laughter.] She is concerned, because she says if she does not work, she gets no money, and she, Dr Ilse, are very concerned that people don’t show up for work, because in Laingsburg, if you don’t show up for work, you’re not going



to get paid.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, from Tannie Poppie to your office, people who don't work must not be paid.] [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I will be brief because I understand the [Inaudible.] activities.

Farmworker – this province is the only province in South Africa that has a farmworker, dedicated farmworker support programme. No other province has a farmworker programme. No other province has an outstanding worldclass agri-worker of the year. No other province sends an agri-worker abroad for a week, gets support. No other province has a programme to induct a worker into a Western Cape prestige agri-worker forum, that advises the Minister on agri matters that were raised by hon members.

I am absolutely not going to listen to COSATU, I listen to the agri-workers, they are my advisors on housing. When I met with them at Leeuwenhof I asked them what are the matters you want to bring under the attention of the Minister, and exactly, hon member August, and thank you for pitching up for work, your salary is safe, you work for your money [Interjections.], unlike our colleagues over here.

Those matters that you brought under my attention it is exactly what they discussed, and I will go back to my notes because I need to have some

follow-ups exactly on the matters that you raised, and thank you for your support.

Nigel Klaasen returned from Europe, so [Inaudible.] other province where you get this.

Youth in rural. We provide bursaries for 30 students yearly, 120 agricultural graduates also appointed on a contract for two years to make sure that our workers, also our youth in the rural areas get an opportunity.

Now this R20 million about the Brandvlei Dam. I was the Minister of Finance when the Department came to me, Dr Troskie, and he said, "Minister, we know this is a National Government's responsibility, but we do not get any joy from the National Government. Please can you make money available for the lifting of the Brandvlei Dam – how many? - by 30 centimetre, to release water for 4 000, almost 5 000 hectare under irrigation." I said, "Well, let me go and see." I closed my eyes, I took money away from them, these Ministers, from their budget, and I put it aside to fund a National Government incompetence. So I put it aside and say, "Let us get on with the job," because the hon Premier said there is urgency.

Tannie Poppie, so I made the R20 million available, I took it from schools, from hospitals, from libraries and said let us get on with the job, and then the National Government, **toe raak hulle skaam [Onduidelik.] toe sê hulle, "Nee, julle kan nie ons werk doen nie,"** then they became embarrassed [Inaudible.]

then they said, “No, you cannot do our work”, Mayor of Swellendam.

So they said, "No-no-no, you cannot do the job. Do not give the money." So we did not. We did not, not spend the money. **Hulle het skaam geraak dat ons gaan hulle job doen.** They became embarrassed that we are going to do their job. So they said no.

So I think people must have the facts and by the way, Heinie, they plan for the budget for R51 million. Now you know how the ANC works. The thing cost R20 million, R50 million ... **die projek se naam is "Gatsak toe"** the project's name is “Gatsak toe” (into the back pocket).

The hon Premier now confirmed to me as, Heinie, as the Vice President of Agri Western Cape, **die projek het toe net R14 miljoen gekos. Hoekom? Ons het hulle ge-watch** the project then only cost R14 million. Why? We watched them.

This Government do not sit on the job, they serve on the job and I want to thank Dr Troskie and the team, **Asia** was there with me, they are doing outstanding work.

So, hon member August, thank you for your contribution, **en dankie dat u die begroting ondersteun, veral die fokus wat u plaas op die jeug, landelike gebiede, arm mense,** and thank you for supporting the budget, especially the focus you place on the youth, rural areas, poor people, and, hon member

August, I have also appointed Jackie Pandaram, she is now responsible for rural development, and those matters that you raise falls under her jurisdiction, but if you have any other matters that you want to bring under my attention, if I am not available, please make direct contact with her because we have open government, access government, you do not have to work through me, you can contact her directly and she is very, very competent, and Minister Marais just also now just informed me and reminded me by the way, that she also has a Western Cape farmworker sport competition.

Farmworkers in various areas taking part in sport, but she also has a Western Cape Cultural Committee for rural areas. So there is also some work that she is doing and we appreciate the work that she is doing.

Well, hon Deputy Speaker, you know my law of politics. You can make a noise or you can make an impact. On that side of the House we show the noise, on this side of the House you will see the impact through the budget, and you will see the leadership through the hon Premier.

Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen, for supporting the budget, and recently I visited Klein Goederust. What an outstanding leader in agriculture. A man that was a farmworker himself, had a dream and had a vision to own the farm, but his vision was not inspired by a handout from a government. As a young boy he had a vision and the dream to own a farm, but he said that vision must become real because of my mother's investment in my thinking,

and in my culture, and in my upbringing, and he took that vision and he connected that vision with his passion, and today he is the owner of a farm where he got a loan, he is repaying the loan. He made connection with farmers. He got support from my Department, but 80% is passion, interest, honesty, hard work, dedication and discipline, and I, over this weekend, took some members of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg to visit his wine estate, and there was a professor that knows wine from around the world, and he tasted the wine and the quality of the wine of Paul. Paul, I think you must stand. [Applause.]

Because the leader of the delegation, Professor Erik Schweickert, is an academic. He said he will try to write up an article in what is called the FAZ, which is the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the newspaper, and he will now appear in that newspaper in Frankfurt in Germany, but I said not only that, I gave, and the Department is producing and Dr Ilse is also part of the Editorial Committee of *Agriprobe*, and I said, "Professor Schweickert, can we also have an article about the farm and the visit of Paul in the *Agriprobe*," and I gave him a copy and he said he will do that, and Paul currently does not export to that part of the world. In fact all the wine is produced locally, consumed locally, but I have a dream and a vision that the wine must be also in the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, and today I want to request you and the hon Speaker, who will be visiting the Baden-Württemberg Landtag on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July this year, also to take two bottles of wine from Klein Goederust, one white wine and one red wine, and give it to the Speaker in the Landtag, because what we want is to brand the wine, brand our product, create market

access, exactly what Mr Peter Marais was talking about. Creating opportunities for our people.

One of the farmworkers that he worked with and played with as a boy, and as a farmworker's son, is now the winemaker on the farm.

Now what we need is stories of hope, but not stories of missing in action, because *tannie* Poppie's question is real. Will they get a salary for not working? Because people on there are people that understand the business, the economy and how you must work hard like our Alfreda Mars, like Paul, like people from Marisa, like Heinie and the team. People that know what it is to work and so, as I conclude, hon Deputy Speaker, I am not perturbed, I am not disappointed by the behaviour of this people in this House. This is typical of the behaviour of an outgoing government in South Africa. [Interjections.] So do not get upset. [Applause.]

Outgoing governments always behave like this. There is a man that will be part of a future government, he is sitting, he will not be out.

An HON MEMBER: Sjoe! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: And so I want to thank you for your presence and so the behaviour of an outgoing government, *tannie* Poppie, I know you are going back to Laingsburg †en u sê, "Maar, sjoe, die mense was darem ongeskik in die Kaap." Tannie Poppie, die boodskap wat u moet daar

oordra is dit is die gedrag, die manifestering van 'n regering wat tot sy einde gekom het en die pad byster geraak het, en daarom bring u lig van Laingsburg in hierdie Huis. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Hier is, as gevolg van u teenwoordigheid, is hier meer lig. U eenvoud bring meervoud, en ek wil vir Aletta sê dankie vir wat u vandag gedoen het. [and you say, "But sjoe, the people were very bad-mannered in the Cape". Tannie Poppie, the message that you have to convey there is this is the behaviour, the manifestation of a government that came to its end and lost its way, and therefore you bring light from Laingsburg into this House.] [Interjections.]

[There is light here, as a result of your presence there is more light. Your modesty brings plurality, and I want to say thank you to Aletta for what you have done today.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip, hon Premier, Hon members of the Cabinet, Chairperson of my Standing Committee. A Minister is only as good as the support he gets from his family, ministerial staff and my departmental officials, and therefore I am very thankful to my wife. She will ask me tonight what happened in the House, I will tell her the same story, this is the behaviour of an outgoing government.

So thank you to my wife, Aeeza, my sons Ivan and William, for the love and the support. To the head of my office, Marietjie van Jaarsveld. My media liaison officer, Daniel Johnson, sitting there at the back. My private

secretary, Charmaine de Vos, for their professional dedication. Zoto Mdingy, Cleo Forzike, Lesley Ndiga and Nicolene Hill, thank you for your contribution for the smooth running of my office and the Ministry of Agriculture.

It is indeed a busy office, but with your joy and happiness and work ethic it is a pleasure to serve.

Gratitude also goes to my Head of the Department, Dr Sebopetsa, my DDGs, Darryl Jacobs, Dr Ilse Trautmann. My CFO, Floris Huysamer, all my senior managers sitting here, and I want to say to them this is the best team leading in Agriculture, but because this is an outgoing government, there will be expertise to serve the new incoming government in South Africa. I thank you.  
[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister.

That concludes the debate on Agriculture. Before we suspend the House, the guests of Minister Meyer are requested to please join the Ministry in the Members Dining Room for some refreshments.

Hon members, I am going to break for lunch until 14:15, so quarter past two the bells will ring and we will then begin the third order of the day.

The House is suspended.



*[The House is suspended at \*\*\*.]*

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

I now recognise the hon member Maseko. [Interjections.]

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet members, hon members of the House, Department officials, HODS and our hon guests.

I rise in support of Vote 10, the Department of Infrastructure's budget vote. In the constrictive fiscal framework we are facing we cannot say all is well, but what we must do is to make sure we give hope, hope to our communities in Western Cape and also to South Africa as a country, and the question, hon Deputy Speaker, is if not us, who?

The Department of Infrastructure is one that will lead in innovation, one that will be an enabler for economic growth and a lead in championing spatial planning within our province. I do need to emphasise that the allocated Budget for Vote 10, which is the Department of Infrastructure, is the budget of hope, but more so it is as Minister Wenger said, budget of action. [Interjections.]

This newly established Department will lead to major shifts in the

infrastructure and construction industries and will also see to the rehabilitation, renovations and refurbishment of existing infrastructure assets. Rarely provincial governments in South Africa prioritise sectors such as infrastructure development, despite the fact that it is the one area in government that truly opens up the economy through employment generation for a wide range of skills.

For decades infrastructure development has been viewed as a machine for job creation as it enforces partnerships between the Government and the private sector, a vital contributor in job creation all over the world.

The Department of Infrastructure in the Western Cape will build more than just houses, roads, schools, clinics, hospitals and Government buildings. It will develop skills to also create jobs. Billions of rands will be invested to ensure that this is a success.

The Department has been allocated more than R9,8 billion from the 2023 financial year. A budget for hope and infrastructure development, a budget for job creation and private sector relationships, and most importantly, a budget for aiding the Western Cape Government in taking reasonable measures to realise our residents' rights to access basic services as guaranteed by our Constitution.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I draw attention and that of all hon members of this House to the critical Programme 4 of this Department, which is the Expanded

Public Works Programme, also known as the Community Based Programmes, which has been allocated R68,8 million for the 2023/2024 financial period.

The EPWP offers skills development and empowerment efforts to communities in order to contribute to long-term economic and job growth through construction-related development and empowerment interventions. These initiatives have undoubtedly shaped careers, particularly those of young people. The City of Cape Town is one of the Metros in the country that has excelled in implementing EPWPs. This is because the initiative is implemented in a fair manner and not based on party political affiliations like in other provinces where the initiative has been implemented with varying degrees of success. [Interjections.]

In the upcoming financial year ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms L M MASEKO: ... through you, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Continue, hon member.

Ms L M MASEKO: Through you, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Ms L M MASEKO: ... I cannot do the search for the hon member, he needs to really read. [Interjections.]

In the upcoming financial year, hon Deputy Speaker, 100 people ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

Ms L M MASEKO: ... are expected to attend a one day construction information session in collaboration with the Western Cape Government stakeholders. A mentorship programme will give advanced training and support to Grade 3 to 5 contractors.

In addition, the Department will implement youth-related training programmes, such as the National Youth Service and accredited leadership training opportunities are expected to be provided to 170 unemployed youth from across the Western Cape, all of which form part of Programme 4.

In ensuring the success of the EPWP programme, the provincial Department of Infrastructure will be working closely with the Local Governments across the Western Cape and provide the necessary support required.

The Programme 3, which deals with transport infrastructure is another important point I want to bring to the attention of the House. The programme has received an allocation of R4,4 billion. The Department will continue to

work to reduce maintenance backlog by maintaining surface and gravel roads and bridges, while also aiming to increase safety capacity and provide new facilities through road infrastructure projects. I will be submitting parliamentary questions to Minister on specifics of this projects and indeed the Standing Committee on Infrastructure will engage the Department on the progress of these projects. The Committee will undoubtedly also visit some of them in order to carry out our oversight role and hold this Department accountable.

Prioritising road infrastructure is crucial, not just for motorists and commuters, but it also has an impact on the tourism, industry and job creation. As roads are built and maintained, our province becomes more appealing to the tourism industry. For this reason I commend and support the Western Cape Government's decision to allocate 46% of the Infrastructure Department Budget to this programme.

The programme on human settlements fully supports the transfer of title deeds to their rightful recipients, providing them with tenure, security and asset as well. The Western Cape Government has always remained committed to ensuring that all of our residents know the dignity of home ownership. It is for this reason that in the upcoming financial year the Department of Infrastructure will continue with the implementation of the Help Me Buy A Home programme, and if I can pause there. It is one of the issues that we have been driving from the Standing Committee in talking to the Department, that a lot of municipal workers, they have been working in most

municipalities for more than 30 years and still do not own homes.

So this is a programme that really we will have to zoom into the municipalities to say municipal workers can use or take this option to make sure that we give that dignity that they deserve before they can go for retirement.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to call all members of this House to join forces in the battle against the construction mafia that is threatening the infrastructure development industry in our country and province. [Interjections.] Too many lives have already been lost as a result of extortionist gangs, who want to dominate our society and who clearly have no regard for the South African Police Service, and I think, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, if hon member Marran can be as loud as he can to Bheki Cele, there will be a help because we are losing lives, and that is the reality in the construction, and through you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Marran was in this Committee when we called the SAPS ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order. [Interjections.]

Ms L M MASEKO: Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Marran was here when we called the SAPS, when we called all the Departments to talk about this problem, and he contributed ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Ms L M MASEKO: ... also and he identified the loopholes ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: The loopholes [Inaudible.]

Ms L M MASEKO: ... and we are, as the Chairperson I am also mandating him to go to his colleagues, to Bheki Cele to say get the intelligence in order to really root out this problem. We need that loud voice really for Minister Bheki Cele to hear what we are saying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order!

Ms L M MASEKO: And maybe, just maybe we must not talk about devolution, we must use the word of remodelling of police, to make sure that we can have control, to make sure that our community is safe in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

We cannot continue ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Ms L M MASEKO: ... to watch individuals die and residents wait long for services owing to delays in construction projects such as those related to free government housing units. [Interjections.] I want to welcome

...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marran.

Ms L M MASEKO: ... the work that has been done by the Department and the City of Cape Town ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms L M MASEKO: ... to combat ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Sorry, hon member, continue.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

I want to welcome the work that has been done by the Department and the City of Cape Town to combat the brazen criminality of these extortionist gangs. Last year during a meeting in the Standing Committee on Human Settlements, the provincial Department of Infrastructure revealed that due to the surge in construction mafias posing safety risks in the province, the Department spends R1,5 million per month on additional safety measures.

The number of housing beneficiaries affected by extortion in the province, stands well over 21 000 and 90% of them as City of Cape Town residents.



While it continues to be a danger in all sectors related to infrastructure development, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure will review the situation and consider working closely with the relevant stakeholders in order to strategize on how all the stakeholders can really work with the SAPS and try to catch these gangsters to restore dignity back to thousands of deserving beneficiaries.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Minister Wenger has revealed in the Provincial Budget that the Department of Infrastructure will in the upcoming financial year work hard to mitigate risk factors and deal with this violent crime as it has committed to ensuring that planning for construction projects will include safety elements, such as street lighting, lighting in the public open spaces, courtyards and provision of urban environment in permeable spaces. This is highly welcomed.

Lastly, hon Deputy Speaker, just to emphasise and summarise. This Department will prioritise through innovation, not in creating, innovation, because when you create you are artist. When you are an artist you create and when you innovate you action.

So this Department will prioritise through innovation the ease of doing business. They will action that. Make sure provincial roads are constructed and maintained. Prioritise infrastructure for maximum impact supporting municipal infrastructure. Foster new and innovative private sector partnerships and responding to the climate change, Minister Simmers, and for

that reasons the DA supports the Vote 10. I thank you. [Applause.]

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

I now recognise the hon Minister Simmers. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

Afrikaans we have a saying, †"baie dinge was gesê [Tussenwerpsels.], maar wat is die kwaliteit wat gesê was", en ek gaan nou reageer op die kwaliteit en die kwantiteit van sekere insette, [Tussenwerpsels.] en ek gaan begin met die agb lid Marran van die ANC, en ek bedank hom vir sy ... [Tussenwerpsels.] ["many things were said [Interjections.] but what was the quality of what was said", and I'm going to react to the quality and quantity of certain input, [Interjections.] and I'm going to begin with the hon member Marran of the ANC, and I thank him for his ...] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: ... insette. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...input. ][Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: En ek bedank hom ook deur u ...

[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And I thank him for also through you...] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] no-no, on both sides of the House, please, I cannot hear the Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Daai is kwantiteit nie kwaliteit nie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Dis presies waarvan ek gepraat het. Kwantiteit, nie kwaliteit nie.

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: That is quantity, not quality, hon Deputy Speaker. It's precisely what I've spoken about. Quantity, not quality.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ja. Hon members, please. [Interjections.] Thank you very much. Hon member Kama. [Interjections.] Oh, Mvimbi? Hon member Mvimbi. [Interjections.]

Come, hon members. Right, over to you, hon Minister, you may proceed.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Agb Adjunkspeaker, soos ek gesê het kwantiteit en kwaliteit. Ek gaan reageer op die kwaliteit van die insette, nie die kwantiteit nie, want daar was taamlik kwantiteit hier gegee vandag.

Eerstens deur u, agb Adjunkspeaker, aan agb lid Marran. Die kwaliteit insette wat die agb lid gee waardeer ek opreg, hier en in die Staande Komitee, want geen departement sal ooit enige iets 'n honderd persent kan reg doen nie. Ons werk met dinge buite ons beheer [Tussenwerpsels.] en die Transhex Projek was een so voorbeeld ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, as I said, quantity and quality. I'm going to react on the quality of the input, not the quantity, because there was a lot of quantity given here today.]

[Firstly, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to hon member Marran. The quality of the input the hon member gives I appreciate sincerely, here and in the Standing Committee, because no department will ever be able to do something a hundred percent right. We are working with things beyond our control [Interjections.] and the Transhex Project was one such example] ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I am coming now.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: ... waar daar dinge buite ons beheer was, maar ons was mans genoeg, anders as die ANC op 'n nasionale vlak, ons staan pa vir ons probleme en ons spreek probleme aan. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Die MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... where there were things beyond our control, but we were man enough, unlike the ANC at national level, we

own up for our problems and we address problems.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Dis die kwaliteit wat u hier moet uitneem, die waarde van verantwoordelikheid, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Tussenwerpsels.] Dis 'n mite in die ANC, 'n mite soos dat hulle volgende jaar 'n meerderheid gaan kry in elk geval. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTUR: It's the quality that you have to take from here, the value of responsibility, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interjections.] It's a myth in the ANC, a myth like that they are going to get a majority in any case.] [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are a Department through our various programs which creates opportunities for all our people. Why? Because you do it not based on race, but in terms of the rule of law and if you are competent and you qualify for a specific task.

The hon member spoke about us attempting to copy the Gauteng model. The difference is at least in the Western Cape we get things done. The Gauteng Infrastructure Department through its Infrastructure Agency, and this is just on the Human Settlements component, has the most incomplete Human Settlements project of all provinces.

They have, for this current financial year, a net underspend of R1,2 billion.

[Interjections.] So do not come pay a working Department with a dysfunctional Department, but what else did I expect from the ANC when they do not even ever have provincial leadership in this province and apparently, hon Deputy Speaker, they would not even ever have a congress again. That is how dysfunctional the ANC in the Western Cape is. [Interjections.]

In terms of empowerment opportunities, hon Deputy Speaker, through you to hon member Marran. [Interjections.] Clearly the member was not paying attention to my speech and I will quickly take him to that portion of empowerment opportunities. This is just one component of my Department. [Interjections.]

50% of our budget in terms of the Human Settlements branch will be spent, as we have already done through the Human Settlements Department, on SMMEs. We have actually exceeded that target year-on-year.

- 10% of our total budget will go to women in construction.
- 4% to youth in construction.
- 5% to persons with disabilities.

That is true empowerment. Through empowerment. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to hon member Marran.

The hon member refers to delivery performance, and once again where we

acknowledge our shortfalls, we acknowledge it and we rectify it. We do not hide it under politicking, †ons staan pa vir ons baba as hy moet gebore word, ons hardloop nie weg en gaan koop seep nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] [we own up for our baby when it has to be born, we do not run away and go and buy soap. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Watse baba?

[An HON MEMBER: What baby?]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... I do thank GOOD for their inputs [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... and I do concur, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, the issue of infrastructure, more so at ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... Local Government level.

An HON MEMBER: You run away [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And what I would love to state, and I am happy the hon member supports our budget because focus area 2 of our Department is Municipal Infrastructure and playing a supportive role, because the vision and the acceleration and the thrust which this Department will give, will be built upon the capacity and the quality of the current infrastructure as we work with Local Government.

So I do concur with you, but when it is national-owned infrastructure, dan moet hulle kom pa staan vir hulle kind. Ek gaan nie pa staan vir hulle kind nie then they have to own up for their child. I'm not going to own up for their child.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: My geld is nie genoeg nie, tensy hulle die geld vir my gaan gee. [Tussenwerpsels.] Deur u, Adjunkspeaker, aan hulle.

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: My money is not enough, unless they're going to give me the money. [Interjections.] Through you, Deputy Speaker, to them.]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE OPPOSISIE: Jy moet pa staan vir jou eie kind.

[The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You have to own up for your own child.]



†n AGB LID: Ja! [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Yes! ][Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, to the Freedom Front Plus, once again thank you for your inputs into the debate ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And in the Western Cape we do not just do bean counting. So for us it is very important that – hence [Inaudible.] empowerment impact assessment to specifically measure the impact of our programmes, of our budget spend, which is, I think, what the hon member is alluding to and to the DA Chairperson, thank you very much for your oversight. Thank you very much for your leadership with your Committee, but I think after today and from 1 April, the task of oversight is so much greater that rests upon you and your Committee.

So I do want to thank you, but once again I do want to thank all our guests, our Mayors of the districts, of local municipalities, but this is a plea, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to our partners in Local Government that are present here, we can only accomplish the hope we all seek if we do that together, and the real thrust here in partnership is working together. I thank you.

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

That brings us to the end of the Vote. [Interjections.] The House will just suspend for two minutes to allow a change with guests that will be coming into the Chamber. It is now suspended.

*[The House is suspended at \*\*\*]*

*[The House resumes at \*\*\*]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, you may be seated.

Right we will proceed immediately. I will ask Mr Stimela to read the Fourth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2023].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Stimela.

I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear! [Interjections.]

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to our hon Premier, to our hon Cabinet colleagues, to Members of Parliament, to all our Mayors present. Thank you very much for the opportunity to present the Budget of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, as well as the entity CapeNature, for 2023/2024 today.

This budget is framed within the context of unprecedented pressure on our natural environment as the world grapples with climate change and all the risk associated with it.

According to the World Economic Forum Global Risk Report 2023, the top four global risks for the next decade are all directly linked to the natural environment. These risks are:

- The risk of failure to mitigate climate change.
- The risk of failure to adapt to climate change.
- The risks posed by natural disasters and extreme weather.
- The risks associated with biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse.

Climate change is also a reality for South Africa and the Western Cape. Predictions are for a hotter and a drier province with more extreme and intense droughts and floods when they occur.

Climate change will have an impact on every aspect of our lives. It will

impact what food we can grow and where we can grow it. Climate change will influence our ability to cope with existing health challenges, but also how we manage new plant, animal and human diseases. Climate change will also influence all our planning functions for our towns and cities going into the future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in addition to the risk of climate change we also have our own manmade risk of electricity blackouts. I will elaborate more on this towards the end of my speech.

Hon Deputy Speaker, from the Department's perspective it means that planning, especially long-term planning and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, are more critical than ever.

Vote 9 receives R602,3 million for the 2023/2024 financial year. This amount is allocated to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, as well as our state-owned entity, CapeNature. The Department, guided by its vision for a resilient and sustainable environment, which allows for a quality and inclusive living environment, receives R299,6 million in 2023/2024. CapeNature which is guided by its mission by conserving our natural heritage for resilience and sustainability, receives R306,7 million. In terms of the Department's Compensation of Employees, it accounts for 80,6% of the total budget.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have said this many times before, this Department

has a unique staff profile. Most of the staff are highly qualified professionals and experts in their respective fields. This is due to the nature of the work the Department does and if we do not treasure these employees and recognise their worth to this province, we will very soon pay the price.

Hon Deputy Speaker, without the legally required authorisation to new economic development, no new economic development can take place. We would not have had an E-Prix in Cape Town in February if the legally required environmental authorisation were not in place. We will not see any of the much needed renewable energy projects in the Western Cape Province. There would not be any new commercial or residential development.

The quality of the speed at which environmental authorisations are being dealt with, has a direct impact on our economic growth potential. It is an essential building block for development.

This budget therefore sees an amount of R3,8 million committed specifically to achieve even higher efficiencies in terms of environmental impact assessments.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in January this year the Department was recognised as the leading provincial Department to administer and manage environmental impact assessment projects in South Africa, by the Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association for South Africa. This award builds on recognition the Department received in 2022 for being the Department with

the most qualified and certified environmental impact assessment practitioners in South Africa.

Since 2022 only a registered environmental assessment practitioner may compile these reports. Because we support an enabling business environment, the Department has ensured that all officials working with environmental approvals, are professionally registered.

Hon Deputy Speaker, also I am proud to say the Department currently has the highest number of professional registered officials in South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have allocated an amount of R7,5 million this year to do proactive environmental screening of school sites. This is a good example of Western Cape Departments working together to improve service delivery outcomes. In this case, Education, we have also the Department to show us where they plan to construct new schools in the near future. We will now do the preliminary environmental screening and spatial mapping so that is in place when actual planning starts. This will allow for schools to be constructed much faster as potential environmental impact issues have already been identified and addressed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are currently dealing with an electricity crisis. The disaster has been declared and many stakeholders may see this as an opportunity to cut corners regarding new generation projects. As a responsible Government we must not make decisions in panic which might

cause future environmental damage that outweigh the benefits we sought to exploit now.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I have confidence in our environmental impact assessment processes and support our officials to also guide us regarding the electricity crisis.

The Department was also recognised in 2022 by the National Department of Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment, for having the best environmental law enforcement components team, known as the Green Scorpions, in South Africa. The Green Scorpions from the Western Cape were recognised for best enforcer administrative enforcement, the best compliance team COVID-19 blitz operations, and the Western Cape unit was also recognised with long service awards, which reflects well on the institutional knowledge and continuity within this unit.

Hon Deputy Speaker, at the recent water indaba where our 15 year water and drought resilience plan was unpacked, we were also presented with the business case for alien plant clearing and the direct impact it has on our water resources. We were told that of all the alternatives explored at the peak of the 2019 drought in the Western Cape, the clearing of invasive aliens from water catchments provide the best possibility return on investment.  
[Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, according to the study by the Greater Cape Town Water

Fund, two thirds of our catchments are invaded by alien trees. We required R730 million over the long-term to address the specific challenges, with R373 million required for intensive investment within the first six years.

If we clear priority catchments we can reclaim 55 billion litres per year of water. If we take no action our current water losses will double by 2045.

An HON MEMBER: Sjoe!

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Compared to other water supply options, removing invasive alien vegetation is the most cost effective with the most additional benefits.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the importance of the work done by this Department to leverage private sector investment into the clearing of invasive alien plants in our catchments cannot be stressed enough.

Just looking at the budget requirement it is clear to see that we must work together as Government across different departments, but we must also have a partner with the private sector on this issue.

Hon Deputy Speaker, through specialised planning initiatives this Department is helping to shape the way our towns and cities will look in the future. Our regional social economic project (RSEP Programme) uses spatial design to



address social ills in our towns through development corridors and safe social spaces. This initiative receive R5 million Rand for the 2023/2024 financial year.

We presented our inclusionary housing policy framework to stakeholders earlier this year and maybe I must repeat this, hon Deputy Speaker, because I do not know of another province who got one, but I am very proud of this accomplishment and this is, we presented our inclusionary housing policy framework to stakeholders earlier this year.

This framework is an attempt to allow working class people to live closer to economic centres where high property prices often make it impossible for them. Our housing market study initiative receives R1,4 million for this year. We will be doing seven housing market studies for our larger towns over the next two years. These studies empower us to get a realistic understanding of housing demand supplies, developers activities, to provide an evidence base for understanding the drivers of urban growth and its form and for designing appropriate policy interventions across a range of functions of Government that can support better performing housing markets across the board.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are all aware of the difficult economic conditions in our country now and this has a direct impact on all our budgets. We must make difficult decisions as there simply is not enough funding to do everything.

Our air quality monitoring programme is a case in hand. According to the World Health Organisation, 99% of global population are exposed to air pollution levels that increases the risk of disease.

Section 24 of South Africa's Bill of Rights provides a right to an environment that is not harmful to human health. In order to realise this right, air quality is managed through the National Environmental Management Air Quality Act, which provides the standards against which to measure the quality of avian air, as well as the maximum emissions from pollutant activities.

We accomplish this through a network of avian air quality monitoring stations located across this province. These monitoring stations measure avian air quality and report this information to stakeholders so that they can assess the air quality and determine actions needed to maintain and to improve the air quality impacting citizens.

Due to the pressures on the fiscus, the Department's Director: Air Quality Management did not get any budget for procuring new and additional equipment to maintain this network, and therefore the network is at serious risk of collapse. Our stations at Hout Bay and Oudtshoorn are unfortunately earmarked to be decommissioned, given the challenges experienced due to loadshedding and limited budgets.

Hon Deputy Speaker, CapeNature is our conservation entity. An estimated 73% of their budget will be utilised towards nature conservation operations,

with 17% earmarked for disaster prevention measures and infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. 10% is allocated for extended public works projects.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this year will see intensive stakeholder engagements regarding our new Western Cape Biodiversity Act. We believe this Act will enhance our ability to manage and to regulate our natural environment. Cape Nature is actively protecting our environment on more than 1 million hectares of protected land, and is working towards adding another 5 000 hectares of land for the conservation purposes this financial year.

Together with conservation comes also the task of education and economic opportunities of ecotourism, but these activities are crucial to help create awareness for the environment amongst the public. Our educational activities and outreaches to the youth are shaping the next generation of conservationists who will in the future be tasked to keep our natural heritage safe and healthy.

Cape Nature will also conduct the protected areas management assessment in this financial year. This assessment, which includes all the land it manages, is done every second year and the aim is to surpass all measures targets as set by the National Conservation Authority.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion I want to wish the Department, under the leadership of HOD Gerber, and Cape Nature, under the leadership of Dr

Omar, all the best for the rest of the year and want to assure them of my continuous support.

I also want to thank my Ministry under the leadership of Marius du Randt, for their support. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

I now recognise the hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, emerging from the 55th National Conference of the African National Congress, the ANC noted, and I quote:

"Climate change is neither a hoax nor a conspiracy, it is a real threat that continues to devastate economies and destroy livelihoods. Many communities across the world, including in our country, have been experiencing more frequent extreme weather events: floods, fires, droughts and greater levels of water energy, food insecurity. People in the global South bear the greatest burden of the climate crisis, while industrialised countries of the global north, that are largely responsible for this

crisis, are attempting to shift the cost towards developing countries. The just energy transition towards a low cost, low carbon future is necessary to save the planet."

Amongst others, the National Conference of the African National Congress resolved that the district development model processes must ensure that each of these 52 spaces have integrated approaches to address climate change, including short, medium and long-term strategies to build resilience and disaster management and emerging strategies. Action plans must be coordinated as part of the DDM processes.

In this regard, hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC remains concerned that the DDM is not being implemented fully by the Provincial Government, or that at least it does not seem to be an enthusiasm from the Provincial Government to implement the model. Of course we have noticed that this Province prefers just the joint district and Metro approach, but that is a discussion for another day.

What is important here today is that we have an intergovernmental approach and attitude to mitigating the effects and deepening of climate change.

Hon Deputy Speaker, many in this House will hopefully agree that our province is blessed with rare beauty and we enjoy natural splendour, the envy of many around the world. From our pristine coastline to our fynbos, from our mountains to the landscapes of grapevines and other farming, our

province has been fortunate to enjoy our land and generations have benefited from this. Yet we have also struggled with fires, with droughts, it was human-made disasters. Daily we must be confronted with the question, what will we leave for our children? And we must question whether all the inhabitants of our province benefit from this beauty. These pristine beaches and natural splendour.

An integral part of the ANC's concern, especially when it proposes the district development model as a means to address environmental concerns and climate change, amongst others, is the question of urbanisation.

Most of the series environmental disasters are often manmade. Hon Deputy Speaker, we speak with pride of our pristine coastline, yet tons of raw sewage is daily pumped into our oceans. This is a manmade disaster, not because of sewage, sewage is natural, the disaster comes in when municipalities such as the City of Cape Town and Stellenbosch cause such utter environmental disasters.

While sewage is flooding our coastline, the budget of coastline management in this budget is cut by more than 7%. This is totally unacceptable. You see a 5% increase in Cape Nature's budget, but coastline management, which because of the sewage floods, should be in the emergency zone.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC cannot help but to think how we will be taking the environment serious if we do not appoint an Environmental

Commissioner. The excuse offered by the political leaders of this Department [Inaudible.] Government is that there are enough institutions and laws in place, especially nationally, to protect the environment. Yet the same DA wants to blame the National Government for being slow in having a climate change strategy.

The hon member Van der Westhuizen should maybe speak to the hon Minister Bredell and the hon Premier before criticising National Government and the laws and policies on the environment.

According to the hon Minister Bredell and the hon Premier, National is doing a fine job. That is why we do not need an Environmental Commissioner. [Interjections.] Ja. [Interjections.] Unless of course the hon member Van der Westhuizen has now identified the need for the Western Cape to have an Environmental Commissioner who will ensure a climate strategy for the province.

The hon member Van der Westhuizen in his media statement suggests that there was poor coordination between different levels of government, and this has led, and I quote:

"A fragmented approach to one of the biggest crises facing humanity."

But instead of always criticising the ANC and the National Government,

maybe the hon member Van der Westhuizen should actually start reading ANC documents before criticising the ANC. It is my time.

I have just explained why the ANC has identified the District Development Model, a model which seeks to integrate and ensure better coordination between the three spheres of government as a means to oppose the climate change crisis, but this District Development Model is rejected by the hon member Van der Westhuizen's Provincial Government.

So on the one hand he wants to criticise National Government for a lack of coordination, mind you two of the three spheres in this province are run by the DA, and when National Government provides a solution to the problem, he and his party rejects the proposal and model as well.

An HON MEMBER: Crime is not the solution.

Mr P MARRAN: It would serve the hon member Van der Westhuizen much better if you fight. It would serve the hon member Van der Westhuizen much better if you fight for more budget for the climate change programme in his Department and its budget. A Department led by his party and the budget pushed by his party.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning lacks the necessary teeth and budget to hold entities such as the City of Cape Town and Stellenbosch Municipality accountable for



the environmental manmade disasters.

At the same time, if we are to prevent manmade disasters such as the deproclamation of Drift Sands Nature Reserve, then the City of Cape Town, working with Provincial Government, must deliver better services to our people.

If the City of Cape Town with the province had better services and provided houses for our people, then the invasion of Drift Sands would not have ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja, shame.

Mr P MARRAN: ... taken place. You must build houses. Not just housing opportunities, build top structures.

The City of Cape Town and the Province will be held responsible for the manmade disaster of Drift Sands. At the same time this Provincial Government seems to have a stop and go approach to water security and it is not sustainable. We cannot have an intensive campaign for people to save water and once we have rains for a year or two, then people in this Provincial Government go back to their old habits.

Of course lifting restrictions on water use doesn't mean lifting water tariffs, those remain. This Provincial Government must come to the

realisation that we will always have water security issues.

Now how do we live and plan for that? Our people in our private sector must be able to adapt and we must ensure that, for example, three minute showers must become standard habits, whether the dams are full or not, like it must become standard for our municipalities and provinces to build houses with solar panels. So it must become standard that houses are built where we are able to catch water and to save water. One morning on my way here and I have listened to KFM, the Mayor of the City of Cape Town has spoken and he said that dams in the Metro are losing 2% of water on a weekly basis. That is why the ANC makes that proposal.

Like it must become standard for our municipalities in the province – hon Deputy Speaker, yes?

†'n AGB LID: Is dit verdamping?

[An HON MEMBER: Is it evaporation?]

Mr P MARRAN: Yes, it is *verdamping*, that is why we must make sure that we implement measures like the three minute shower – the three minute shower, so that we make sure that there is water even when there is a low rainfall in winter.

An HON MEMBER: Wow! [Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: This Department is one of the smallest in terms of budget  
[Inaudible.] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr P MARRAN: ... as well. Yet this Department's mandate is one of the most  
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr P MARRAN: ... important in energy government.

While we have highlighted the critical role that the Department plays  
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr P MARRAN: ... in respect of the ...[intervenes] environment and how it  
can be greatly assisted in its mandate by an Environmental Commissioner, we  
must recognise the important task it has in development planning.

China serves as an international model of the development planning. Yet the  
DA left ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: China? [Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: Yes, China. [Interjections.] China, China. [Interjections.]  
Yet ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marran, speak to me.

Mr P MARRAN: Yet the DA left development to the vagaries  
...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P MARRAN: ... of the market and therefore there is no integrated  
...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Bredell .....[intervenes]

Mr P MARRAN: ... and [Inaudible.] planning.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, I am just trying to control the House.  
[Interjections.] You may proceed.

Mr P MARRAN: The hon member Nkondlo has been begging this Provincial  
Government for the last four years for development planning data scenarios  
of forecasting.

Transport routes, integrated human settlements, commercial hubs, industrial areas, basic services such as sewerage, roads, schools, hospitals, clinics, amongst many other services, should be planned by this Department. Instead of just being a caretaker and issuing permits, this Department should be innovative and have at its fingertips what the expansion of the City towards, for example, the north edge would look like in five to 10 years. They must plan ahead.

Out of seven programmes in this Department only one is devoted to development planning when in actual fact this Department should be leading in coordinating service delivery and the Provincial Government must appoint a Minister of Planning.

The Provincial Government build houses in Forest Heights, but there is no school nearby. Today what is supposed to be a human settlement, is now infrastructure, but another [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marran, look at me.

An HON MEMBER: At least [Inaudible.] planning.

Mr P MARRAN: Ja. Am I there? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marran, your time is ticking.

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes? My right side, hon member Minister Bredell, hon member Isaacs ...[Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am not finished, my time is not finished. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know, and I am worried about all this time that you are having conversation in-between.

Mr P MARRAN: I can read many speeches at once.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can see that. [Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, many speeches at once.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed. You may proceed.  
[Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: That is the gift of God. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It certainly is.

Mr P MARRAN: Many speeches as one.

Hon Deputy Speaker, therefore the ANC declines to give support to this Budget Vote, I thank you. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

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

I now recognise the hon member Cassiem online. Online. [Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There we go.

An HON MEMBER: Please deliver the right speech.

Ms A CASSIEM: It was a strategy of the apartheid government to introduce protected areas and to have areas deemed as environmentally sensitive in order to create a buffer zone between those areas where black people live and those areas where white people live.

This is still perpetuated today and as part of the DA Government's apartheid spatial planning, the term "environment" is continuously abused in order to enforce structural apartheid.

It is a norm for this DA-led City and Province to continuously utter the words "protect biodiversity" at poor residents living on coastal areas when it comes

to the request for housing to be built in their communities.

Here we will even find that available land in and around coastal areas like Strandfontein and Mitchells Plain have been marked off as not suitable for housing, but rather suitable for business purposes. Yes, we must protect biodiversity, but this DA-led Government must stop using it to shift poor people away from areas which will only benefit the rich.

This mentality of this DA-led Government needs to change in order for real changes to be made in this province. The same mentality was seen once again today when the hon Deputy Speaker refused to deal with an unrepented racist from the Freedom Front Plus, who sees nothing wrong with his actions and remarks, and just like homeless people are shocked at and evicted when putting up shelters across the province, the similar treatment was given to hon members in the Chamber speaking up against racism today, when they were instructed to basically shut up or leave, but it is nothing new to us to see this DA protect and delay matters of racism.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this month the Economic Freedom Fighters participated in a clean-up campaign in this province in order to keep the environment clean and safe, and to make sure that our people live in humane conditions.

It is not a secret that under this DA-led Government taxpayers' money is only spent on leafy suburbs and within inner cities, whilst townships, where the majority of African and Coloured people live, are neglected.



It is not a secret that this DA-led Government only visit these areas to maintain it during election time in order to source votes and then disappear thereafter, until the following elections. Recently there has been temporary closure of certain beach areas in places such as Lifeguard Station and Jagers Walk in Fish Hoek because of sewage spillage. The case of these spillages into sea are as a result of blocked sewerage pipes and drainage systems, and also as a result of no maintenance.

Every year the budget that should be used to keep our environment clean is being saved by this Government only for it to be returned into the Provincial Revenue Fund.

A party like the DA who governs the province and who claims to care about our environment, but allow sewage to flow and dirt to pile up, specifically in poor communities, does obviously not care about the environment.

There is also a lack of learnership and bursaries available in this specific sector, specifically for previously disadvantaged people in this province with an interest in this field and this budget does not cater much towards it.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, the budget does not touch on the real issues and needs of the people, especially in poor communities, despite the Government having the capacity to deal with it and therefore the EFF rejects the budget. Thank you.

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

I now recognise the hon member Van der Westhuizen.

†n AGB LID: Gooi kole! [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Throw coals!] [Interjections.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, this province is blessed with a natural beauty that attracts people from far and wide.

Our natural environment and landscapes play a huge role in attracting tourists and to create jobs in a country that has the highest unemployment figures in the world.

Our climate also allows us to produce food, to be a net exporter of agricultural products and to contribute to our nation's food security. The beauty around us, the quality of our environment, including the quality of the air that we breathe, add to the quality of our lives.

Without a healthy environment we would not have been able to enjoy living in the Western Cape the way we do, but when I speak of the natural beauty of this province, I cannot but help to also mention the enormous responsibility that this brings about.

I trust that all members appreciate the importance of the environment, not only for now, but particularly for those that will come after us. For centuries this has not been the case and the environment suffered greatly. Unfortunately human progress came at the expense of the environment and South Africa's carbon footprint is at this moment still growing year on year. This trend is jeopardising our children's future and we all need to do something soon to address this.

It is crystal clear that we need to create a greater awareness of the impact that we all have on the environment and it is more often than not the wealthy that has the biggest impact on the environment. Us with our big petrol and diesel engines, us that often travel alone in our vehicles, us that fly to destinations all over the world. The thinking regarding environmental conservation has fortunately changed from a position where it was thought best to keep the public away from nature and sensitive areas. It has moved to the current position where the public is brought into contact and introduced to the wonders of nature, where the public are being educated to respect and appreciate sensitive areas and to be confronted by the impact that we have on the environment.

Knowledge is power and knowledge of the negative effects and the full extent of the impact that we have on the earth, is needed. Albert Einstein is credited with the saying:

"If I had an hour to solve a problem, I would spend 55 minutes

thinking about the problem and five minutes thinking about solutions."

We, by figure of speech and in terms of time eternal, have far less than an hour to solve the challenge of climate change, and the immediate needs of our residents are so enormous that all countries struggle to find enough money for the longer term, and to effectively reduce our negative impact on the environment.

Which brings me to the proposed budget for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, generally known as Cape Nature, is set to receive R265 million Rand in this budget year. With this it must manage and protect more than 1 million hectares of land. Fund research, it must inspect facilities and issue permits for the keeping of wild animals, it must comment on applications in terms of environmental legislation, undertake environmental education and as I mentioned earlier, manage access to our natural reserves in a way that will ensure sustainability.

This at a time when land, something which was previously seen as a safe asset and that one that would be easy to manage, came under various pressures, environmental pressures, but also pressure from people that are looking for land to erect houses, and this pressure does not only come from poor people, but the Department must also find its way among the pressures from developers that target the most unique and beautiful landscapes in our

country.

With its limited budget, CapeNature also needs to address various environmental threats. It is therefore not surprising that even some of the land under CapeNature's control is also being overgrown by alien vegetation, and as various wildfires have shown it is particularly the alien trees that are the most susceptible to wildfires and that burns at higher temperatures.

On the subject of alien vegetation, and Minister Bredell also referred to this, this is also a huge problem for many private landowners, and it is very difficult to access funds to keep one's land free from unwanted alien vegetation, particularly if the land in question is not draining into a recognised water catchment area.

Earlier today in the debate on the Budget Vote of the Department of Agriculture, I also referred to the risks of climate change. I specifically referred to the risks of climate change for agricultural production, but these risks go much further.

We have seen the damaging floods in KwaZulu Natal. A year ago we witnessed a death toll of 435 confirmed deaths. We have seen property damage of more than R70 billion caused by these floods in KZN, and these figures relate to damages in a relatively small area, and after 12 months many people are still displaced, many people are still housed in temporary shelters and waiting for the promised homes, and damaged infrastructure is still not

repaired, with the result that raw sewage is still flowing unabated down some rivers and into the sea. [Interjections.]

On the other hand we have seen serious droughts in other areas, and while the drought may have been broken in the Karoo, thanks to good rainfall particularly during the previous summer, the veld required a number of average and above average rainfall to recover.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, I cannot hear the hon member Van der Westhuizen. [Interjections.]

You may proceed. [Interjections.] Hon member Marran.

**Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Jaag hom uit.**

**Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Chase him out.**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. [Interjections.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: And while the floods and droughts may not only have been caused by climate change, it does give us some insight into the risks that we expose ourselves to if we ignore the effects of our actions on the environment, particularly those actions that accelerate climate changes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as we have seen the brunt of the effect of floods,

droughts, etcetera, is borne by provinces. The National Government signed ambitious agreements at international events in return for funding to assist us to become less dependent on fossil fuels. Despite this Minister Gwede Mantashe and other cadres, including ANC cadres in this House. Jôh, sorry, they are not listening, are clearly not committed to renewable energy sources, including the Leader of the Opposition.

Their fear of the mining unions, particularly in the mining of coal, is clearly illustrated in their responses and actions to limit and delay the implementation of renewable energy projects, or perhaps – I see they say I am not right, but it is perhaps their fear and the corruption in the coal industry, involving senior ANC politicians, particularly those with ties Mpumalanga, that our ANC members want to protect. [Interjections.] I think that is the case.

Just last month Minister Bredell responded as follows ...[intervenes] to a written question ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr AP VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: ... in which I asked about the coordination of national and provincial responses to the challenge of climate change. Minister Bredell stated, and I quote:

"With climate change being a transversal issue, another

challenge is poor coordination and cooperation between different Government departments and sectors, which can lead to a fragmented approach, and I have also been quoted by the hon member Marran, and I feel honoured by that, by referring to the fragmented approach. This exacerbates the problem of accepting financial support due to climate change response project proposals not getting the implementation ready, or not being large enough to qualify for external funding."

I therefore call on the National Government to change this fragmented approach to a unified response, with clear provincial targets, thresholds and obligations to guide the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions at provincial and municipal levels.

While the ANC National Government is dithering on action steps to address the issue of climate change, this Democratic Alliance Government, through this Department, is taking it seriously.

Please note the following actions:

1. A state of climate change mitigation responses report is envisaged as an annual report that will track progress in terms of the implementation of the mitigation measures modelled in the emissions pathway, and the tracking of greenhouse gas emission reductions.



2. To deliver on the resilience aspect of the climate change response strategies vision, a Western Cape climate change adaptation pathway will be developed to build an equitable and inclusive society that thrives, despite the shocks and stresses posed by climate change, and
3. During the past few years all Western Cape districts have finalised district climate change plans with the support of this Department.

And I heard the hon member Marran also referring to the importance of districts. Here you have it, we have already done it.

In addition, the province currently has 31 Air Quality Management Plans, one provincial and 30 municipal air quality management plans that have been adopted and that are currently being implemented to manage emissions inclusive of greenhouse gases.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Does it [Inaudible.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: All in all R5.8 million has been allocated to the Climate Change Management Sub-Programme. Clearly this challenge is being addressed with the necessary focus and urgency in this province, despite a limited budget.

R31 million has been allocated to Programme 3 to ensure that our environment is protected ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: ... through the environmental legal regime and licensing system. This is the programme that must ensure the enforcement and compliance with environmental laws.

In terms of the annual performance plan this budget will fund almost 400 compliance inspections to ensure facilities and businesses comply with environmental legislation. Through improving compliance with environmental legislation, environmental degradation and pollution will be minimised and rectified.

Improved compliance will also reduce the unlawful utilisation and exploitation of our environmental resources, which jeopardises the principles of sustainable development and affects our ecological economy.

The sub-programme impact management is responsible for facilitating environmental impact mitigation to promote sustainable development and a safe, healthy and sustainable environment. This is achieved through the implementation of an environmental impact management system through the use of various tools such as environmental impact assessments.

It is planned to stimulate the waste economy by creating an enabling environment and provide support to small and micro entrepreneurs which will create jobs. [Interjections.] The environmental impacts and its specific

impact on climate change, will be reduced. Active support will be given to municipalities and industry to improve resilience in waste management.

In this regard I want to applaud the way in which these officials support particularly our smaller municipalities with advice and by sharing their vast knowledge gained in various roles. The sub-programme Pollution and Waste Management, has been allocated R49 million and I believe we all support their intentions to create job creation in the waste management space.

Working transversally with other Western Cape Government departments, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning delivers its capacity development and empowerment support at the provincial, district and municipal levels to empower people to create a more just and sustainable environment. This is done in a variety of ways depending on the type of capacity development and empowerment support required, the level of operation and transversal partnership opportunities.

The Department is providing capacity building and empowerment support for curriculum assessment policy statements, the schools' well-known CAPS curriculum, aligned environmental education and awareness programmes in collaboration with the Western Cape Education Department.

One of the capacity building projects is Women in the Green Economy, an annual gender-focused project which aims to build capacity and allows networking with potential women entrepreneurs and women-led micro and

small enterprises. The growth potential studies and effective and efficient spatial economic policy data tool, to build on, to contribute to an enabling environment for a dynamic and evidence-based system to understand spatial economies in the Western Cape, and it requires our ongoing investment and support.

The second strategic outcome is therefore to realise more resilient and spatially transformed Western Cape settlements, building on the strong base of a progressive and ambitious spatial governance system.

Water, like energy, enables the economy to function and water security is a critical factor in supporting the Western Cape Government's priority areas relating to economic growth, human health and job creation.

Our fynbos areas are remarkable in their ability to catch and retain water during the winter rain season, and then to release the water during the dry season. No wonder that the eradication of alien vegetation in our water catchment areas is such a high priority and fortunately it is not only through this Department and its entity, CapeNature, that these initiatives are funded and implemented.

I referred earlier today to the Department of Agriculture's LandCare programme whereby river beds are cleared of alien trees. Just last week we have seen a two day water indaba called by Minister Bredell and presented by this Department. This was an effort to bring together three spheres of

government and to plan ahead, possibly as much as 15 years. Feedback from those that attended the water indaba is that they found it extremely valuable.

We have already seen numerous towns that have run out of water and Minister Meyer quoted various ANC-run towns earlier today, where less than 50% of the population have access to piped water.

The current loadshedding brought about by poor planning from the National Government, is impacting negatively on infrastructure such as water purification and wastewater works. [Interjections.] Again it is the environment that is put at risk when sewerage is not treated to acceptable standards.

There is an important link between environmental affairs and the planning of future developments in this province. It is therefore apt for these functions to be housed within one department. This province is leading the way with studies to determine the growth potential, to predict the infrastructural needs of towns and to promote social well-being through clever designs [Interjections.]

There is a recognition that even safety can be positively influenced by smart design. Again this Department has been able to leverage funding and to create an awareness of the importance of design to quality of life, but also to stimulate job creation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have a responsibility towards the environment of this province, but the effect of our decisions and actions here at the southernmost point of this continent is not limited to only the Western Cape, it affects our other eight provinces too and our neighbouring countries, and eventually life on earth as we got to know it.

I am proud of what this Department and its entity, CapeNature, have been achieving with the limited budget that is annually allocated to it. It has contributed to the high quality of life that we enjoy.

I therefore have no hesitation in calling on members to support this Budget Vote, and I thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Van der Westhuizen. [Applause.]

I now recognise the hon Minister Bredell. [Interjections.]

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek gaan begin deur die agb lid Marran baie dankie te sê vir sy insette. Daar was van die insette waarna 'n mens kan luister en dan dwaal hy maar af, soos die ANC kan doen. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Ek wil tog vir die agb lid Marran vra om net vanaand as hy by die huis is en hy is rustig en kalm, sy *calculator* te vat en te *reflect* op sy verkeerde toespraak oor behuising, en uitwerk hoeveel huise jy vir R400 miljard kan bou, en dan kan hy terugkom en vir die Huis vertel as dit nie vir ANC korrupsie was nie, dan was al die huise in hierdie land gebou en al die tannies wat nou oorlede is sonder 'n huis, sou huise gehad het. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Agb Adjunkspeaker, dan op die DDM model. Dis 'n model, hy hoef nie eers daarvoor te debatteer nie, ons gaan dit nie aanvaar op die huidige manier soos wat die ANC dit wil afdwing nie, want hulle verstaan nie sferes van regering nie. Dis 'n tipiese uitgaande tipe regering wat nou wil mag behou, en nou probeer hulle om van nasionale platform deur distrikte deur munisipaliteite te beheer, dit gaan nie werk nie, hulle sisteem het nog nie gewerk nie. Hulle loodsprojekte het almal misluk. Die JDMA is 'n model waar ons herken sferes van regering, hier sit Distriksburgemeesters, dit werk soos 'n bom, en ons sal aanhou daarmee en as ons dit in die hof moet beveg, dan sal ons dit ook in die hof beveg. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, I'm going to begin by thanking the hon member Marran for his input. There was input one could listen to and then he deviates like the ANC can do. [Interjections.]

I just want to ask the hon member Marran when he gets home tonight and he's at peace and calm, to take his calculator and reflect on his wrong speech

on housing, and work out how many houses you can build for R400 billion, and then come back and tell the House that if it had not been for ANC corruption, then all the houses in this country would have been built and all the *tannies* who are now deceased without a house, would have had houses. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, then on the DDM model. It's a model, he does not even have to debate that, we are not going to accept it in the present manner as the ANC wants to force it, because they do not understand spheres of government. It's a typical outgoing type of government who wants to retain power, and now they try to control from national platform through districts, through municipalities, it's not going to work, their system has not yet worked. Their pilot projects all failed. The JDMA is a model where we acknowledge spheres of government, District Mayors are sitting here, it works like a charm, and we will continue with that and if we have to fight it in court, then we will also fight it in court.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Wat die riool betref, agb Adjunkspeaker, ons het nie gesê ons is perfek nie. Daar is baie rioolprobleme, dis iets wat ons geërf het, dis iets waarmee ons werk met ons munisipaliteite.

Die Stad Kaapstad besef dit, maar dit is nie iets wat jy net 'n ligskakelaar



aansit nie. Dit gaan 'n lang proses wees, want hier het 125 000 mense Kaap toe getrek, dit beteken 25 miljoen liter water 'n dag ekstra. Die jaar voor dit 108 000 mense. Almal beweeg daar waar daar *excellence* is of goeie regering is, en – ja, ons het nie genoeg infrastruktuur gehad om dit te hanteer nie, maar daar is 'n plan en die Stad werk daaraan.

Laastens wil ek vir die agb lid Marran sê, jy weet die DDM model waarna hy verwys, hy moet onthou [Tussenwerpsels.] die ANC het Projek Konsolideer probeer, hulle het LG Taz probeer, hulle het Turnaround Strategy probeer. As jou kop korrup is gaan jy nêrens heen gaan met enige stelsel nie, dan is jy dood in die water. [Tussenwerpsels.]

So, agb Adjunkspeaker, laastens aan die agb lid Marran, deur u, hulle was almal genooi na die waterberaad toe. Wat 'n *awesome* twee dae, en ek wens hulle kon dit almal bygewoon het, want dan sou hy presies geweet het hoe werk die 15-jaar plan, wat is die gereedskap, *tool* kissie waarvan ons praat, [Tussenwerpsels.] en langtermyn kon hulle ons munisipaliteit gehelp het, [Tussenwerpsels.] maar ons sal dit Staande Komitee toe bring, want ons het baie geduld, agb Adjunkspeaker.

Aan die agb *member of the EFF*, [Interjections.] agb lid Cassiem,  
[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: regarding the sewage, hon Deputy Speaker, we did not say we are perfect. There are many sewage problems, it's something we inherited, it's something we are working with, with our

municipalities.

The City of Cape Town realises that, but it's not something that you can just flick a light switch. It's going to be a long process, because 125 000 people moved here to the Cape, that means 25 million litres of water extra per day. The year before that, 108 000 people. Everyone moves where there is excellence or good governance, and – yes, we did not have sufficient infrastructure to handle that, but there is a plan and the City is working on it.

Finally I want to say to the hon member Marran, you know the DDM model he refers to, he must remember [Interjections.] the ANC tried Project Consolidate, they tried LG Taz, they tried Turnaround Strategy. If your head is corrupt, you're not going anywhere with any system, then you're dead in the water. [Interjections.]

So, hon Deputy Speaker, finally to the hon member Marran, through you, they were all invited to the water summit. What an awesome two days, I wish they could have all attended it, because then he would have known exactly how the 15-year plan works, what are the tools, tool kit we speak about, [Interjections.] and long term they have helped our municipalities, [Interjections.] but we will bring it to the Standing Committee, because we have a lot of patience, hon Deputy Speaker.

To the hon member of the EFF, [Interjections.] hon member Cassiem,] thank you for your inputs. Just go and read our inclusionary housing policy. I do

not know of another province that has got one ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ... but it is exactly what we are trying to do to bring people closer to economic hubs, etcetera. I am very excited and business and people all buy in. We have had a huge Public Participation Programme, lots of debates within the policy, and I am very excited.

I want to thank her for being part of a clean-up campaign because at least politicians are also doing good things. We will never support anybody with racial remarks and the process will deal with that, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, aan my agb Voorsitter van die Staande Komitee, agb Van der Westhuizen, baie dankie vir julle oorsig, dankie vir die manier waarop jy 'n voorsitter is. Jy vra die moeilike vrae, jy laat 'n man bietjie sweet so nou en dan, want jy is buite in die veld, jy het 'n passie vir die omgewing en vir *climate change*, en ons waardeer dit, want deur dit te doen maak jy dat ons beter raak. [Tussenwerpsels.]

So baie dankie, ons waardeer dit,

[Hon Deputy Speaker, to my hon Chairman of the Standing Committee, hon Van der Westhuizen, thank you for your oversight, thank you for the manner in which you are a chairman. You ask the difficult questions, you make one

sweat now and then, because you are out in the field, you have a passion for the environment and for climate change, and we appreciate that, because by doing that you make us better. [Interjections.]

So thank you, we appreciate that,] and again with that I table the Budget of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning for the year 2023/2024, thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

That brings us to the end of that Vote. Minister, do you need time for your staff to .....[intervenes]

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: No, we can [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. We will move on directly ...[Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Aitsa!

[An HON MEMBER: *Aitsa!*]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... to the next Vote. [Interjections.] I will ask Mr Stimela to read the Fifth Order of the Day. [Interjections.]

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 14: Local Government – Western Cape

Appropriation Bill [B 2–2023].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Stimela.

I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Premier in his absence, to all my Cabinet colleagues, to all the members of Parliament, to all our Mayors, to all the members of the public, thank you very much for the opportunity.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Budget for Local Government 2023/2024. This is a small Department that makes a huge difference in the way people experience living in our towns, villages, cities of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are currently faced with an electricity crisis which impacts directly on the ability of municipalities to provide basic services. Reliable electricity is also essential for water systems to operate and we experienced a very difficult December in several of our coastal holiday towns where frequently long electricity blackouts led to beach closures due to sewage pollution which spilled into our estuaries.

So I must maybe just pause here and again thank all our engineers who came back from holiday to support our municipalities. Our coastal municipalities really struggled through December.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have just concluded our water indaba in partnership with the City of Cape Town. We have done a lot of hard work to be able to present the 15-year water and drought plan, led by the Department of Local Government, to our stakeholders and the public.

If I must highlight some of the aspects it would be the development of first of all the infrastructure toolkit, which did an assessment of all water infrastructure of our municipalities, of all 30 our municipalities it has done an assessment. This tool can be used by all municipalities for future planning and maintenance of essential water infrastructure.

Hon Deputy Speaker, and again let me pause there and just explain that there is a mass of information behind this tool, so we are going to train two officials in each municipality so that they will be able to work with this and they will then share it with the political [Inaudible.] in the municipality, as well as the officials, because this must become part of the budgeting. It will tell you exactly how much you must spend on maintenance, on investing in infrastructure, so that you can prepare for growth.

The water balancing tool, which uses uniform population growth projections, is a powerful tool for municipalities to calculate the future of water

resilience. It also allows you to see the potential impact of different water strategies for a municipality. This tool can now calculate the impact of more balls against the impact of water reuse strategy for a specific municipality, and they can look at that and they can see which one will benefit their needs best going into the future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, another important finding from research that informed the 15-year water plan, includes, based on expected economic and population growth, that the bulk of new water demand will come from larger settlements within the greater Cape Town Metro City region, Cape Winelands area, and I see the Mayor is here, and the West Coast N7 corridor.

In Southern Cape, George and Plettenberg Bay will see a strong demand and growth in the demand for water. Even under business as usual projections, growth in new water demand can be as much as 4,5% in Stellenbosch, and around 4% in Drakenstein and Swartland.

Hon Deputy Speaker, and while we are presenting budgets here in this House today, officials from the Department of Local Government are on the ground in several of our rural towns, leading water saving awareness campaigns. We will keep on doing this because every drop counts at the end of the day, and we must instil behavioural change.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if we look at the headline numbers of this 2023/2024 budget for the Department of Local Government, the Department 2023

budget allocation decreased by R15,6 million from 2022/2023 Revised Estimates of R385,4 million in the 2022/2023 financial year, to the Main Budget of R369,9 million in the 2023/2024 financial year.

The decrease relates mainly to the R88,8 million allocated in 2022/2023 financial year to provide financial assistance to municipalities as emergency response to mitigate the impact of prolonged loadshedding on municipal water and sanitation services in the province, and I think we are the only province in the country who has done that.

The Budget amounts to R369,9 million for 2023/2024 financial year, R372,8 million for 2024/2025 financial year, and R385,6 million for the 2025/2026 budget year. Hon Deputy Speaker, Compensation of Employees amounts to R212 million in the 2023/2024 financial year. Allow me to thank these employees who are already doing more than what is expected of them.

I repeat that what I have said in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning budget speech, we must treasure our dedicated staff or we will pay a price in the future. I trust that this matter will also be central to our ongoing culture journey engagements.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if we look at areas where allocations have increased specifically for the year, we see the following:



- R6 million to fund dedicated project management support required to ensure the successful roll-out of the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Finance Facility (SIDAFF Programme) that can help this province a lot and can add a lot of value if we can get that right, and we are going to do everything in our ability to help and support our municipalities.
- R10,3 million mitigating disaster risk. This includes the use of artificial intelligence and systems and technology required for anticipating disasters.
- R25 million to strengthen existing and explore innovative responses to deepen water resilient interventions in the face of increased climate change vulnerability.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I have mentioned the electricity crisis. As such an amount of R57,6 million is allocated over the MTEF for the Western Cape energy response, which includes allocations towards the following:

- R30 million to pilot renewable energy solutions in municipalities.
- R5 million for the provision of specialist service providers to conduct investigations and assess the feasibility of potential renewable energy options.
- R5,3 million towards the Municipality Electricity Master Planning Programme.

- R17,3 million for additional critical skills and capacity to support the energy programme in the Department.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while we are dealing with the challenges of electricity crisis, the potential future water crisis or any other unforeseen challenges that might come our way, normal day-to-day work still needs to be done in this regard.

So R5 million is allocated in 2023/2024 to provide for capacity building and support to municipalities in the execution of their roles and responsibilities during the transition period post the 2021 Local Government elections.

- R3 million in 2023/2024 for ongoing drought support.
- R2 million is allocated to support the fire strategy of the Department and strengthen the capacity of fire and rescue services.
- R2,1 million for research, policy and legislation development to support services to facilitate the implementation of the Traditional Khoisan Leadership Act, Act 3 of 2019.
- R5,6 million to strengthen municipal support interventions together with Provincial Treasury in terms of Section 139 of the Constitution.
- An amount of R6,7 million in the 2023/24 financial year for the municipal Fire Capacity Grant to improve municipal hazardous material response capacity.

- R11,3 million for aerial firefighting. This funding supplements base-line allocations and will allow for improved firefighting responses related to the increase in fire incidences experienced in this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I conclude. The Department of Local Government might be small, but if one looks at the above areas where they play a role, it is very clear that it is an essential department. The truth is that our citizens experience government there where they live and work. Droughts, floods, electricity blackouts are experienced by our residents in municipalities.

The people of this country do not live in Union Buildings or various Government buildings throughout South Africa. Let us be very careful not to become complacent here where we are today. It would be a mistake to think the world of our people out in the townships and small rural towns is the same as here in this Chamber.

I want to thank HOD Graham Paulse and his team for the very important role they play in supporting municipalities to serve and to protect the people in this province.

Lastly I also want to thank my Ministry under the leadership of Marius du Randt for their hard work and to help me to support our municipalities. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

I now recognise the hon member Dugmore. Hon member Dugmore, did you want something?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

I did actually ask ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, that is fine.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ... if it is possible [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, sure. I thought so. No problem, we will just make sure you get that. [Interjections.]

Baie dankie, Minister. Thank you Minister.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, MEC, colleagues. I am not sure how many Mayors and Deputy Mayors are here, but I am sure that many might be watching.

When the President addressed – that is President Ramaphosa – addressed the event "Taking Parliament to the People" in the Ugu District Municipality in KZN in November last year, the President said, and I quote:

"Since democracy in 1994, this Government has made significant strides in improving the lives of the South African people, particularly those who were most disadvantaged by apartheid rule. We have expanded basic services like water, sanitation and electricity, and built homes. We have provided access to free primary healthcare, quality basic education and free tertiary education in regard to the NSFAS Policy. Since 1994, the progressive and pro-poor policies of successive democratic administrations, have lifted millions of people out of extreme poverty and improved their lives."

And yet the President said:

"We know that we can no longer rely on these past glories as we witness severe challenges at Local Government which is where service delivery happens."

While the party across the aisle wishes to deny the many strides that the ANC has made since 1994 and while they will be slow to admit that South Africa is a better country than it was in 1994 because of the ANC Government, we still have many challenges, especially, hon Deputy Speaker, at municipal or local level.

As has been often repeated, Local Government lies at the coalface of service delivery. Local Government lies at the very heart of whether our people's

lives are changed for the better or not. Yet one of the major issues in terms of addressing Local Government and those challenges mentioned by the President, is the challenge of coalitions and instability.

While this challenge may certainly be new to the rest of the country, we have had our fair share of them here in the Western Cape and we have some share of them, some experience of them.

The instability of coalitions is not new to the Western Cape and we know for sure that this instability impacts directly on service delivery. At our recent 55<sup>th</sup> National Conference the ANC dealt in depth with this question of coalitions and recognised the instability that coalitions bring to our municipalities, and thus their ability to deliver services.

The ANC is on record as suggesting in this House for a debate to happen on coalitions and that political parties work together to find a solution to this challenge which negatively affects all of us and the voters. Yes, it is the voters that have somewhat caused this instability through the way they have expressed their freedom of choice and for whom they have voted, but as democrats and patriots, we must be able to respect the outcomes and the message that voters send us when they do not give one party an outright majority.

The message is clear, we as political parties must work together and it is this instruction by voters that we must be able to discuss and work on. Yet as our

national conference also reminded us, we must have a differentiated approach to Local Government. We cannot have a blanket approach as to how we address the challenges of Local Government and those of coalitions as well.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I believe that we need to consider very seriously the proposals that have been made by the South African Local Government Association regarding Coalition Government Section. We know that Section 152 of the Constitution of our Republic spells out the objectives of Local Government.

1. To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities.
2. To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.
3. To promote social and economic development.
4. To promote a safe and healthy environment, and
5. To encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of Local Government.

It is time, hon Deputy Speaker, that we as members of this House have a serious discussion about Local Government and try our best to put party politics aside. We need to ask are all of us really doing enough to meet these objectives in our Constitution? These objectives for Local Government.

It is my view that the residents want service delivery, access to land and human settlements, safety, water and electricity. They do not want individual councillors who look after their own personal or business interests. They do

not want endless motions of no confidence and endless legal battles. The challenge thus is to stabilise Local Government.

To this end I want to ask the DA political leadership not to give unlawful instructions to MEC Bredell. In this regard I include Helen Zille as well as Tertius Simmers, and in turn I want to appeal to the MEC Bredell to honour what the Constitution says in word and deed.

We cannot have an MEC who refuses to act against DA councillors in the Cederberg, who stay away from three consecutive Council meetings. We cannot have an MEC who refuses to fill a vacancy in Oudtshoorn because the DA, through his, I think acting leader, Mr Simmers, believes that the new councillor from a local party will not vote for their coalition. [Interjections.]

We cannot have an MEC who turns a blind eye to the conduct of a DA Maco member in George whose son benefited from an unlawful investment of over R300 million in Old Mutual and then does nothing when his DA Provincial Leader, hon Minister Simmers, insists on the appointment of the very official fired by the George Municipality for his role in the unlawful Old Mutual investment, to insist that he gets appointed to the Kannaland Municipality.

So these unlawful instructions from your party lead in the province to you, please resist them, MEC Bredell. MEC Simmers should hang his head in shame. He pushed for the appointment of Keith Jordaan as Kannaland MM simply to keep ICOSA and to try and save the DA/ICOSA coalition in



Oudtshoorn. [Interjections.] Those are the facts.

The ANC agreed at our conference that we must find ways in which we can incentivise – the ways that we can incentivise municipalities to do well and consolidate support given to underperforming municipalities, including through intra-municipal support programmes, where good practices are shared across municipalities.

A good practice and, MEC Bredell, in terms of electricity, through the hon Deputy Speaker, I would urge you to visit Nelson Mandela Bay where the Nelson Mandela University, working with some of the local communities there, are setting up energy cooperatives, using vacant land for solar and then actually selling that electricity into the grid and generating at least R500 extra income per family. I would advise that there are good things to be learned all throughout this country, as your colleague on your left has indicated.

One of these interim useful support programmes is the District Development Model, which this Provincial Government has sadly rejected. The ANC National Government has motivated and implemented this District Development Model precisely in order to ensure that there is an improvement in the coherence and impact, and given that we have District and other Mayors here today, I think in fact what is happening, the DA is cutting its nose to spite its face, or whichever way that expression goes, because our President has, for instance, deployed Minister Ebrahim Patel to the Boland,

and if you think of what a DTI Minister could and has already done in terms of saving a factory which was about to close down in Ashton, if you have a National Minister engaging with the different spheres and saying, "What is the comparative advantage of the Langeberg? What is the comparative advantage of Witzenberg? What product can we produce in this area? What service can we provide at a price that another market can afford and that is needed?"

### **START OF DANA**

[Afternoon session]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Now, if we have the support of National Government, I think the voters are beginning to say that they want the national and provincial and local government to work together so when this DA Provincial Government in fact says, 'we do not want you, we have got something else', it actually undermines the very principle of our Constitution which is cooperative governance. Why would you not want to work with champions. Minister Creecy is deployed to the West Coast. I once, through you, hon Speaker, I saw a picture of hon MEC Bredell and Patricia de Lille actually standing together in the Overberg.

Now, hon Minister de Lille then, I am not sure whether the President will deploy her now, was the champion of the Overberg for the district. Now, surely, she was Minister of Infrastructure. If there were problems to deal with or issues to look at, the harvest, for instance, is it not in the best interest of the Overberg that the President's model of appointing champions,

working with the Provincial Government, is actually of benefit to the province? But yet, once again, the DA is playing politics and actually undermining the interest of the very people that stand to benefit from national investment.

Among others, a district development model seeks to ensure that the issues of local economic development and thereby job creation, climate change, as well as ensuring municipal infrastructure are invested in and implemented. Yet, hon Speaker, the DA-led administration sought to reject this model because it wants to use its municipalities as its personal fiefdoms. The DA-led administration continually tries to cut slogans. As the hon Kama said yesterday, the hon Premier is in permanent election mode and has never actually governed this Province in the last four years. Slogans such as R88-million for municipalities to mitigate loadshedding and you ask the details, you ask the municipality, you do not get details. We still do not know what this electricity is going to cost. We still do not know what the financial impact on municipalities is going to be if they lose their revenue from electricity. R30-million to another pilot project.

While we welcome all efforts in the fight to keep the lights on ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Cameron, hon Dugmore? Will you not just take your seat. I think there is a point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: A point of order?

The SPEAKER: Yes, will you not just take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: [Laughter.] Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I was wondering if the hon member would be able to take a question?

An HON MEMBER: What is your time?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Four minutes.

An HON MEMBER: Oh, no.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, would you want to ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am sorry, what ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, would you like to take a question?  
[Interjections.] No.

An HON MEMBER: She wants to know if you can take a question.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 4:45, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon member can ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He is scared.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...can come for a drink afterwards. We can definitely discuss anything you would like to discuss. [Interjections.]

Poor people in our municipalities are the ones who will be at the receiving end of the 36% cut in the Municipal Infrastructure Budget. It is the streets of the poor that are rivers of raw sewerage, and you lack the infrastructure to receive basic services. We welcome as the ANC, the process to establish a House of Traditional and Khoi-San leaders in the Western Cape. We believe it is long overdue and we look forward to having our traditional communities represented.

However, the Department has not yet appointed any staff to drive this process. They have actually not gone out to communities across the province to explain the process of traditional leaders applying for recognition. We agree with the Department that the application process is being managed by the National Department, but our concern is that the Province is not doing enough to create awareness about the process to set up the Provincial House

of Traditional Leaders.

Another issue which is critical for both portfolios of this hon MEC is the National Environmental Management Act and the Integrated Coastal Management Act. I am not sure if some of our leaders of municipalities are in coastal areas, but this law says that district and local municipalities have to provide access to the sea. And the reality is despite this legislation almost being 8-years old, not a single district and not a single municipality has actually gone to the process of consulting the public and saying in Hessequa, at the Stilbaai area between Stilbaai and Gouritz, where is there access to the coast? Not only our fishing communities need it, but other farmers have been blocked by rich property developers mainly from Gauteng – I have got no issue with Gautengers, I do not regard them as foreigners – but these rich property owners ...[Interjections.] No, no, I just want to explain this to the hon members. [Interjections.] Say, no hon members, say this is ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. No, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: *Ja*. Say, if this is the

coastline. Now you have got farmers who are living over here. So, these guys come and build houses here so that the farmers who used to for many years have access to the sea, cannot. Now, the way to deal with that is to actually implement NEMA and to implement the ICMA and I want to appeal to the hon MEC and the leadership of Local Government here. We have to give access to the sea. We have to. The sea is not private property. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: *Ja.*

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But why have you now, through the hon Deputy Speaker, actually implemented this? [Interjections.] No, you are busy, yes. **Wys vir my planne. Show me the plans.** [Interjections.] We want to see the access to the beach. From ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Focus on me, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...the Northern Cape border right to Bitou, we need to have access dedicated. That is what the law says. Your job is, hon MEC, the district's job, the Municipalities Act and now, we are allowing people just to buy more and more properties and close off the access to the beach. Let us be honest about that problem. It is a problem, and we actually need to deal with it. [Interjections.]

In Matzikama, I challenged the hon MEC to bring the Matzikama forensic report to this House and then, this notion of so-called ‘clean governance’, the rot in the City of Cape Town, the rot in Matzikama will actually come out. Bring that to this House. [Interjections.] The Oudtshoorn Museum, hon MEC Bredell, through the hon Deputy Speaker, please. †Daardie burgemeester in Oudtshoorn. Vir sy eie redes wil hy baklei met die die museum en daardie museum val onder daardie agb MEC. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dit kan nie wees nie dat daar is ‘n bakleiery en hofsake is terwyl eintlik daardie museum in Oudtshoorn veronderstel is...[Tussenwerpsel.] [that Mayor in Oudtshoorn. For his own reasons he wants to fight with the museum and that museum falls under the hon MEC. [Interjections.] it cannot be that there are fighting and court cases while that museum in Oudtshoorn is actually supposed ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore.

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: ...om almal te bedien.

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to serve everyone.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your ...[Interjection.]

†Die LEIER VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPPOSISIE: Dit is ‘n probleem.

[The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is a problem].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, take your seat please. Chief Whip.



The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, can the hon member on the floor please address you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Dugmore, focus on me.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: How much more time?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have got about a minute. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And I also want to explain to the hon MEC, through you, and the hon members of Local Government, do you know that when we in this House ask questions to the MEC, the City of Cape Town and the hon MEC get the questions and then, he sends them to the City of Cape Town. Do the hon members and the gallery know that the City of Cape Town is actually refusing to answer those questions, yet in every other province when an MEC gets a question from Mpumalanga or wherever from the DA, they answer those questions, but the City of Cape Town is refusing to answer ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...our questions.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And this hon MEC who talks about accountability, this Legislature is being undermined ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Imagine if tomorrow, Swartland or imagine if any other municipality said, “nee, ons gaan nie antwoord nie” “no, we are not going to respond”. No, we are cooperative and we need that information. [Interjections.] So, this MEC is actually defending the indefensible because he does not want the corruption of the DA, the cronyism, the state capture of the DA, the nepotism and the racism to actually come out in this House. So, that is why the City... No wonder the City knows about the corruption ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...in the Maintenance Department. If we ask a question here, hulle sal net vir jou sê, “nee, ons antwoord nie.” they will just say to you, “no, we do not respond”. Do not protect the indefensible, hon MEC. Let us work together ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and make sure that we make Local Government work. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon Dugmore, I now recognise hon Klaas. Oh no, he is not here – apologies. I recognise hon Sileku. [Applause.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. I know you are getting tired. Still, we have got two more Votes. Let us try and get this through as quickly as possible. ...[Interjection.]

†Mnr I M SILEKU (DA): Adjunkspeaker ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Deputy Speaker...][Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sileku, please take your seat. Hon Meyer, hon Minister Meyer, what is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to know where is hon member Klaas, since he will receive his salary at the end of the month.

An HON MEMBER: *Joh!*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apparently, he has deemed his apology.  
[Interjections.] Thank you very much. Hon Sileku, over to ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Shut up!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sileku, take your seat. Hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Just a point of order. Hon Deputy Speaker, would the hon Chairperson of the Committee like to use the lectern?

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): No, I am okay, thanks.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Over to you, hon Sileku.

†Mnr I M SILEKU (DA): Adjunkspeaker, baie dankie vir die geleentheid. Dankie dat jy moet eers begin om te groet, dan groet ek vir u, die agb lede van die Kabinet, die agb Premier in sy afwesigheid, Burgemeester, Onderburgemeester van verskillende munisipaliteite [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. Thank you that you first have to start by greeting, then I greet you, the hon members of the Cabinet, the hon Premier in his absence, Mayor, Deputy

Mayor from different municipalities] [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I am here, I am here.

†Mnr I M SILEKU (DA): ...en lede van die publiek en veral die lede van die Huis.

[Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...and members of the public and especially the members of the House.] Hon Deputy Speaker, it is very important that I answer a few questions from some of the hon members.

Yesterday, when we started the debate ...[Interjections.] when we started the debate there was a word that was said from the ANC about choice. They spoke about choice. And unfortunately, when you are given a choice you either use the choice to do good or you use the choice to do bad. And the choice consists of you can either choose to be corrupt, you can either choose to loot, or you can either choose to be responsive or you can either choose to listen to facts or ignore facts. [Interjections.] Unfortunately for the ANC, they chose the wrong things. They chose to be corrupt, they choose to be looting, they choose to ignore facts.

Fortunately for the residents of the Western Cape, they have a Government that has chosen to act. You know, whenever we bring plans, then we say 'you have got so many plans.' It is better to try and do something instead of not doing anything and that is the responsibility that we have taken as this Government of the Western Cape, to say whenever there is a crisis and this is

what was mentioned in December by hon Bredell in terms of the electricity crisis, we opted to do something as compared to other provinces where they do not do anything.

Also, I am glad that hon Dugmore has mentioned Ugu Municipality. Before I came to this particular House, I attended the 'taking Parliament to the people'. I was part of the delegation; I was there for five days, and I am just going to talk about what is currently happening in other provinces, just to bring rare events also to hon member Dugmore. You know ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We were there! You were not.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...before I came here, we attended to a petition from Limpopo. The petition from Limpopo was from poor communities asking and appointing lawyers because they did not have water. They did not have water. They opted to resort to saying, 'let us go to Parliament and petition that municipality to give us water'. ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is their right. That is good.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): So, when we went there, I was so amused to see a brand new X5 driven by the Mayor.

An HON MEMBER: The ANC Mayor.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): An ANC Mayor driving a brand new X5  
[Interjections.] instead of giving people water ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Those are the kinds of things that are happening in other provinces. [Interjections.] Instead of opting to give services to the residents ...[Interjections.] they opt to drive X5s. And then, when they come to the Western Cape where we are trying to do something for the residents of this province and willing to take the bullet for them, then they want to criticise us. I think I would advise them and say instead of criticising a Government that is trying to do something, go to your fellow provinces and advise them in terms of how to ...[Interjections.] to render ...[Inaudible. services.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...[Inaudible] in the poor ...[inaudible].

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Also ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: ...experience.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, let me go to hon member Marran. He is a good friend of mine and I am just going to give him some

information. Hon member Marran [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible]... and his girlfriend.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...in terms [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. I cannot hear hon Sileku [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon member Marran, you spoke about the ...[Inaudible.] of water ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It is your girlfriend.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): About the ...[Inaudible.] of water, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): And also, they spoke about debt collection policies, about electricity. Those are issues of the municipalities. Those are issues that a municipality has a policy in terms of how they are going to collect debt. It is up to them whether they use a different method in making sure that they recuperate what is due to them.



So, but what we have done as a Standing Committee of Local Government, ...[Interjections.] we have said ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. [Interjections.] Order, hon Marran. Order, hon members.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): We have said because knowledge is power and people perish because of the lack of knowledge. And as leaders in Legislatures, we need to be aware of what is happening in our municipalities. So, we have said we are going to call ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! One minute, hon Sileku, can you just take the seat. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, there has been loud conversing. I mean the hon Bakubaku-Vos only came to work at 20 past 4 and I am so happy that Auntie Poppie ...[Interjections.] has gone home already, that she did not have to witness this. [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker, can you please rule. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bakubaku-Vos, I do note that you are in the wrong seat, but I do recognise you at the back. Hon Marran, have you got a point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Speaker, can you ask the hon member not to address me

directly ...[Interjection.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): I have not!

Mr P MARRAN: ...but through you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true. [Interjections.] Thank you. Hon Sileku, talk to me. Thank you.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Sileku. Hon Bakubaku-Vos, would you like to address me? Yes?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I want him to remember his ex whenever he speaks. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. That is not a point of order, hon Bakubaku-Vos. Over to you, hon Sileku.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, like I was saying and I am just

going to go because I have got only three minutes, so I still have time.  
[Laughter.] I prepared, you know, for this speech. You know, †ek moet praat  
[Tussenwerpsel.] [I have to speak...][Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order, hon members!

†Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Ek moet praat. Die mense moet hoor. As hulle hier  
uitgaan dan verstaan hulle daar is 'n verskul tussen die DA en die ANC.  
[Tussenwerpsels.] [I have to speak. The people have to hear. When they leave  
here then they understand there's a difference between the DA and the ANC.]  
[Interjections.] Before I go to my speech ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. The members on the DA are much louder  
than anybody else in the House.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Before I go to my speech, hon Deputy Speaker, I want  
to also quote the President of the country, Mr Matamela Ramaphosa because  
hon Dugmore quoted him in Ugu. And I want to quote him. When he opened  
the Policy Conference of the ANC which was last year. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: We were there!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): When he spoke about Local Government during the  
Policy Conference of the ANC ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...and I quote what he said. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): He said:

“Comrades, the reason why municipalities are in the state they are in today is because of us.”

An HON MEMBER: No!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Referring to the ANC. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): So, that is an admission, hon Deputy Speaker, [Interjections.] that ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...their leader is admitting that they have failed their municipalities and they do not know how to govern municipalities. [Interjections.] †Want hulle kan nie regeer nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] *You know,*

en ons doen goed, maar hulle kan dit nie sien nie. [Because they cannot govern. [Interjections.] You know, and we're doing well, but they cannot see that. [Interjections.] You know, if even your own President can admit to that, † 'eh bras, julle doen 'n swak job', dan moet julle maar dit aanvaar. [ 'eh bras, you're doing a poor job, then you have to accept that.] [Interjections.] [Applause.]

Hon members of Western Cape Provincial Parliament, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen, before I commence with my speech, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the Provincial Government and its officials for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the betterment of our province. [Interjections.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Dit lyk mooi.

[An HON MEMBER: It looks good.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Their tireless efforts have made the Western Cape the most [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...prosperous and progressive province in the country. Despite a decrease in budget allocation for the Department, the Western Cape Provincial Government remains committed to ensuring that the Western Cape is a better place to live and work. [Interjections.]

The Department's core mandate is to ensure that municipalities in the province are well governed through oversight, capacity building, and governance capabilities. By focusing on this, we are able to bring stability and accountability to all our municipalities, especially the more rural municipalities which rely heavily on good and clean governance.

I am proud to note that a large majority of municipalities in the province have received clean audits. However, there remain a few that are either governed by the ANC and their allies or governed by unstable coalitions. And hon members, we have a chief negotiator of coalitions in the Western Cape by the name of hon member Dugmore. So, if coalitions are not working where they are in coalition, it is because he is the one that has actually contributed to that instability. [Interjections.]

We firmly believe that the residents of the Western Cape can only benefit when municipalities are well governed and the only party in South Africa that is known for its good governance is the DA.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government recognises the importance of addressing the needs of poorer communities and has implemented several targeted interventions to improve their quality of life. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Barrydale is

...[Interjection.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): To strengthen the Department's support for municipalities, the Department has put in place a support strategy that includes capacitating and training new councillors, undertaking assessments of senior manager appointments, providing ongoing advice and support, and dealing with general disregard for statutory prescripts.

To further strengthen the Department's support for municipalities, I am pleased to announce that during the financial year 2022/2023, the Department has provided support in terms of monitoring and filling of vacancies and guided the legislative prescripts of the recruitment and selection processes, as well as the facilitation of secondments. Let us go there.

The ANC is so obsessed about race, and I want to talk to hon member Cameron Dugmore because he was there when they negotiated a coalition in one of the municipalities in the Western Cape. He was sitting outside there waiting for one of the leaders. And I want to share with the House that one of the young Mayors is black because they want colour. I need to say that. He was a black and young Mayor or MM, Municipal Manager. He has now clearly abandoned that particular municipality not by choice because he said, 'I am a young person. I am not going to compromise myself because of people, councillors, interfering in the administration, things that are,' you know?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]... losers.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): You know because ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...you know and no, it is not important. You know, he said he would rather ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): 'I rather protect' ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): '...my integrity and move away.' [Interjections.] So, if they are so about, you know, protecting the so-called black that they want to preach about, why did they not fight for him? Instead of fighting for him, they opted to protect one of their coalition partners ...[Interjections.] so that they do not lose their positions. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]... the name!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): That – no, he knows the names. [Interjections.] *Ja*, he knows the names because ...[Interjection.]



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Sileku ...[Interjection.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Because ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...talk to me, yes.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It was a parliamentary process.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): You cannot be a ...[Interjections.] chief negotiator and then, not know what is happening ...[Interjections.] because he gave birth to that baby. So, when the baby does not get food he must be aware. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] He is a father of failures.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order! Thank you. [Interjections.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): The Department has also conducted the diagnostic assessment to review the Section 154 support plan for various municipalities and implemented support plans to address specific challenges as identified and requested by the municipality. In addition, I would like to highlight the amount of R6,3-million ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He is making up something

...[Interjection.]

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...has been allocated over the MTEF for research, policy and legislation development and support services to traditional councils to facilitate the implementation of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act 3 of 2019. What hon member Dugmore has omitted to say is that the process is undertaken by a commission and those people have been appointed by the President. ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I said that!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): And what we are doing as a province, we are saying ...[Interjections.] we are going to capacitate so that when we have to implement, then we are ready. So, that is what we are budgeting for. We must make sure by the time the process has been concluded, we do not run around. We implement what is expected from us. ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: There is no staff!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): This allocation is critical in supporting the Traditional Council and ensuring implementation of the Act. ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And the DA voted against that.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): The Department is committed ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...to the successful implementation of the important legislation [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...and we will continue to provide the necessary support to ensure its success. We also aim to increase citizen's access to government services and information, as a Government that is in contact and connected to its people. It is the best position to understand the needs of the community it serves and respond appropriately. Citizen participation in decisions or actions that affect them, is an essential element of good local governance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we firmly believe that infrastructure development is key to strengthening basic service delivery. To this end, the Department will be implementing the 15-year Western Cape Water Resilience Plan which will enhance water resilience through water supply augmentation, infrastructure, capacity upgrades, water source management and water demand management across the province. We will also be coordinating and facilitating the rollout of the Energy Programme, to ensure that critical water infrastructure is not affected by ANC-sponsored loadshedding, and communities are not left

without water for days on end, as we have seen to be the case in other ANC-run provinces. [Interjections.]

An amount of R2-million in 2023/2024 ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No water for six months.

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): ...and 2024/2025 respectively, and R2,9 in 2025/2026 to support the Fire Strategy of the Department and to strengthen the capacity in Fire and Rescue Services. This allocation will aid the Department improving the response times and effectiveness of the Fire and Rescue Services, ensuring the safety of citizens because we believe, as this Government, that lives matter and that we must make sure that we are there and we react in time, and that we save our residents. [Interjections.]

Service delivery remains our top priority and to this end, we have established the Enterprise Risk Management Committee to assist the accounting officer in executing his responsibilities. The Department, however, still faces challenges, one of which is the reduction in budget allocation. However, we are committed to working with the allocated budget to achieve our goals. With careful planning, strategic investment and commitment to the innovation and collaboration, we can overcome these challenges and deliver effective services to the Western Cape and its residents.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I urge this House to support the Department of Local

Government's Budget Vote and its plans for the future. Together, we can ensure that the Western Cape continues to be the only prosperous and progressive province in South Africa. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: For whom?

Mr I M SILEKU (DA): Let us move forward with confidence and determination, knowing that we have the resources, the talent and the will to make a positive difference in the lives of the people in the Western Cape. My advice to the ANC, you know: look, listen and take action. ...[Interjections.] In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.] hon Deputy Speaker, I confidently and without shame support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sileku. [Applause.] I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Dugmore [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: The reason why the DDM model cannot

work is because of the words they use like ‘deploy’ people to an area. You see, hon Deputy Speaker, what you need to understand is because we have got different spheres of government, when I go to a municipality I am under the leadership of that Mayor. I do not go in there because I have got a title, now I take over, and that is what they try to do from national level.

That is why a Barbara Creecy on the West Coast works because I was in the meeting and I said to her, ‘hon Minister, you are a guest here. There is the Mayor. The District Mayor will instruct the two of us what we must bring to this table.’ And the third time she attended the meeting with no answers from her colleagues, she disappeared. The same: I went with Minister De Lille to the Overberg and I said to the Mayor we are going to attend this meeting. We want to make this country work. This country must work. And Minister De Lille, because she was a Mayor, she understood that. When she walked into the room she said to her staff, ‘no, I do not sit in front, the Mayor sits in front.’ But again, she could not get answers from her colleagues and then, they disappeared. So, the model will disappear in any case. It does not matter if we talk about it because they will not get answers from their own colleagues on a national level.

On coalitions, I welcome the debate. No problem with the debate. The problem is we must also define coalition because I think – I do not think coalitions work, personal opinion, but it is actually because we do not have coalitions. We have got kingmaking politics. It is all about a kingmaker. It is all about power, not about the people. [Interjections.] But the debate, we

can spell those things out, we can learn from one another whatever. No problem with a debate like this.

For the record, my colleague and hon Leader of the Democratic Alliance, never instructed me to do anything unlawful. I need to put it on record. And we do not work, we do not operate like that in the DA. [Interjections.] We do not operate on instructions and that.

On the disciplinary matters, the hon member ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...the hon member mentioned on those kinds of things. He must just learn and take his people through some training so that they understand the disciplinary processes. We are the custodians of the law; we implement the law. You cannot just fire people overnight. You cannot call illegal meetings and want the hon MEC to act. I am the custodian of the law irrespective of political parties. He does not want to believe it, but ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]...

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...he will recall when the DA speaker

did not want to hand over power, I picked up the phone and told him, ‘you are unlawful, I will take you to court, you must hand over power.’ Because six people in a democracy cannot govern five people in a democracy. But when the shoe is on the other foot, then they do not want to adhere to the law. So, we will stick within the framework of the law and that will protect us.

The whole crisis of playing poverty and, and. You know, hon Deputy Speaker, it is so sad actually because a 30% electricity increase in two years: it is on the ANC. The poorest of the poor is going to suffer. I will go off grid. Medium income people will go off grid. The poorest of the poor are going to suffer and that 30% increase on electricity is on the ANC Government, a failure of government. So, they must not come and sit here.

The decrease in infrastructure is because of corruptness in National Government. They started to build a dam in KZN ...[Interjections.] They started to build a dam in KZN. The tender was R570-million. By R5,7-billion, Treasury stopped it, but nobody goes to jail. Nobody goes to jail. [Interjections.] So, it is all those kinds of things ...[Interjections.] and it adds up. It adds up. That is why South Africa’s problem ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

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



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, South Africa's problem is not money, it is the management of that money. That is the problem and if the hon Dugmore, when we have this debate on coalitions he must also come to the House with a decentralised model. They must stop trying to dictate from top downwards. We have got competent Mayors; we have got competent people. Delegate, give the powers ...[Interjections.] on the ground where they can see and feel the difference, then you will see service delivery in action.

On coastal management, we are busy with that process. I am a firm believer that you cannot block access, but there is law. We need this because this has been coming on for years. So, it is not something that you stand up one morning and just change it. [Interjections.] So, we are busy with that. We have done our Coastal Management Plans. Everything is in place and we now tackle region for region and we need to get that right but we must stay within the law.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Well, if you can tell me what Judge will

announce on what, then I can tell the hon member also maybe when we will be finished with this. But it is a system, it is a legal requirement. I am passionate about that because we cannot block access. We cannot block access. I will never stand for that.

But unfortunately, also where we took over from an ANC government, there were developments approved that blocked access. Now you must try to open that up. Those people have got rights. Those people have got rights. So, you must fight these rights and it is between myself and the National Minister that we will keep on fighting for these rights because we need to open up that access.

To my Chairperson, thank you very much. You can see you have got a lot of experience in Local Government and that is coming through, and I am looking forward working with you in the future. Thank you very much. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Applause.] Hon members, I really want to push through another Vote and then, we can have a five-minute break, a body break, after that if that is okay, but we have still got three Votes to get through and it is going to be a long evening. So, I am going to move on. The Secretary: Mr Secretary will read the Sixth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 8: Mobility – Western Cape Appropriation

Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I recognise the hon Minister Mackenzie. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Speaker and hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier in absentia and Cabinet members, hon Leader of the Opposition in the House and hon members of the Opposition, hon members of the DA and my colleagues and the Heads of Department, walking in special guests, people of the Western Cape, Team Mobility.

Today I have the honour of presenting the first ever Vote 8 Budget for Mobility.

I was sworn in as the Minister of Mobility four days after the Premier's State of the Province Address and his invocation of Martin Luther King's 'fierce urgency of now'. These words have kept ringing in my mind throughout the last five weeks. What does it mean for us of Mobility in the Western Cape with the 'fierce urgency of now'?

Mobility is the lifeblood of the Western Cape economy, connecting people, goods, and institutions. It is how the citizens of this province get to work, school, tertiary education, hospitals, clinics, and places of worship.

Beweglikheid is hoe mense na winkels reis om inkopies en ander goedere

aan te koop, na middedorpe om toegang tot noodsaaklike openbare- en regeringsdienste sowel as werksgeleenthede te kry, om te sosialiseer en om geriewe en skoonheid van ons mooi provinsie te geniet. Dit is hoe goedere van plase na fabriek en dan na winkelrakke en uiteindelik na eetkamertafels vervoer word. Dit is hoe ons ekonomie verbind word met mense van ons dorpe, stedelike en landelike gebiede.

Mobility is how people travel to shops to do shopping and buy other goods, to town centres to get access to essential public and Government services as well as job opportunities, to socialise and enjoy the facilities and beauty of our lovely province. It is how goods are transported from farms to factories and then to shop shelves and finally to dining room tables. It is how our economy is connected with people from our towns, rural and urban areas.

A functioning, safe, reliable, competitive and affordable mobility system lies at the heart of economic growth, social and spatial transformation, job creation, well-being and the safety for the province. It is a fundamental part of dignity for the citizens of the Western Cape. And yet, despite these varying efforts by many – including one of our colleagues in the national sphere of government – the mobility system in the Western Cape is still not fulfilling its role. We have no option, hon members, but to acknowledge that the system in its current state is dysfunctional.

Let me be clear, this Government has made significant progress in this space with brave and innovative ways to improve mobility. The Department has not been afraid to try things, constantly learning and evolving to see the greater

impact. So, how do we ensure that our people are able to get to work and school safely? This is the question keeping me up at night and this is my ministerial mission and my ministerial priority, and my only ministerial priority to get people to and from work safely because you can create a million jobs, but if people cannot get to work it does not matter.

As my team and senior management in the Department will know, I have tackled this with a very fierce urgency of now. My commitment to the people of the Western Cape is to do everything I can to get public transport moving again, to offer communities dignified services that can get them to work and school safely, on time. The only way we will be effective in this regard is through working through all mobility partners, fostering collaboration and showing leadership that prioritises commuters. We need to enable and support our mobility partners to function successfully as part of an integrated mobility ecosystem in the Western Cape.

This is why I have spent the last five weeks engaging as many of our key stakeholders as possible to build these relationships, in addition to my briefings with the Department. As we launch this new Mobility Department, I will continue with the same energy as that I have started: focusing on the quick wins and low-hanging fruit that will make a meaningful difference to the citizens' mobility choices.

I am proud to say that the new Mobility Department will come into being officially this Saturday, 1 April 2023. Given the severe mobility challenges

we face as a province, the new Department's priorities are many, but they are urgent. We need to make progress towards our vision for a sustainable, safe, and a dignified fit-for-purpose transport system which provides transformative access to opportunities for the citizens of this province. Owning a car cannot be seen as the only way out of being stranded and held ransom by unsafe, unreliable, and unaffordable transport options.

Hon members, we have the fourth-largest budget of the Western Cape, with over 60% for Transport Operations and over 30% for Transport Regulation. Rather than focusing on input for my figures, which are publicly available information – it is in the Blue Book, and I know that the hon members have read it – I am going to share the practical outcomes that our Mobility portfolio will focus on in the upcoming year.

We all know the vital role played by the minibus taxi industry in our mobility and economic systems. Minibus taxis transport more than 70% of public transport passengers in the Western Cape and are essential for the functioning of our economy. We cannot function without the minibus taxi industry. However, there are also well-known facts with the service of this minibus taxi industry and rampant violent conduct among some associations.

Two days after I was sworn in as Minister of Mobility, I established a special Minibus Taxi Task Team with the City of Cape Town and SANTACO Western Cape, committed to ongoing engagements between Government and the industry. Our goal is to rapidly address the number of challenges, aiming to

support and bring about real change in the taxi industry. These include fast-tracking the Special Regulatory Process related to operating licences.

I want to thank my colleagues in the City of Cape Town who have worked with us in fast-tracking this process and a full policy is going to the City of Cape Town Council in the next two weeks, for approval. We want to train and register drivers and upskill them in critical areas and other measures to enhance commuter safety because ultimately, our commuter safety is our only and soul responsibility.

I must say we have had several meetings with the taxi industry in the last few days and the last few weeks, and I am encouraged by the constructive approach of all members in working together to resolve the issues that we have raised. In addition, we are investigating additional ways to improve the minibus taxi service, including the feasibility of a public transport voucher scheme for selected categories of passengers. And in response to the growing climate crisis, we are exploring the implementation of an electric minibus taxi pilot project.

Just yesterday, hon members, I met with Justin Coetzee and the former managing director of the London Transport, and I am proud to say **die eerste 200 (tweehonderd) elektriese taxi's is tans op 'n skip op pad na die Wes-Kaap! [Applous.]** **the first 200 (two hundred) electric taxis are currently on a ship on its way to the Western Cape! [Applause.]** We will work hard with our partners, such as these, to ensure the sustainability of our mobility ecosystem

for the future.

Hon members, on top of our mobility priority systems is the restoration of rail as the backbone of transport in Cape Town and other links in the Western Cape. I met earlier with the leadership of PRASA to see how I can support their efforts to fix rail and get the Central Line up and running again as quickly as possible. To this effect, I have committed myself with PRASA – upon the reinstatement of the Central Line – to work with our colleagues to re-establish the dormant Rail Enforcement Unit to ensure commuters get to and from work safely.

Hon members, it was lovely to see last week when PRASA launched that line from Nyanga to Langa. Children as young as three, as you know, have never seen a working train in their lives, and to see them clapping and cheering, and taking pictures of a rail line working was absolutely beautiful. And that is what rail should be about. You cannot live next to a railway line and not see a train. But I am happy things are progressing slowly.

While I am pleased to see that progress is happening, I must reiterate and support the call made by the hon Premier of the Western Cape and the Mayor of Cape Town, for the National Minister of Transport to expedite the devolution of rail as already approved by the White Paper. At this stage, we must do whatever it takes to put commuters first and get rail back on track, so that we can protect the current jobs, grow the economy, and create jobs so desperately needed.



While I am at it, we need to bring back the Main Line passenger services. What is holding back the Main Line passenger services and the Premier Class trains from running, and hon David Maynier has the answer: National Government. Our people are watching the privately owned Blue Train and Rovos Rail going back and forth on the line, but the long-distance public transport is nowhere to be seen. So, hon members, we would like to see the long-distance Shosholoza Meyl back on track like the old Trans-Karoo. So:

*“Trans-Karoo*

*Bring haar huistoe*

*Laat jou yster wiede rol”*

You get the point, hon members. Hon members, I love trains. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: My father worked on the railway line for 37 years and so I grew up on trains. I guess it has been my calling for many years, so I really want the trains back. And in my first meeting with Minister Chikunga, I clearly expressed to her my interest and it was great to see, hon members, she also had a special interest. Her interest is aviation. She spent the whole day at the Aviation Conference. It is unheard of for a National Government Minister to spend a whole day at one conference and I am proud for the energy the new Minister Chikunga has set.

She actually told me, hon members and I am proud to say, that I should put matters that I would want on the MINMEC agenda on the agenda. It is rare. It is a new energy that the National Government is bringing, and I know we can get rail back urgently with that kind of energy. I will be in Johannesburg on Friday with the Minister. I will also be meeting with the Presidency, also with the Deputy Minister, with my colleagues in Gauteng Energy of Transport because they understand that economy of getting rail back on track. And I hope my hon colleagues in the House will support our efforts.

Hon members, Golden Arrow Bus Services transports nearly 220 000 passengers every single day, forming a vital part of our public transport system. With the decline of our rail services and ongoing challenges with the quality and safety of the minibus taxi services, Golden Arrow remains a beacon of stability, an essential service for its passengers and for the economy of the Western Cape.

However, the financial sustainability of the service is now at risk due to the unprecedented increase in fuel prices over the last 18 months pushing up bus operating costs, while the Public Transport Operations Grant from National Government has unfortunately not matched the severe increase in prices and that, also, as we have heard the other day, the cutting of grants is what our other Government departments in the Western Cape are also suffering from National Government.

And this, hon members, is further exacerbated by loadshedding and the

detrimental effect of rolling blackouts on all systems in South Africa. And of course, the increase in costs for Golden Arrow is also applicable to motorists, it is applicable to the hon members of Parliament in this House who pay more for fuel, and it is applicable to the minibus taxi industry. That means every commuter in the Western Cape suffers. I hope that the hon members of the House on that side will work with me and the National Government to reduce operating costs for all modes of transport in the Western Cape.

Hon members, we are on the cusp of rolling out Phase 4a of the GoGeorge Integrated Public Transport Network to Thembalethu. The people of Thembalethu deserve the same service that everybody else is getting. [Applause.] The service in Thembalethu will more than double the capacity of the service and provide safe, affordable, and reliable transport to the people of Thembalethu. I want to thank my colleagues Ricardo and Deidre who are in the House, for working tirelessly over the last few weeks and getting the GoGeorge bus service up and running. The Department continues to work on the GoGeorge, and we hope to launch it soon. I invite all the hon members of the House or the Chairperson of the Committee ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...to come to the launch.

Hon members, over the last year, the Department has taken active steps to respond to the unacceptable criminal attacks on the Golden Arrow Bus

Services, including the implementation of enhanced security measures through the installation of on-board CCTV cameras. We will continue to collaborate with Golden Arrow and Law Enforcement to protect our buses. I find it utterly reprehensible that anyone would attack a service providing essential services to the communities most in need, and I call on SAPS and the NPA to do everything in their power to bring these criminals to justice and prevent these attacks from recurring.

Hon members, our efforts to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists in the Western Cape including ongoing support to local communities in planning, design and implementation of safe facilities for non-motorised transport and our Provincial Bicycle Distribution Programme is ongoing.

Vir die jaar wat voorlê, sal ons 400 fietse oorhandig waar hulle werkskepping en veiligheid sal ondersteun. Die fokus sal op Buurtwagte en mikro-ondernemings in Swartland, Overstrand en George wees. Deur ons vennootskap met die nasionale Shova Kalula-program sal 300 fietse aan skole in die Sentraal-Karoo – are mev Baartman and the hon member from Beaufort West not in the House? – oorhandig.

For the year ahead, we will hand over 400 bikes where it will support job creation and safety. The focus will be on Neighbourhood Watches and micro enterprises in Swartland, Overstrand and George. Through our partnership with the national Shova Kalula-program, 300 bikes will be handed over to schools in the Central Karoo – are mev Baartman and the hon member from Beaufort West not in the House?.

Hon members, I have spent time with the Bicycle Mayor of Cape Town, Active Mobility Forum and City of Cape Town, looking at obstacles that prevent safe cycling and what can be done about infrastructure and traffic behaviour issues in the Metro. We visited the Langa Bicycle Hub and that really stood out for me. And on that note, I wish the people of Langa a Happy 100 Years. This is just one of the many transformative citizen social enterprises leading the way for improved mobility, recreation and opportunities in townships. I believe this model – harnessing the power of town collaboration – can make real changes in communities across the Western Cape and I will be looking at how I can support programmes such as this in other townships in the Western Cape.

Hon members, the Western Cape Government recently launched in partnership with the Pedal Power Association and my hon colleagues in the Department of Education, hon Minister David Maynier, teaching school children about bicycles and road safety at an early age. At the launch day in Masiphumelele last month, I saw the real potential of changing road user behaviour through these young advocates. Active mobility is no longer a niche, nice-to-have urban development project; this sector is expanding rapidly with new micro-mobility options being introduced by the private sector, which will create thousands of jobs in the province.

And on that note, hon members, I must say, a few weeks ago, I completed my first Cape Argus Cycle Tour. Well done to me! [Laughter.] [Applause.] And I would encourage all hon members of the House to take up cycling and

complete the Argus next year with me. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] We will make sure that you will get the necessary training to do so. Next time, next time, okay, thank you.

Hon members, technology is a key enabler for mobility to connect people to opportunities. In recent years, the Department has actively adopted and developed cutting edge and innovative technology solutions to enhance crime-fighting technology and systems to support the Highway Patrol. As well as providing the enabling technology and systems needed to deliver the Department's own priorities, the Integrated Transport Hub is also delivering solutions to external stakeholders, such as Local Government. The ITH improves monitoring capacity linked to enforcement units such as SAPS, provincial, local and private governments, and enables the detection of crime and rapid response on roads and communities across the province.

Hon members, as the Premier noted in the SOPA, one life lost on our roads is still too many. We want people to live longer in the Western Cape. While we celebrated a 36,7% decrease in road fatalities over the festive period, due to outstanding efforts of our Traffic Law Enforcement officers, our focus is on all 365 days this year. We will continue strengthening our enforcement and road safety initiatives. We will not rest.

Terribly, less than a month ago, two young lives were lost: Nishaat and Nurah Thomas in Mitchells Plain. They were killed due to reckless and criminal driving behaviour. Visiting their heartbroken parents last week

Friday evening in Mitchells Plain, it compels me to look at taking further action to prevent further tragedies and harsh consequences for those who are found guilty of causing such incidents and accidents.

If we want to see any meaningful reduction in road deaths and trauma in our province, we all need to take a long hard look at our driving behaviour. Taking chances, speeding, disobeying road rules and driving under the influence - amongst many other irresponsible behaviours we see on a daily basis - put the lives and safety of all road users at risk. There is simply no excuse.

Hon members, we will continue to boost the ability of Provincial Road Traffic to function as a modern, high-technology and hard-hitting force. The Western Cape is still the only province in this country that has a 24/7 road presence of traffic services protecting our roads and actively reducing road statistics.

Powered by the Department's Integrated Transport Hub, we will continue to expand our provincial-wide network of licence-plate recognition cameras designed to monitor road traffic, enabling the immediate detection of road traffic infringements, contravention and crime, including roadworthy, unroadworthy, unlicensed, and off-route vehicles; cloned number plates; fatigued drivers, and vehicles known to be involved in crime. Instant alerts are sent to officers' handheld devices to enable rapid response and interception. The extremely successful District Safety Plan programme will

also be reloaded under the new Mobility banner, and will no doubt go from strength to strength.

Hon members, the Government Motor Transport, which manages the provincial vehicle fleet, is on a mission-critical enabler of provincial service delivery. GMT funds its capital and operating budget through tariffs charged to its client departments. Funding has been set aside for the ongoing recapitalisation of the fleet, with over 1 000 new vehicles expected to be purchased in this financial year, as well as enhancing GMT's operations with technology such as our Vehicle Inspection app.

Hon members, our Electric Vehicle Strategy is getting the attention it deserves. We are the first province to start procuring electric vehicles and building charging stations. Well done Mr Yasheer Ahmed and your team. [Applause.] I am also happy to report just this last week I met with our colleagues from the Eastern Cape, who came to look at our Electric Vehicle Strategy. And my message to them, hon members, was very simple. Do not spend money. Do not tender out documents that already exist in the Western Cape and I am happy to say they are happy with our strategy and they will take our Electric Vehicle Strategy and look at implementing it in the Eastern Cape. That is how we believe in collaboration and in working together.

The Western Cape undoubtedly faces many complex mobility challenges and the journey ahead, I must be honest, will not be straightforward. While my Department and I have an ambitious and bold agenda, we recognise there are



limits to what the provincial sphere of government can do. Success depends on effective collaboration with our colleagues and partners at National Government. We remain pragmatic and will focus on initiatives where we can achieve the greatest impact in the lives of citizens of the Western Cape.

I am committed to working tirelessly and doing everything in my power to ensure that people can get to work and school safely, and access opportunities with dignity. I remain available for anyone wanting to put forward solutions to improve mobility, including our Standing Committee and hon members of that side of the House in the Standing Committee, or even outside the Standing Committee.

I know we have hit the ground running with the new Mobility portfolio, and I must say a sincere and heartfelt thanks to all our officials for the last year for working together as the Department established. It has been tough. It has been difficult, but I know working together, we will make Mobility sexy and lovely.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon member, I want to thank the staff in my Ministry, my hon colleagues in Cabinet and the Chairperson and members of the Standing Committee. I want to thank my predecessors for setting a great foundation where I can stand on today. You are all appreciated. My family, my daughters and more importantly – not more importantly – more lovely, my

dog, Gucci, for keeping me sane. I thank you. [Applause.]

**DANA 2**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. [Applause.] Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am honoured to be part of the Department of Mobility's maiden Budget debate today on behalf of the African National Congress. To the hon Minister Mackenzie, as you prepare to take up the responsibility and challenges of your new office, we wish you and your Department best wishes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon MEC in his Annual Performance Plan illustrates mobility as the lifeline of the Western Cape, as we have heard that repeated here again when we started, and I would like to go even deeper than that, not as a contest to you and say that Mobility is rather the soul of the Western Cape economy or any other economy for that matter. From the transportation of raw materials to production facilities to distribution centres to consumer, whether domestic or international, citizens depend on mobility to commute to work, visit their loved ones, touring scenic views and getting necessities. Public transport in particular, is the cornerstone of the modern economy.

According to the APPs, almost 1-million commuters utilise the minibus taxi industry per day. 220 commuters will travel with GABS and also, according to the website of GoGeorge, they are transporting close to 16 070 commuters

daily.

The public transport industry contributes billions of rands towards the province's economy with the formalisation of the taxi industry. Both the country and the Western Cape have a diverse mode of transport such as busses, trains, e-hailing, with the most prevalent mode being the minibus taxi industry. Minibus taxis remain the biggest choice for consumers, transporting more than two thirds. I see that the hon Minister went as far to say up to 70%. I am glad you gave that recognition that they are arguably the biggest public transport of choice and people are not forced to use the taxi industry. It is by choice because of the service that that industry is providing. [Interjections.]

I thought this was my maiden speech for the Mobility ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, speak – focus on me. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): *Ja*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Interjections are allowed, but if they get too loud I will control them.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Okay, let me repeat that. Minibus taxis remain the biggest choice for commuters transporting more than two thirds of the province, but still have not received assistance from the Provincial Government. When you

must support this industry you always refer to National Government  
...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): ...which is wrong, you are asking for the devolution of the rail, why do you not ask for the devolution of the minibus taxi industry. Why do you not ask for that? Ask for that. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, focus on me.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Yes, ...[Interjections.] for a fleeting moment ...[Interjections.] we saw the Red Dot and Blue Dot projects which were a commendable success that showed mass progress in the industry, but because as you all know, the hon members on the other side of the floor view the minibus industry as criminals. And unfortunately, this industry will not go away. Before you howl [Interjections.] before you howl, we are aware that ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): ...these were pilot industries, these were pilot projects, the Red Dot and the Blue Dot, but we are also aware that the minibus taxi industry is the least of the Provincial Government's worries. Lest we forget, the very same hon Mackenzie not so long ago, called this very

same industry a thuggery and criminal industry invoking terrorism.  
...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Mafia.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: [Inaudible.]... I hear you saying.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): It was here. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: And ...[Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: He called them mafia.

An HON MEMBER: That was probably me. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members [Laughter.] Hon Mvimbi  
...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Mafia!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...do not ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): So then ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): ...how can you work with such people? Right?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, just one minute. Just focus on me, so turn this way so that you do not get distracted. Okay.

An HON MEMBER: No, he is not getting distracted. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): I will refer to you, hon Deputy Speaker, but looking at them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, then try not to get caught up in their interjections. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): This very same Provincial Government that awards contracts and tenders to companies linked with gangsters will not associate themselves with the minibus taxi industry. By the way, they tend to link towards violence that is inflicted by the Provincial Government by not issuing operating licences to the minibus industry and by restricting that. Because in a way, by not issuing those things, we are actually party to actually instigating violence into that industry. If we talk about hypocrisy: that is hypocrisy at its best.

An HON MEMBER: *Ja*.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): The budget still continues to fail to speak to the support of this industry, rather it introduces a consideration of public transport passenger subsidy of voucher. This is the new thing now that is there. When an inquiry was made about this subsidy of the voucher system, the Department had not yet determined who this subsidy of voucher would benefit, leaving us with more unanswered questions. And I hope the hon Minister when he responds, he is going to talk to that.

This Department claimed that they are working on integrating with the minibus taxi industry and implementing initiatives to formalise and improve the minibus taxi service. We will eagerly wait for you, hon Minister. The energy that you have shown here today, I hope you are going to be consistent on that. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, this brings me to GoGeorge and MyCiTi. The Provincial Government's support for the bus industry in the form of Cape Town's MyCiTi and GoGeorge continues to be a problem and it is in crisis, as it was formed to undermine and frustrate the taxi industry. The same problems we experienced on the MyCiTi here in Cape Town are similar to the ones that are actually being experienced in George and you can always ask the question, why. Take, for instance, the City of Cape Town's MyCiTi busses to black communities. They lack servicing, they are inefficient, and they are deteriorating. These busses were implemented to make travel around the city easier and they are purely doing that, making travel around the city easy.

Now, I would not call areas that are 30 and a 35-minute drive away by car around the city. If you are wondering which are these areas, they are places like Khayelitsha, Dunoon, as well as Mitchells Plain. They are called to be around the city. Every day, these commuters wake up with uncertainties whether they are going to make it to work on time or not, or even make it to work at all, but we know that those that are around the city are safe, but those that are in the areas that are being resided in by the majority of the people, they are always experiencing endless problems.

The inefficiency of this bus service is affecting both school children and workers alike. A commuter can wait at a bus stop for more than an hour and a half, waiting for a bus. A bus that can easily take up to two hours to reach town, 30 minutes less if there is no traffic. Due to what seems like a shortage of busses for these routes, passengers cram into these busses and if they waited for far too long, stampedes break out. Unfortunately, you will not find this on a Hout Bay bus. You will not find this on a bus to Oranjezicht. You will not hear of fire breaking out because there is a sufficient number of busses that are properly serviced in those affluent white areas. As for Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha and Dunoon, they are left to fend for themselves.

Between July and December 2022, the MyCiTi busses broke down more than 1 200 times. I can assure you, hon Deputy Speaker, that the aforementioned areas could account to 97% of those breakdowns: those poor areas. Most of



those breakdowns happen there. [Interjections.] One might dismissively say they can catch a taxi [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): ...but we need to come to terms with the realities of these commuters. Taxis are an expensive mode of transportation for some. That is why we will always, every time we sit on a budget, we will challenge this Provincial Government to please, hon Minister, speak for that industry, speak for the subsidisation of the industry. We know now the hon Premier has got a habit of just taking out billions and putting them wherever he wants. He has taken R1-billion for the Law Enforcement officers. He recently has taken R1-billion for energy. Can you please convince the hon Premier to take R1-billion to subsidise the taxi industry. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Please use that energy to convince the hon billionaire Premier to please fund that. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Will you please! [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, [Interjections.] the National Government has initiated the National Rail Policy White Paper to revitalise the country's railway sector where rail offers the most economically,

environmentally, financially and socially viable logistics of mobility solutions. [Interjections.] We urge the Provincial Government to please cooperate with this process. Please do not criticise it; please cooperate with it because we have specialised ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): You are actually criticising the Provincial (*Sic*) Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, take your seat please. There is a point of order. Hon Baartman, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to know whether the hon member would take a question?

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi?

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Thank you very much.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): The National ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Continue.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): The National Government is working towards a functional railway line while attempting to liaise with the province. I am happy that the provincial hon Minister seems to cooperate with this. It is this Province that is so fixated on devolution and not working together with National Government. Leave rail. The National Government is busy with it, but please focus on those things that you can actually do and we hope that you are actually going to cooperate with the National Government. We hope that hon Mackenzie will all surprise us and not bring this Department to the ground, as we hope. Unfortunately, in that regard, the ANC cannot support this budget. [Applause.] Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, that we – thank you. I now recognise the hon Derrick America.

†Mnr D AMERICA (DA): Ja, baie dankie [Tussenwerpsels.] agbare ...

[Mr D AMERICA: (DA): Yes, thanks you [Interjections.] hon...]

Mr L L MVIMBI: [Inaudible.]... are you going to be causing?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi ...[Interjection.]

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, hon Mvimbi.

†Mnr D AMERICA (DA): Agb Premier en Minister en kollegas. [Mr D AMERICA (DA): Hon Premier and Minister and colleagues.] Deputy Speaker, I have a disclaimer to make before I start. I have two speeches. The one delivered yesterday and the one I am going to deliver today, so there might be a degree of self-plagiarism. So, I [Laughter.] I want you to bear with me ...[Interjections.] [Laughter.] because it was to the same thing. So, be that as it may, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to say that then here we go.

†Mobiliteit gaan nie net oor vervoer nie, agb Mvimbi. Dit gaan oor hoop, geleenthede en die toekoms van ons samelewing. So, as 'n samelewing moet ons die belangrikheid van mobiliteit erken en die impak wat dit op ons lewens het. Ons moet streef om 'n vervoerstelsel te skep wat nie net mense en plekke verbind nie, maar ook geleenthede vir ons burgers, veral ons jeug skep. So, mobiliteit is 'n fundamentele pilaar van ons ekonomie en dit is noodsaaklik vir die skep van werksgeleenthede en die aanwakker van entrepreneurskap en ekonomiese groei. Ons voerstelsel moet doeltreffend, veilig en toeganklik wees vir almal – vir die mense van Mitchells Plein, vir die mense van Dunoon, vir die mense van Khayelitsha, vir die mense van Houtbaai, vir die mense van Oranjezicht – ongeag hulle agtergrond, hulle inkomste of hul ligging.

[Mobility is not only about transport, hon Mvimbi. It is about hope, opportunities and the future of our society. So, as a society we have to

acknowledge the importance of mobility and the impact it has on our lives. We should strive to create a transport system that not only connects people and places, but also creates opportunities for our citizens, especially our youth. So, mobility is a fundamental pillar of our economy and it is essential for the creation of job opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship and economic growth. Our transport system must be effective, safe and accessible to all – for the people of Mitchells Plain, for the people of Khayelitsha, for the people of Hout Bay, for the people of Oranjezicht – irrespective of their background, their income or their abode.]

So, the Western Cape, like the rest of South Africa, experiences numerous challenges regarding its transport system. Among those from all entry points to Cape Town and many suburban roads, significant traffic congestion particularly during peak hours – and often one does not really know at this stage when peak hour begins and when it ends because our roads throughout, in Cape Town in particular – are often congested. This leads to longer travelling times, increased fuel consumption and air pollution because there is a lack of reliable and affordable public transport options in the Western Cape which impacts the ability of residents to access employment opportunities, education and healthcare services. This is particularly true in many of our rural towns.

Then again also, road safety remains a major concern in the Western Cape with high levels of road accidents and fatalities caused by reckless driving and in some instances, due to poor road conditions and insufficient law

enforcement at times. Although the Western Cape invests significant amounts of money in its transport infrastructure – including roads, bridges and public transport – but due to the lack of inadequate financial assistance from the National Government, our efforts are often not enough and our roads require maintenance and upgrades, particularly our gravel roads. There are significant disparities in access to transport services and infrastructure across the Western Cape with residents in informal settlements and rural areas often lacking access to basic transport services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in 2011, 2012 and 2013 I was a councillor in Kensington, Ward 56 and one of my activists that I worked with is a person named Kevin Alexander. He was very involved in the community and in the CPF as well. So, when having spoken to Kevin Alexander who is still an activist in Ward 56 in Kensington, he lashed out at this pathetic, what he calls a pathetic service he experienced while travelling on a train.

He states to me that on 6 March, he made his way to Century City train station to catch a train to town and that was at 7:00 in the morning. Now, everybody who knows the distance between Kensington and Century City knows it is not a very far distance, within walking distance. And he says that from the word go when he arrived there, he described this service as extremely poor. So, he says then when he arrived at the train station and he wanted to buy a train ticket, they could not sell him a ticket due to the machines that were broken. The ones that they have were not working. He was then advised to purchase a ticket at his destination station, which is Cape

Town. Also, he noticed that upon enquiring when the train will come they were unable to tell him when the next train will arrive, neither were there any notices anywhere that would give an indication as to how long he has to wait for a train.

So nevertheless, he waited and eventually the train came and upon his arrival at Cape Town station further delays occurred. The ticket inspector that he approached to sell him a ticket did not have a ticket machine [Laughter.] and he asked his colleague, “gaan soek vir my ’n kaartjemasjien. Gaan soek vir my ’n kaartjemasjien.” “go and find me a ticket machine. Go and find me a ticket machine”. And by then, Mr Alexander, Kevin, was totally exasperated. He did not know what was happening and what he needed to do. But hon Deputy Speaker, this was not the end of his frustration.

So, according to him when he came back home in the evening, [Laughter.] he had even a greater nightmare experience. Again, when he arrived at the station nobody could tell him when the train is going to arrive, what time and when he asked one of the assistants there he was told, ‘just wait for an announcement.’ [Laughter.] He enquired again at the information desk at which platform will the train arrive. He was then told any platform will do. [Laughter.] Many commuters were then utterly confused and lost. So eventually, by sheer luck the train arrived and according to him, it was in very bad shape. The handles of the train doors were broken.

Nevertheless, in his desperation to get home, he got into the train and when

the train arrived back at Century City station, he could not open the door. [Laughter.] And then, he darted after the next carriage in the hope that by the time he gets there he can open the door and jump out. So, as he got to the next carriage [Laughter.] the train then started to depart the station [Laughter.] and now he is stuck. And when he got to the next station, hon Deputy Speaker, which was Monte Vista, fortunately, he got off the train and then he walked over to the other side of the platform and again, 45 minutes he waited for the train which eventually took him home.

So, that sadly, hon Deputy Speaker, is not the experience of only Mr Alexander. It is an experience experienced by many of our commuters across the Western Cape and in particular, across the City of Cape Town and they experience it on a daily basis. So, it pains me to relate this story not only that I know Mr Alexander, but also that I could just imagine the many people across the peninsula in the morning who want to go to work and in the evening, want to get home and that they should be experiencing this. Nobody and no person should be treated this way.

Hon Deputy Speaker, then I want to relate another experience a bit closer to home: my daughter. She travels to work in Cape Town from Durbanville. She takes a Golden Arrow bus to Cape Town in the morning. She has a funny idea as to what bus she should take and so she takes that bus. But she is never aware as to what time she will arrive in Cape Town because the traffic congestion on the N1 and the bus getting stuck. There is no dedicated bus lane on the N1, despite the numerous lanes that there are.



But then again, when she gets onto the bus her bus ticket is R38 to Cape Town. If she does not have an exact amount of money – R38 – then she would not be allowed to get onto the bus because the bus driver, who is also the money collector, does not provide any change to passengers. So then if she gives R50 that is it, no change and you can get onto the bus. So, there are no other payment options in this day and age, hon Minister, with technology where people pay with e-Wallet and SnapScan and whatever else, you know. It is not yet there with Golden Arrow and that is something that we need to explore.

So, then she arrives in Cape Town and then she has to take another bus, but at this stage she transitions to the MyCiTi bus service, an experience she describes as worldclass. And why does she say so, hon Deputy Speaker, to you, hon Mvimbi, she has an App on her phone. [Interjections.] She knows exactly when and where the bus ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr D AMERICA (DA): ...when and where the bus would arrive, the route and stops it will make ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): ...what time she will arrive at her destination and

above all, no cash on the bus and the service is always on time. [Interjections.] So, hon Deputy Speaker, this is the kind of service that all of our commuters in the Western Cape should experience. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Our rail services ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just take your seat, please. [Interjections.]

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Will do, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi ...[Interjections.] do you want to ask if the hon member is going to take a question? Do not ask your question yet, let us see. [Interjections.]

Mr D AMERICA (DA): When I am done, then you can ask the question. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Okay, thank you, thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon America. [Interjections.]

Mr D AMERICA (DA): And so, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Mvimbi. Nice try. So, our rail service, our Golden Arrow Bus Service and our taxi services must all provide the kind of service that is provided ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): ...to commuters by the City of Cape Town through its MyCiTi bus service. Our residents deserve quality, affordable and reliable transport options. [Interjections.] †Dit is ingesluit. Dit is ingesluit, taxi ook. [Tussenwerpsel.] [It's included. It's included, taxi also....][Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Focus on me, hon member.

†Mnr D AMERICA (DA): So, daarom, agb Deputy Speaker, moet ons saamwerk om 'n geïntegreerde vervoerstelsel te skep wat verskillende vorms van vervoer soos busse, treine, taxi's, fietse – fietse, ja, jy vat jou fiets, jy klim in die bus met dit – verbind. Deur dit te doen, kan ons verkeersopeenhoping op ons paaie verminder, toeganklikheid verbeter en nuwe besigheidseleenthede skep. So, die voorbeelde wat ek nog genoem het bo, agb Deputy Speaker, is 'n klinkklare bewys wie die vermoë het om so 'n geïntegreerde stelstel te weeg te bring. Die saak vir die devolusie van ons

passiersvervoermode na die Stad Kaapstad, is nie meer debateerbaar nie. Dit is die logiese ding om te doen. Dit is vir die rede waarom ons die aanstelling van die nuwe agb Minister van Vervoer, Minister Sandisiwe Chukunga verwelkom. Ons is hoopvol dat sy die belofte van President Ramaphosa, die biljoenêr President, [Gelag.] nakom dat treinpassasiersvervoer afgewend sal word na die stad Kaapstad.

Agb Deputy Speaker, ek wil dit net weer beklemtoon. Mobiliteit gaan egter nie net oor vervoerinfrastruktuur nie, dit gaan oor hoop: hoop vir 'n beter more, hoop vir 'n helderder toekoms, en hoop vir 'n beter lewe. Mobiliteit verbind mense, kulture en idees, en help ons om 'n beter Wes-Kaap te bou. *Self-plagiarised*. Aan die einde van die dag kan ons sê: hoop beskaam nie soos die agb Minister van Landbou vroeër gesê het.

[Mr D AMERICA (DA): So, therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, we must cooperate to create an integrated transport system linking different modes of transport such as busses, trains, taxis, bicycles – bicycles, yes, you take your bicycle and climb into the bus with it. By doing that, we can reduce the traffic congestion on our roads, improve access and create new business opportunities. So, the examples I mentioned above, hon Deputy Speaker, is clear proof who has the ability to bring about such an integrated system. The issue of the devolution of our passenger transport mode to the City of Cape Town, is no longer debatable. It is the logical thing to do. It is for this reason that we welcome the appointment of the new hon Minister of Transport, Minister Sandisiwe Chukunga. We are hopeful that she will honour the promise of President Ramaphosa, the billionaire President,

[Laughter.] that train passenger transport will be devolved to the City of Cape Town.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to emphasize again. Mobility is not just about transport infrastructure, it's about hope: hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a clearer future, and hope for a better life. Mobility connects people, cultures and ideas, and helps us to build a better Western Cape. Self-plagiarised. At the end of the day we can say: hope is not in vain as the hon Minister of Agriculture said earlier.]

Mr D AMERICA: Hon Deputy Speaker, as a society we must embrace the power of mobility to inspire hope and create opportunities for all our citizens. We must work together to build a future where everyone has access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation. Our residents deserve this, and I will repeat it: †ons burgers verdien dit [our citizens deserve it.] So, as we continue to navigate through uncertain times, we remain committed to driving economic development, creating opportunities and providing hope to the people of the Western Cape. One of our clear drivers of economic development is our Provincial Sustainable Transport Programme, which aims to improve public transport – walking, cycling and freight movement – in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] Through the Provincial Sustainable Transport Programme, the Department aims to provide increased access to opportunities to our citizens.

†In die opkomende finansiële jaar het ons verskillende inisiatiewe wat die

Departement beplan om ons pogings in hierdie gebied voort te sit. Dit sluit in die formalisering en verbetering van minibus taxidienste, die bekendstelling van 'n openbare vervoer passasiersubsidie, die vestiging van 'n geïntegreerde vervoerstelsel, die herstel van die spoorwegdienste, die implementering van die Wes-Kaapse vragvervoerstrategie, die bevordering van laekoste elektriese voertuie, agb Minister, en die verbetering van openbare vervoer, loop en fietsry in samewerking met ons plaaslike regering. [Tussenwerpsel.]

So, agb Deputy Speaker, ons fokus op die verbetering van mobiliteit en toegang tot geleenthede is duidelik in ons poging vir sekere ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[In the upcoming financial year we have various initiatives that the Department is planning to continue our efforts in this area. It includes the formalisation and improvement of minibus taxi services, the introduction of a public transport passenger subsidy, the firm hand of an integrated transport system, the repair of railway services, the implementing of the Western Cape goods transport strategy, the promotion of low-cost electric vehicles, hon Minister, and the improvement of public transport, walking and cycling in cooperation with our local government. [Interjection.]

So, hon Deputy Speaker, our focus on the improvement of mobility and access to opportunities is clear in our effort for certain ...][Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order, hon members.

[Interjections.]

†Mnr D AMERICA: So, agb Deputy Speaker, ons fokus op die verbetering van mobiliteit en toegang tot geleenthede is duidelik in ons pogings om fietse direk aan gemeenskappe in nood te versprei en die vestiging van die Wes-Kaapse vervoersone te ondersoek. Deur te belê in volhoubare vervoer, voorsien ons nie net ekonomiese voordele nie, maar skep ons ook 'n skoon en gesonder omgewing vir ons burgers. Ek wil u verseker dat ons onverpoos sal voortwerk om ekonomiese ontwikkelinge aan te dryf en hoop aan ons burgers te bied. Tussenwerpsels.] Ons glo dat die belegging in volhoubare vervoer sal bydra tot 'n helderder toekoms vir ons almal.

[Mr D AMERICA: So, hon Deputy Speaker, our focus on the improvement of mobility and access to opportunities is clear in our efforts to distribute bicycles directly to communities in need and investigate the establishment of a Western Cape transport zone. By investing in sustainable transport, we not only provide economic benefits, but create a cleaner and healthier environment for our citizens. I want to assure you that we will work continuously to drive economic developments and offer hope to our citizens.

[Interjections.] We believe that the investment in sustainable transport will contribute to a clearer future for all of us.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, safety remains for all of us, our top priority. Our Traffic Law Enforcement will continue to provide an effective 24/7 traffic service and the service will be further optimised through evidence-based driven integrated Law Enforcement operations as the hon Minister has

alluded to. Technological advances will improve planning and reporting ability which will lead to further efficiencies.

Through this Budget, the Department will continue the development and implementation of a non-motorised transport safety strategy to address the growing number of pedestrian fatalities and injuries on our roads. The Department of Mobility will improve the safety and regulation on vehicles and drivers by managing vehicle registration and testing drivers and vehicles on an ongoing basis, and more efficiently. It will also facilitate online vehicle licencing and move certain driver and vehicle testing processes online.

There is an endeavour to improve planning for public transport. The Public Transport Regulatory System, which the hon Minister also mentioned, will be enhanced to improve information and reporting capabilities, as well as better data management, extraction and analysis thereof.

And lastly, hon Deputy Speaker, the Department will conduct – according to the budget – a review of legislation and regulations related to the minibus taxi registration for associations, members and drivers. The goal is to improve the conduct and public perception of the minibus taxi industry. The objective is to inculcate a more positive perception of the industry as it is now and not an industry that is inhabited by unsavoury elements.

†Al hierdie stappe, agb Deputy Speaker, word gedoen om ons burgers



toegang tot veilige bekostigbare vervoer-opsies te bied. [All these steps, hon Deputy Speaker, are done to offer our citizens access to safe, affordable transport options.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, addressing the many challenges we face will not be easy. It will require a multi-faceted approach ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members

Mr D AMERICA (DA): ...including investment in public transportation infrastructure, improvements to pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, [Interjections.] addressing safety concerns, increasing access to technology, devolution of the Passenger Rail System but above all, a change in the behaviour of each other: all road users. Changing behaviour, the hon Minister did mention it. Obeying traffic laws ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr D AMERICA: ...and a commitment to make the Western Cape a safer place for all its residents. Thank you, hon Maynier. [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

†Laastens, agb Deputy Speaker, laat my toe om ons nuwe agb Minister van Mobiliteit, agb Minister Ricardo Mackenzie geluk te wens met die lewering van sy eerste begroting en wens hom en sy span alle voorspoed toe met die

lewing van dienste en die uitvoering van hulle pligte en verantwoordelikhede soos uiteengesit in hierdie begroting. Agb Deputy Speaker, die DA ondersteun die begroting en moedig al die agb lede van die Huis aan om die begroting ook te ondersteun. Ek dank u baie.

[Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to congratulate our new hon Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Ricardo Mackenzie, on the delivery of his first budget and we wish him and his team all the best with the delivery of services and execution of their duties and responsibilities as set out in this budget. Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA supports the budget and encourages all the members of the House to also support the budget. I thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid. [Applous.]

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon member. ][Applause.] Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Minister. [Interjections.] Hon members, if we can just hold out until the hon Minister is finished ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...and I will give you a big break.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: And thank you, hon Chairperson of the Standing Committee. I appreciated some of those stories and I am sure we will hear more of this in the future. [Interjections.] Much appreciated.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Mvimbi actually had a very great input and I

really mean it sincerely, hon Mvimbi, because you understand what is needed to fix transport in the province and probably in the country. You started by saying, some of your comments: it is the soul of the economy; public transport is a cornerstone of economy. That is exactly what I said and I am happy that you have used different words, but you said the same thing. So, you understand what is needed to get the economy going and I really hope, and I really would lobby you to share those sentiments with your national colleagues.

Because one of the other things that you have mentioned is that people use taxis because I think you said they wanted to or they ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: By choice.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: By choice, but I think let me take you perhaps a few years back and I am going to use this example. In fact, I will take you back to a personal example. I used to travel to an aunty in Eerste River. So, I used to take a taxi from Retreat to Grassy Park, Busy Corner, Sometimes, Busy Corner to Hanover Park, I think, if I remember correctly, but anyway. At one point I took a train from Mitchells Plain, but on the other side I used to stay in Steenberg and took a taxi from Steenberg to Retreat Station, I either took the bus from Retreat to Cape Town or the train from Retreat to Cape Town.

The point I am trying to make is there was an ecosystem. There was an

ecosystem where the trains, the busses and the taxis were operating as one. So, for the people travelling from Tafelsig, their only option at the moment is to take a taxi from Tafelsig to Mitchells Plain and take either a bus, the Golden Arrow or the N2 Express, or a taxi to Cape Town because the trains are not running. That is the cornerstone of the economy, the trains. There are probably more than a million people between Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Bonteheuwel, Langa and Nyanga, living on those [Inaudible.] next to the railway line up to [Inaudible.] place. A million people.

At this moment, as of today, 95% if not more do not have access to the trains because the trains are not running. So, if we can fix the trains, hon Mvimbi, those persons living on that railway line will have a mobility choice, which is what I was talking about. They can decide to take the train, they can decide to take a bus, or they can decide to take a taxi. At this moment, hon Deputy Speaker, that mobility choice is not there and the same goes for any of our other lines where we are struggling at the moment because of the rail system. So, you fully understand the issues, as you have mentioned yourself. ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: They are the soul of the economy, they are the cornerstone of the economy, but the way we can fix it protecting the current jobs, build the economy and create new jobs, is to fix the cornerstone of our mobility ecosystem which are the trains. So, if you can assist us in

lobbying your National Parliament because you also talked about the national rail policy. That has been years ago, hon Mvimbi, with respect. ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: It was only 2021.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: That is already 2021, it is now 2023. [Interjections.] The devolution of – it is in the Paper. The highest office in the country called the Cabinet, signed by the President Matamela Ramaphosa. You do not go any higher than that, hon Deputy Speaker. It is a signed policy by the Cabinet, members, by the President. You therefore have to take that policy and go and try to implement it. It has not happened. It has not happened and that is the tragedy because it is not about me, it is not about the DA. It is about the 1,1-million people living next to the Central Line that cannot get to work, that do not have that mobility choice at the moment.

So, when we talk about formalisation of any industry – and I am going to come back to you on the taxi industry because you talk about the devolution of budget and the formalisation – that is where we need to start because once you get that mobility ecosystem functioning, you can say how do we help the taxis in the [Audio distortion.] from Steenberg to get to Retreat Station and then the persons travelling have a mobility choice from Retreat to Cape Town.

At the moment, that mobility choice does not exist. I am 100% in agreement

with you. The taxi industry is not going anywhere. We cannot wish it away. No-one in this country can wish the taxi industry away. But there are elements in the taxi industry who are violent, who are thuggish and who are gangsters. And I am going to repeat it because it is not a secret and I know you know, via you, hon Deputy Speaker, it is not a secret in this country.

Two weeks ago, a bus was bombed in Thembaletu with almost 14 people ending up in hospital. I personally visited one of those persons in hospital. That is not normal. No normal human being will throw a petrol bomb in a bus with people in it and if you want to condone that, that is fine, but I am not going to stand for that. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: The taxi.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Similar to that, a few weeks ago on letterheads, the audacity, the unmitigated gall to put on a letterhead telling 5 000 children ‘you will not go to school until I get a tender.’ No normal human being will do something like that. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: 5 000 poor, black children and I hope the hon members would have stood with us in condemning these actions, but they did not. [Interjections.] It took our hon Minister David Maynier to go to court to deal with ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: You cannot be part of a legalised ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...operating system ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Why are you ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...if you threaten parents, if you threaten children ...[Interjections.] and their right to go to school. [Interjections.] That is unacceptable in any democracy.

An HON MEMBER: We agree, we agree! We agree.

An HON MEMBER: They are going to go to jail. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: So, hon members, I have great joy. The last few weeks have been incredible in working with good men ...[Interjections.] and women in the taxi industry ...[Interjections.] who want the industry to work. And I can tell you, the majority of them are good, hard-working businessmen like many of us. We all know there are members at National

Parliament and members in other spheres of government who go to jail, who are criminals, but none of us here as far I know, are those people. But there are elements in Parliament or in any government that are criminals, that are thuggish, that steal taxpayers' money. We know that. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: *Ja!* Yes.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: But it does not mean we, here, are those people. So, those are the ones. We must call them out. We must hold them to account, and they must go to jail. And the elements in the taxi industry, those elements in the taxi industry are no exception and we cannot protect them because you cannot stop 5 000 kids from going to school, because they cannot make up that time. I know my colleague, hon Minister David Maynier, and officials are trying very hard, and I applaud them for doing so. But it cost them hundreds of thousands of rands to go to court with money that could have gone into education.

Hon members, you talked about operating licences. You know, the taxi task team that we have established are working in dealing with all these issues and I am proud of our guys in the PRE and the Registrar because they literally sit with their laptops, and they look on the screen to look at what the hon members are claiming because that is the narrative being spread. And there was no backlog, hon member Mvimbi, with respect. They sat with the SANTACO leadership, they have looked at the numbers and there was nothing. There were permits that were not picked up by the taxi industry,



members of SANTACO.

Somebody, for example, moved to the Eastern Cape. Somebody unfortunately, as somebody said in that meeting, passed away and my colleague JP Smit said no, they did not pass away, they were assassinated. So, there are members that passed away and those permits were not taken up. But it is up to the responsibility of a taxi association to go to our colleagues and say 'hey, Ricardo is not in the Western Cape anymore. Please give us his permit so we can do something else.' The hon members keep bringing up this topic and I heard it yesterday, and they referred to extortionists and the DA's funding gangsters, blah-blah-blah. Let us go to the original sin. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: And now you do not know.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Let us go to the original sin.

An HON MEMBER: Now you do not know.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: At Genadendal the President of this country, Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma had a meeting with the biggest gangsters at Genadendal. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Oh, no ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...at the launch of the ANC's Hundred Years here at Athlone, [Inaudible.] station. It was the ANC gangsters with 100-year T-shirts on there that stood there on the VIP stage. ...[Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: That is the original sin. At the highest level in the country at Genadendal, the place of sovereignty. The place where people should call when there are problems, the President had a meeting with 28s and I wish I can use the words they said that day which was quoted verbatim in the *Mail & Guardian*: he is a what just like us. That is the original sin, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: We are going to the Premier.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Hon members, the member talks about ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...the MyCiTi Khayelitsha / Mitchells Plain routes ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He is your friend; he is your friend. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: And I can talk again about ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...how those people at the moment can get to work if they can use rail. If we can fix rail, hon members, we can fix the backbone of our eco-mobility system. [Interjections.] And then, the hon member talks about a billionaire Premier. Now, why did the hon Premier take a billion rand and spend it on the LEAP officers? Why did the hon Premier take a billion rand and spend it on the energy crisis? If National Government were working, if the Police were working, if the Crime Detective Services were working ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: If the State Security Agents were working ...[Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: If we did not have loadshedding.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: If Eskom did not collapse, those billions of

rands that are taken from people of this province, to fix problems created by National Government, could have gone into fixing problems. [Interjections.] That is the reality of the matter.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: You cannot ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: So, we should thank hon Premier Winde for doing your work ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bakubaku-Vos!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...for doing National Government's work and that is the reality of the problem, hon members. So, call him a billionaire Premier; I call him a Solutions Premier because he took solutions ...[Interjection.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Ah!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...solving problems that the ANC at National Government ...[Interjection.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: No!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...has created and allocated money to solve those problems. Hon member, Public Transport Planning is an exclusive City

mandate, but we work, and we are allocating resources to the City and dealing with those matters. And that is why, hon members, I hope in the future that the Chairperson of the Standing Committee will invite the minibus taxi task team to come and present what we are doing in the Standing Committee ...[Interjection.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: You cannot do that.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...so you can see the work we are doing in resolving some of those matters. [Interjections.] And those infighting, hon Mvimbi, is part of the oversupply in that system. So, hon member, you need to work with us in lobbying National Government for that national grant from Golden Arrow that must be increased because of operational costs, because of loadshedding and other national matters. That grant is now being impacted and we hope you can work with us and ask the National Government to fund the taxi industry, to create a grant ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ...for the taxi industry, to ensure that they are also funded, hon member. So, work with us. You understand the system, you understand what is needed, but if you can work with our colleagues at National Government like we are trying to do, let us fix the rail system. So, write to your colleagues. You understand the genesis of the problem and let us get the mobility ecosystem working and let us work together with all our

colleagues in getting rail work. I appreciate that, hon members. Thank you.

[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the Vote, the debate on this Vote. Hon members, can I just ask for your indulgence. I am happy to give you 15 minutes. We have still got about 2 hours to go. Still a long time. So, if you want 10 minutes or you want 15 minutes, I ...[Interjections.] 5 minutes? ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: 10.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 10? Okay. Let us make it 10 minutes. Everyone go, and have a bit of a break and we will see you back here. The House is suspended.

House suspended at ??:??

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good evening, you may be seated. Good evening to our guests here. We now will move on swiftly. The Secretary will read the Seventh Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 7 – Social Development Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary, I now

recognise the hon Minister Fernandez.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier and Cabinet colleagues, hon members of the Provincial Legislature in the House and on the virtual platform, members of the media and public in the Chamber and virtual platform, citizens of the Western Cape and especially, a warm welcome to Team DSD. Thank you for showing up even at this late hour. I think you give commitment to our 24/7 principle. Good afternoon or should I say good evening, *goeienaand, asalam aleikum*. I rise to table the Appropriation Bill for the Department of Social Development, Vote 7.

Our Department – along with many others – has been battling against the fierce ‘headwinds’ which the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities referred to during her Budget for Action speech. The increase of 4,05% in the proposed budget, inching it up from R2.3-billion to R2,4-billion, barely offers us any protection against these headwinds. This nominal increase fails to keep up with inflation and the increased demands for services associated with - various socio-economic challenges – manifesting itself in expanding communities post-COVID-19. It is also indicative of a National Treasury that is woefully unaware of what the needs are on the ground. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Correct!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: The International Monetary Fund predicts South Africa's economy will most likely only grow by 0,1% this year largely due to rolling blackouts. It is a significant drop from the IMF's January estimate of a 1,2% growth. The economic downswing, exacerbated by the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rolling blackouts, and global financial instability, will continue to have a negative impact on the Department.

This means that the Department will not be able to provide any material increase in funding to its NGO partners in the new year. Staff have also received below inflation increases which has triggered union action impacting service delivery. We saw the effects of this unrest earlier in the month. The Department will have to continue cost containment measures, as we have done for many years.

However, it is not all gloom and doom. As the Western Cape Government has proven time and time again, with ingenuity and innovative leadership, limited resources can be stretched for the benefit of all citizens. With the funding allocations received by this Department, we are more determined than ever to best serve the most vulnerable residents in this province, from the elderly to the youngest members in society.

Hon Deputy Speaker, considering that it is Social Work Month, it is fitting that I announce that the Department has received R207,2-million for Compensation of Employees over the 2023 Medium-Term Expenditure



Framework period. Of this, R61,4-million is being allocated in 2023/2024, over R69-million in 2024/2025, and over R76-million for the financial year thereafter. This funding will ensure the filling of priority posts within the Department, including the appointment of Social Service professionals, which includes social workers, social auxiliary workers at coalface, and child and youth care workers at secure care centres, amongst others.

As hon Minister Wenger mentioned during her Budget for Action, 247 additional social service professionals are being appointed. These appointments will hopefully stabilize an over-burdened welfare and child protection system, especially in crime hotspots as identified in the Provincial Safety Plan. A R30-million in once-off funding was received in 2023/2024 for Child Protection Services. This allocation included the training of safety parents of disabled children, the continuation of training for Child and Youth Care workers, and subsidies for bed spaces in Child and Youth Care Centres. R750 000 was allocated for training interventions, R11,2-million to Child Care and Protection, R11,2-million to Child and Youth Care Centres, R2-million to Crime Prevention and R1,75-million to Victim Empowerment.

Staying on track with our Government's 365 day approach in addressing gender-based violence, we remain committed to ensuring victims of violence get the support and assistance that they need, while strengthening the family unit in a bid to prevent and address abuse in homes and communities. R45-million was received over the 2023 MTEF period of which R15-million is allocated in the 2023/2024 year, R15-million for the next financial year, and

another R15-million in the year thereafter for evidence-informed parenting programmes.

Gender-Based Violence Services received an additional R30,6-million over the 2023 MTEF period, broken down into R9,8-million in 2023/2024, R10-million in 2024/2025 and R10,6-million in 2025/2026. These funds will be in support of the Victim Empowerment Programme. Over the next three years, the Department will expand shelter services in the Victim Empowerment space, and expansion of Khuseleka centres in the Overberg and Eden Karoo Districts. Funding to current service providers will also be enhanced to ensure sustainability at these facilities.

More recently, hon Premier Winde and I launched the ‘Break the Cycle’ intervention at FAMSA in Khayelitsha and just last week, hon Minister Allen and I launched this vital initiative, ‘Break the Cycle’, at the Delft Civic Centre. This initiative will be rolled out transversally across all Western Cape Government departments.

Rolling blackouts can have a detrimental psychological impact on those relying on shelters to escape abusive situations, or to get back on their feet. It also hampers the safety of those living and working in our shelters and especially in our secure care centres where safety is a key priority. An amount of R8-million was received over the 2023 MTEF period for the procurement of diesel for generators. R2-million was allocated to secure care centres and R600 000 was allocated to the regions each year over the

Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period to ensure continuous service delivery during rolling blackouts.

Hon Deputy Speaker, R15-million was received over the 2023 MTEF period for a special care centre in Lentegour, Mitchells Plain, for adolescent and young adults with mental health diagnoses. The allocation will increase and is allocated to Services to Persons with Disabilities. An additional R25-million in 2024/2025 and R12-million in 2025/26 was received for upgrades in terms of health and safety regulations, the building of laundry facilities at Sivuyile Residential Facility, and the building of a new mental health and maternity centre, as well as a substance use disorder dormitory at Siyakatala.

Earlier I mentioned, hon members, that we are still in Social Work Month. DSD staff working in communities deserve to feel safe, proud of where they work, especially where many clients visit offices and may require a level of confidentiality. To this end, R20-million in once-off funding was received in 2023/2024 financial year to improve the look and feel of DSD offices and facilities in targeted hotspot areas through initiatives such as painting, repairing broken windows, and paving, as part of the Executives' Face of Government priority allocation. R1-million was allocated to Corporate Services, R16-million to regions and R2,8-million to secure care centres.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I traverse our province, I continue seeing the ravaging effects of a stilted economy and the long-lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. I see abject poverty, I see hunger, I see unemployment.

I recently visited Kannaland and just last week, I was in the Klein-Karoo, and it is actually quite distressing to see the levels of poverty that exist. And whilst I do this, I ponder on SASSA's continued failure to ensure the smooth disbursement of grants to beneficiaries. It is no surprise that this dysfunctional national entity is dropping the ball in providing relief to the hungry and destitute, which is one of its core mandates.

Poverty-stricken citizens thus look to us as the Provincial Government to fill the gap left by an incompetent national entity. This is not an easy feat when dealing with a budget increase that is sadly limping behind inflation. The Department also received an additional R85,1-million over the 2023 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods. R28-million is allocated over 2023/2024 year, R28,3-million in the following, and R28,7-million in 2025/2026 financial year to fund Food Distribution Centres and Community Nutrition Development Centres.

The overall allocation of R53,8-million for the Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods programme for 2023/2024 will ensure that the Department is able to provide cooked meals to over 89 000 vulnerable beneficiaries at its Community Nutrition and Development Centres, also known as CNDCs, food distribution points and community kitchens per quarter. Notwithstanding the constrained fiscal environment, the Department is able to extend its food relief footprint to three areas in need, Murraysburg – and I see hon member Bans is not here – where we will provide support to five community-based kitchens, as well as in Vleiland in Laingsburg, and in

Kensington.

Providing skills and development opportunities is an important pillar of self-reliance. The Department has thus made additional allocations to support the various skills and development programmes at six CNDCs in Hout Bay, Laingsburg, Kannaland, Uniondale, Murraysburg, and Matzikama. The Department will provide continuous technical support to ensure these projects assist our clients to live lives of hope, dignity and worth.

From time to time, families in the Western Cape may experience undue hardship whilst waiting on the SRD350 and to mitigate this, the Department is looking to secure food parcels to assist these families in crisis through our various local offices. Here, I do need to say thank you to Local Government, the faith-based organisations, the farming community, and many other ordinary citizens who have stepped up and stood in the gap to assist with food-aid and food relief.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is not going to be an easy year. The challenges we have overcome as a province since 2020 have been replaced by seemingly greater obstacles. And we are not unique in facing economic hardships. It is happening on a global scale. Increased pressure on our services, the growing workload for our staff, limited resources to meet the needs of expanding communities whilst poverty and unemployment rates increase seem insurmountable. This is especially daunting when facing the realization that National Government keeps dropping the ball. One just needs to look at the

latest rolling blackout notifications – they do not even get that right anymore – or you need to stand outside a SASSA office or Home Affairs queue.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I took the time to visit Athlone SASSA at 6AM in the morning. I took the time to visit Delft SASSA at 6AM in the morning and sadly, when I got there I was turned away and told come back on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. When I went to Bellville, I was told that they will not be going back to Delft because they do not have satellite offices any longer, only the regional offices are operational. What is so sad is that the people who were at Delft did not have the taxi fare to get to the Bellville office and so that is the extent. And I spoke to many people who told me their stories of coming back not once, twice, but three or four times.

Similarly, I visited Home Affairs and at Home Affairs you can stand in the queue waiting for a birth certificate or a death certificate or a passport for an equally long time. We require birth certificates for our children in foster care and it is so sad when such an important entity, like Home Affairs, drops the ball and they do not get their birth certificates and they do not get their grants.

So, I therefore want to say thank you to all the departmental staff, our NGO partners, and all other key stakeholders, but more importantly, I want to say thank you to ordinary South Africans who have worked with us during this challenging period and they have proven that they can stand in the gap, and they will not wait for Government, but rather collaborate and partner so that

we can attend to the needs of the most vulnerable. And this indicates a whole of government approach and it indicates a whole of society approach, which is now more important than ever if we want to address the social ills and create a Western Cape and a province we can be proud of.

Hon Deputy Speaker, despite these challenges Team DSD sitting in the room, in the Chamber and online, continue to keep hope alive and they act with urgency 24/7. I wish to thank this august House for the opportunity to table the Appropriation Bill for Vote 7 today. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Bakubaku-Vos. [Interjections.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have come to accept hon Premier Winde as the Premier of a billion rand. When he deems challenge an emergency, then you must be guaranteed he will throw in a billion rand to address it. He first did it with his Safety Plan and now he has done it with his Energy Plan, but when will he realise that GBV and femicide have become an emergency deserving of similar investment.

In the crime statistics Third Quarter of 2022/2023 between October and December 2022, sexual offences increased by 248 cases to 2 157 and rape increased by 211 cases to 1 580. In simple terms, over 1 500 women and children were raped in the Western Cape in only three months. This means

on average, 16 people in the province are raped every day. Of these, 801 happened behind closed doors, including the residents of victims or perpetrators, making it extremely hard to police and also, placing the victims in great danger of femicide. Of these, 193 happened in public places and 6 and 9 took place at abandoned buildings and liquor outlets respectively.

The Western Cape has seven in the top 30 stations nationally for rape and sexual offences, and yet, the hon Premier does not see this as a crisis worthy of receiving additional resources. Really? He does not see anything wrong because if he does see that, he would at least be supposed to bring that R1-billion into our Department to fight this GBV.

The Western Cape has seven in the top 30 stations nationally of rape and sexual offences and yet, the hon Premier does not see this as a crisis worthy of receiving additional resources. And in October 2022, the Department hosted a provincial Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Summit which was attended by over 1 500 delegates. Through interaction between Government, the NPO sector, private sector and civil society, many challenges were ventilated including such issues as funding and resource constraints, challenges with access to critical support services, and a need for a whole of society approach in addressing violence against women and children in high-risk communities in the province. It is and it worries me.

As a result of this summit as well as the National Presidential GBV Summit, the Provincial Government was tasked to revise the GBV implementation plan



and the Department in its Annual Performance Plan indicated that this would be presented to the Cabinet before the end of this month. I do not know what the contents of that plan are, but I am certain that R76,8-million allocated through this budget for victim empowerment is not enough. We reiterate our cause for increased budget to address GBV and femicide, and I want to emphasise that we want money. Just as he can allocate R1-billion to other departments, he must give it to us. It must be noted, however, that the 12,6% increase in the budget for the Victim Empowerment Programme is a step in the right direction, but it still falls short of what is needed, hon Minister.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the external environment analysis presented by the Department in its Annual Performance Plans gives a clear picture of the space the Department operates in. In the Annual Performance Plan, the Department said, and I quote:

“An estimated 2-million children between the ages of 0 and 17 years live in the Western Cape and make up about a third of the population. Children in the province’s most vulnerable areas face a high risk of maltreatment and violence as reflected in child murder and sexual victimisation trends. The vulnerability of these children was heightened during lockdown due to high levels of food insecurity in households, resulting in a higher risk of child stunting, malnutrition and neglect compared to the period before COVID-19.”

Hon Kama was correct yesterday when he said these children were not on hon

MEC Wenger's mind when she drafted the Budget. [Interjections.] In her budget speech, the hon MEC announced an additional 247 additional social workers and auxiliary social workers, supervisors, and administrative support staff to stabilise the welfare and Child Protection system. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is another step in the right direction that is in line with the ANC's demands we have made repeatedly for the creation of employment opportunities for social workers. The hon MEC knows.

I do not want to say I have been shouting, I want to say I have been repeatedly asking for that, but we reiterate calls for this Department and the WCED to form a partnership that will see more unemployed social workers deployed in schools. This would be a perfect example of a whole of Government approach to address the pressing challenges in the province. We are not bringing only problems, but we are also bringing solutions.

The hon MEC also announced the allocation of R238-million to fund Victim Support Programmes over the MTEF, including an additional R91,9-million to expand GBV services, such as Victim Empowerment. She also mentioned the allocation of R193,6-million to maintain the food relief effort. As the saying goes: the devil is in the detail. Firstly, the allocation for victim support programmes over the MTEF would make more sense if it was an annual budget. Secondly, the Victim Empowerment Programme in its current format is another example of the same old Helen Zille tactics of sticking plaster-politics over unhealed wounds.

We take victims to shelters and safe homes for a limited period, only to send them back to the same toxic environment and into the hands of the perpetrators. Part of the reason for this is the shortage of these facilities and insufficient budget resources which is the motivation behind our calls for an increased budget so we can establish more of these facilities in the poor working-class communities where the majority of victims reside. For instance, between April and June 2022, only 70 victims could access the shelter service for that quarter.

The ANC at its National Elective Conference took a resolution that the victims of GBV should be prioritised for Government housing. We call on the hon MEC Fernandez to champion this demand in the Province. This is yet another missed opportunity to put the whole of Government approach to practice, to address the challenges of GBV and femicide.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let us turn our focus to the brutal rising cost of living and the challenges of food insecurity in the province. According to the General Household Survey of 2021, it showed that 12,6 households in the province had inadequate access to food. Again, the hon Premier has failed to recognise poverty and food insecurity as a crisis because there is no R1-billion allocated for this.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC-led Government is a caring government. In response to this crisis of food insecurity and the rising cost of living, the Finance MEC, comrade Enoch Godongwana allocated R66-billion to Social

Development over the medium-term, with R36-billion to fund the extension of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant until the end of March 2024 and the other R30-billion to be used for inflation-linked increases for the social grants of old age disability grants, as well as child support and foster care.

We want this Budget to respond with urgency to address the foster care backlog. While the Finance MEC in the Western Cape claimed in her speech that R193,6-million was allocated over the medium-term to maintain the food relief effort, the truth is that this Department's Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Livelihoods sub-programme has been reduced by 24%. In the face of rising poverty, the acute cost of living and food insecurity, the DA Government in the Western Cape responds by budget cuts to the food relief programmes. This is highly unacceptable and a clear sign of a government that does not care.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it does not end there. Despite the hon MEC in her Executive Authority Statement in the APP acknowledging her Department's priorities will remain that Statutory Services, Child Protection, Youth at Risk, Gender-Based Violence and the provision of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, her Department through this budget have reduced the budget allocation for Substance Abuse, Prevention and Rehabilitation sub-programmes.

The hon MEC in her reply said there are currently 22 privately owned treatment centres and currently six Departmental-funded inpatient treatment

centres in the province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon member. Finish off, 16 minutes.

†Me N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Klaar?

[Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Finished?]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Amper. Dit is klaar.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Almost. It's finished.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Okay.

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Jy het vir een ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had for one... ][Interjection.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Okay. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have come to accept – ag, sorry man. Over and above this Department budget for Youth Cafés and the number of funded Youth Cafés are not enough.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, this budget has not shown any urgency to address the problem of homelessness.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Over 2 308 bed spaces and 37 homeless

shelters ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): ...the Department identified and extra shelter site at Old Tafelberg ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): ...Crèche that can accommodate 100 homeless people ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] Thanks, hon member. I now move online to hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The EFF notes with concern ...[Audio distortion.] it is being replaced with programmes for the elderly and disabled, and gender-based victims in informal settlements and farming areas across the province. The Department's claim of a successful strategic plan and budget to ensure a safe, protective and supportive environment for the poor, vulnerable older persons, as well as persons with

disabilities cannot be true if the majority of informal settlements and farming areas across the province continue to be ignored with simple services in order to lives of dignity.

Many residents hailing from such areas across the province have previously been raped, abused and even worse, killed, but do not report their cases in time as they had no place of safety to run to and do not benefit from simple services like even that of mobile police stations, mobile clinics and other support structures, to deal with their trauma. Elderly residents as well the disabled in many sub-regions of the West Coast, as just one example, have to walk or hike out of their communities to get to benefit from such services, which in some areas we will find is one to two hours apart in driving distance, just to get simple services, simple health and protection services, among other.

So, imagine living on a farm or informal settlements surrounded by bush or mountains with no electricity and water while still being unemployed, hungry and frail, and in dire conditions. How do we actually expect the vulnerable in these areas to get a transportation fee if they do not even have money to purchase food. So, how exactly is this Department assisting the vulnerable, older and disabled persons in these areas and what programmes have we budgeted for then?

Yes, the hon Minister mentioned that the Overberg region will benefit from one of these programmes under this budget, but which areas and for how

long, and what about the residents in many other areas of the Overberg facing poverty? How long do these residents have to wait before help is sent their way? We have no interest in listening to programmes established in only one or two areas under this budget. Give us details of mass and continuous programmes which will also benefit the vulnerable in areas which are deep in crisis.

The EFF also notes with concern the amount allocated towards programmes dealing with gender-based violence and call for an increase so that these programmes can reach more areas of the province. And when it comes to intervention via Victim Empowerment Services, how many of these small groups of social workers that you are budgeting on and who specialise in gender-based violence across the province have you actually deployed to these farming areas and informal settlements which are hidden behind bush and mountains across this province.

Here, I am not referring to the areas where there are active services and easy access to services like hospitals and Youth Centres, but rather areas in deep crisis which are hidden, like I said, hidden behind mountains across this province like on the West Coast, among other regions. What have you done for these elderly and disabled people in these areas?

But it is evident that nothing much has been done here and these people remain as the ones who are ignored and forgotten because the reality is that nothing is being done and this budget does not speak to them and to all the



people in this province. For these reasons, the EFF rejects this budget. Thank you.

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

Mr S N AUGUST (GOOD): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I want to applaud the DSD Department for funds that are being shrunk and the money that is being stretched over the many tasks that they have to do. But I want to say my garden boy's father planted a tree and he put a piece of wood next to the tree, †'n besemstok, sê hulle [a broomstick, they say.] He tied the tree to this *besemstok* and I asked him, 'why do you do this?' He said because when the wind blows, this tree will grow and it will grow skew. You will never be able to get it straight again, hon Deputy Speaker.

Therefore, hon Minister, you will agree with me: Education, Social Development and your Department are not doing what they are supposed to do. You will agree with me that there is one social worker for ten schools with the Education Department. You will agree with me that of the broken families and the truancy officers within our broken communities, that there are not enough social workers for that.

You will agree with me that your Department does not know when a child is kept out of school or where he is not attending classes and that you might not be aware of it because you only find out about this, days and weeks later.

You of the Education Department do know that, if a child does not attend for 10 days they are deregistered – and I am so sorry the hon Minister of Education is not here – but Social Development and Education need to partner together to break this cycle and fix and keep that tree straight because when it gets to the wind, that tree is going to bend.

I also want to say, hon Minister, that I have been for a full day at Tent City. I have listened to their stories and perhaps, I am sure your Department is listening to their stories, but there are reasons why we do have solutions. I know you might have solutions. If you could have spoken about that a little bit more, I would have appreciated it.

I would also want you to have a discussion with the Minister of Agriculture to talk about the hotspots within our rural areas, to talk about those 10 year old children already using alcohol. How is your Department focusing with Agriculture to deal with those issues ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr S N AUGUST (GOOD): ...in our communities. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon August. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance, hon Plato.

Mr D PLATO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. Hon Deputy Speaker, over the last few weeks I have made it a personal project to more closely interact with the communities we serve. I have spoken to those who represent the poorest of the poor and I have spent time in those areas that experience poverty, crime, and drug addiction as a daily reality. It is with them in mind that I rise today in support of Vote 7 of this Budget. It is easy to become lost in the figures and projections of a budget as comprehensive as this one, but we must take care to remember that every rand and cent spent by our Department has the potential to change lives. Today, I can stand here sound in the knowledge that this budget will do just that.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me be clear. I am under no illusion that the interventions contained in this section of the Budget will help to solve the courses of poverty and we must try our best to do just that. But what this section of the Budget will do is lessen the burden until then. It will help to house the homeless we are talking about in this debate this afternoon. It will assist in providing meals to the poor, exactly what some of the hon members mentioned in this House today. It will provide support for those suffering from disabilities and it will keep our children safe, exactly what we are debating this afternoon, particularly those who are at risk of falling prey to those gangsters and drug dealers using alcohol and all the wrong things, that would seduce them into a lifestyle of addiction and crime.

This Budget sees the Department of Social Development's budget increased

by almost R100-million, the latest in a continuing of increased funding for their vital work. But what we have heard this afternoon, even that seems not to be enough and I will agree with that. This increase in allocation will result in across the board increases to almost every one of the Department's programmes. What does this mean, hon Deputy Speaker?

It means that this Government is investing into the social safety net. It is pouring money towards the plight of the poor and the vulnerable. That is exactly what this budget is speaking to. It is stating in clear terms that every single one of the Department's vital programmes cannot be done without. The last increase of just 6,23% will be allocated to the Restorative Services Programme which seeks – and listen to this, hon Deputy Speaker – which seeks to steer children, the youth, even adults, away from a life of crime by providing comprehensive social services. This also includes rehabilitation for those who have become addicted to drugs and alcohol. Exactly what we debate this afternoon.

Hon Deputy Speaker, so many of those I interact with in impoverished communities tell me the same thing, that above all else, crime and drugs are tearing apart communities. But the question is, is it only the role, the task, the duty of the Department of Social Development to address those issues? No, it cannot be. All the other departments mentioned by the hon two members, Bakubaku-Vos and hon August, the whole of society approach must come into play and assist to address these pressing issues in our communities. [Interjections.] This programme goes to the heart of that issue.

We know that crime is out of control in our country and so much of the debate in this House discusses law enforcement, but this allocation shows that our Government is attacking crime at its roots and cutting off the supply of income for the gangs. That process by the SAPS and the NPA, National Prosecuting Authority, must continue. More needs to be done in that respect. But so much more than this, this programme will give back our friends and family to us, exactly what we are talking about.

So many people in this province, including hon members of this House, have seen those close to them transform into different people as they fall victim to drug and alcohol addiction. This programme not only attacks crime and the social ills which enable it, it gives our friends and our family back to us. Again, the whole of society approach needs to come into play.

And that, hon Deputy Speaker, this is not the only programme that will benefit from the increased allocation. An almost increase of 6,18% has been made to the Children and Families Programme. Hon Deputy Speaker, exactly what we debate in this House today. The hon Minister and her team are making sure that these pressing issues that the hon members are worried about, are addressed. Maybe I need to repeat this phrase: an almost equal increase of 6,18% has been made to the Children and Families Programme, which provides comprehensive child and family care and support services to our communities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, many of us in this House are parents and will know better than anyone the truth that it takes a village to raise a child. But as many of us know, there are so many of our children who are abandoned and neglected by their parents. These children are at the greatest risk of falling victim to crime, gangs, drugs, and social dysfunction. Hon Deputy Speaker, it goes without saying that we, as a society, owe it to these children to protect and nurture them. And this project ensures just that.

Last year, more than 10 000 children, many of them with disabilities, received services at the Department's facilities and I will agree with the hon members in this House. Maybe that 10 000 is just not enough. What about the other 10 000 we did not detect and cannot assist? This year, I am confident the Department will improve on this already impressive figure. They will spend nearly R4-million to train auxiliary workers at our Child and Youth Care Centres and they will spend nearly R30-million to ensure that there are more beds available at these facilities than ever before.

The Department will also devote resources towards helping those that raise our children. The DSD is highly successful in parenting programmes, equip new parents with the vital skills to give their children a solid, loving upbringing and providing them with the necessary guidance and care, early on in their development. In the next year, the Department will spend R10-million to enhance and expand these programmes. It is a major step, hon Deputy Speaker, in the right direction.

But the Department will also focus on those children that have no-one to parent them. We know that 13,7% of children in this province live with neither of their parents and it is absolutely a priority of this Department to ensure that these most vulnerable children too, are cared for. Because why? They are the leaders of tomorrow; they are the parents of tomorrow. This year, use of the web-based foster care monitoring system will further reduce the turnaround time for foster care placements and extensions.

The Department of Social Development and hon Minister Fernandez, take the issue of GBV very seriously. We do what we can and again, other entities of State also need to come into play and play their role. The Department will also ensure that the Western Cape's 26 GBV shelters will remain funded and functional over the next financial year. Psychosocial support will continue to be provided to any women that need the support and even other, such as men as well, just as it was to the hundreds of women who made use of these shelters last year. So, the shelters are used. Maybe even that is not enough. More maybe should be done.

But more than this, the Department will take bold steps to expand our range of services to women. The Department has committed itself to working with our municipalities to find new opportunities to help people. I am overjoyed to note that the new Khuseleka Centre will be built near Stellenbosch later this year and that will definitely be a plus.

As I close ...[Interjection.]

No, unlike you earlier today, hon member. [Laughter.] You could not find your papers. [Laughter.] No, I just cut. To be honest, I just cut my speech a little bit shorter. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

Mr D PLATO (DA): But, as we take this journey, we refuse to leave anyone behind. We will feed the hungry and house the homeless. I think the statement made by my hon colleague, that nothing had been done for hunger, people with malnutrition, families and that sort of thing and that it is not enough. Maybe the hon Minister can elaborate a bit more on that, but a substantial budget has been budgeted to do just that. I have the figure, but the hon Minister can mention the figure.

We shield the vulnerable and help the needy. If anyone doubts our sincerity in this, we need look no further than this Vote and the money that this Government has committed to spending. This is a budget that cares for the poor, cares for the vulnerable, cares for the needy.

But hon Deputy Speaker, finally in conclusion. I agree. Much more needs to be done. We could say much more about the plight even of the elderly. We are facing crises among the youth and young children, the increasing suicidal issue amongst the youth is becoming a trend and it is a worry. The Department is focusing on that. Growing malnutrition is a big problem. I do



not want to focus on SASSA because for me, SASSA: what a dismal performance in many ways and we need to admit that. [Interjections.] The Department of Social Development intervened without delay and is keeping a close eye on all of these issues. The whole of society approach to deal with these issues must and will continue. Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Plato. I now recognise the hon Minister, hon Fernandez. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Allow me to thank the hon members for their contribution to the debate today. I also wish to thank the hon Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Dan Plato and the Committee members for the robust, yet dignified engagements we experience whenever it is we meet.

Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to address some of the concerns and questions that were posed. Firstly, let me say right up front: the fabric of our society is completely broken. Our communities are soaked in trauma, and it certainly is not going to take a government or any single entity to fix what is happening out there.

To the hon Bakubaku-Vos, I share your passion and your concerns in terms of GBV because I stand here as a survivor and yet, there is a lot – we are both survivors, you and I – yet there is a lot that is being done. I must say I am

not one to play politics because I do not believe the DSD should be politicising anything, whether it is hunger, Gender-Based Violence, homelessness or poverty, but it is nice to quote an amount of money that has been allocated at a national level. But when that money does not reach the most vulnerable on the ground timeously, it impacts that individual, irrespective of which department, which province he or she lives in.

It is quite sad that I am not the only MEC to have gone to visit SASSA offices. Many of my colleagues in other provinces have done likewise and they have come to the same conclusion. The money is not reaching the most vulnerable timeously and that is part of the problem because social relief of distress in terms of Chapter 3 of the Act resides with SASSA, not with Social Development. So, I think that is an important point, hon Marran, because you know, if you said to me SASSA was my entity then I would say I could take the blame for them.

I must say though, in terms of reaching out we have engaged with SASSA Western Cape and they have committed to meeting with us at least once a quarter to ensure that we stay on track. It does seem though, as if the level of dysfunction in the SASSA internally is now affecting citizens across this country. ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: Who owns the [Inaudible.] process? That is ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Marran ...[Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: I am just saying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Fernandez, focus on me. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Do not say it.

Mr P MARRAN: I am saying it. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: To the hon Cassiem  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: To the hon Cassiem, whilst it  
might not seem like anything is happening, the Department [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Please, do not interrupt.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: The Department has allocated

R235-million per annum to the care, support and protection of older persons. That is R705-million over the MTEF and this indicates our interest to support older person in the Western Cape as per the Older Persons Act.

To the hon Bakubaku-Vos, the National Drug Master Plan has been signed off. Our GBV Implementation Plan was submitted to Cabinet MANCO on 8 March as we intended. I also need to say, in terms of shelters, we are the only province and I hate to say this, but Minister De Lille gave us six properties and within less than nine months we got them up and running. In other provinces sadly, guess what happened? They were returned to National Public Works because they could not come to a working agreement. So, I say kudos and thank you. We indicated in this province the power of collaboration and partnerships can work if you are intentional.

In terms of Rural Safety, hon August and hon Cassiem, under hon Minister Meyer's guidance we have a Rural Safety Desk. Recently, we were in the Central Karoo for a Rural Safety Summit and there, all stakeholders are involved. I also want to talk to the relationship that exists, and many people do not understand or grasp, but we have Child Protection social workers, and we have Child Protection agencies that we fund, for example: ACVV, Mandisa Kindersorg. We also have social workers in Health; we have social workers in Education; we have social workers in DSD. It is sad that many children – SAPS also have social workers – it is sad that post-COVID-19, many children have dropped out of school because they had to go to school on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday or on Tuesday and Thursday.

In terms of our Safety Plan which often gets lambasted, we have created the three working groups. The one is Jobs for Growth because we understand that nothing can restore anyone's dignity better than a job. Nothing will keep a child out of a gang or off drugs, better than a job. So, Jobs for Growth is certainly a key area and that is led by hon Minister Wenger. Then, we have a Safety Plan which hon Minister Allen leads, together with other Ministers, and the Safety Plan is just not about boots on the ground. The Safety Plan is a transversal Government approach where some of the staff sitting in the box there are working on social cohesion, we are working on taking parenting programmes and we are working specifically in the hotspots that have been identified by SAPS in this province.

We also have Health who leads in the Safety Plan. We have 41 HECTIS sites and at these sites – the HECTIS is a model that is used based on the Cardiff model – they can actually give us the detail to say that a woman is abused at a tavern between 10 PM at night and 4 AM in the morning. As you said, hon Bakubaku-Vos, they can also tell us that a pregnant woman in the second trimester of her pregnancy, is abused by a partner, a spouse, perpetrator between the ages of 24 and 35. Similarly, they can tell us whether it is a blunt or sharp object. So, this talks to data and evidence-led data.

And this is why we launched our Break the Silence video in Delft last week, hon Minister Allen and I, because Delft is the number one and it is not a

good figure, it is not a number to be proud of, to be the highest for murder and the highest for rape or sexual assault. But I also think there is something that I need to add, and we have now recently – hon Minister Meyer has forged great relationships with faith-based organisations, and we have seen the Church stepping up. I had a meeting recently with Dr Braam Hanekom and the Church is willing to assist us looking at homelessness and Rev Joy Chetty has indicated their willingness to establish a GBV desk or unit in every congregation and they are willing to start this with us in Delft. I also want to add that Dr Lucille Meyer from Chrysalis will look at the GERI Programme, the Gender Equity Reconciliation Programme that they have, so we can start to bring meaningful, impactful services to our communities.

I lead the Dignity and Wellbeing Workstream together with my four hon colleagues: hon Minister Maynier from Education; hon Minister Meyer Agriculture; hon Minister Anroux, Marais Sports, Arts and Culture and hon Minister Mbombo from Health. Hon Minister Mbombo deals with the first thousand days, the first three years of a child's life. Hon Minister Maynier is recently at ECD and obviously, matrices, all the way through. Sports, Arts and Culture our MOD centres and one must not lose sight that the School Nutrition Programme is also a conduit where – and we will hear it tomorrow when hon Minister Maynier presents – where many children are fed.

I last week attended together – I was invited by Safer Schools – to a ten-day meeting with SAPS, Law Enforcement, Metro Police, the school principals, school governing bodies, Neighbourhood Watches – and I was horrified to

find that there is now something called a ‘weed debt’. Children are approached by drug dealers †en dit begin met ’n pakkie lekkers. R10 vir ’n pakkie lekkers. Jy kry R10. Dan kry hulle vyf pakkies entjies [and it starts with a packet of sweets. R10 for a packets of sweets. Then they get five packets *entjies*] and if they sell those five packets of cigarettes, the entrepreneurial skill is there, then they get some weed. And if they can sell or move their weed quick enough, then guess what happens? The drug dealer gives that young entrepreneur a little packet of tik and then that boy becomes enslaved, and he sells tik in schools. I sat there horrified. I could not believe that this is actually happening in our schools. So, we do not want to criminalise the learner, but how do you stop the drug dealer?

So, guess what happens? The children pay their debt by stealing cell phones from other learners which they then give to the dealer. And if they do not get a cell phone quick enough, guess what happens? The gangsters rock up at the school and they then beat up the children. At one school, there were seven fights in one day and whilst as I left that meeting, I drove down the road and guess what was happening? At this notorious shop there was another fight, and it was about drugs.

So, I think there is something we need to acknowledge here. Government has a role to play. Civil society has a role to play, but parents have abdicated their responsibility. † Ouers stuur nou hulle skool toe [Parents now send them to school] for the teachers to teach their children manners. † Waardes en beginsels en dissipline begin in die huis. [Values and principles and

discipline starts at home]. And if you do not have God in your house and God in your school, then you are where we are today. We are now reaping the unintended consequences of a very good Constitution on paper, but it did not prepare itself for a fledgling democracy.

So, I stand here in solidarity with you. I stand in solidarity with you. I spend sleepless nights. I get calls at 11 o'clock. People are turned away from police stations and I then need to make a quick urgent call so that we can assist somebody. I get a call from a man who tells me he has been living on sugar water for four days, can I please organise a food parcel. So, for the hon Cassiem to say that nothing is happening, is a slap in the face of the nearly 2 500 staff in Social Development who work tirelessly. We had staff go into Kosova. Guess what? SAPS refused to go in there with them because it was too dangerous. Our social workers were assaulted. They were told, 'we do not want Coloureds in Kosova.' So, how do we solve these problems that you present or the concerns that you present to me if society is not willing to partner with us?

So, what we really need is we need active citizens and here, I must say there are many women and men across this province who work tirelessly with the Department, and they are almost first responders. They will alert me before anyone else. When the story breaks, we have already mobilised, we have got the team on the ground, but we need more parents to become invested in their children's futures. And it is sad that we have children as young as six and seven who are addicted to drugs. It is gut-retching. And so, what should we



be doing? You know, I do not believe we should be building more facilities or more prisons. We should be shifting behaviour so that people can actually understand that for a community to thrive, your child should be my child. †Maar wat gebeur nou? Jou kind is stout, ek skreeu op hom en dan wat gebeur? ‘Wie is jy om my kind te skree?’ [But what happens now? Your child is mischievous, I shout at him and then what happens? ‘Who are you to shout at my child?'] Sorry, I am using it in simple language as it happens out there.

One of the other issues around Gender-Based Violence, 80% of GBV, the perpetrator is known to the victim, †maar ons het mos ook gehoor: julle moet nie uit die huis uit praat nie [but we have also heard: don't talk out of the house]. Remember those of us who grew up with that story? †So, julle bring skaamte aan ons naam en aan die familie. [So, you bring shame to our name and the family.] But there is a simple saying: when the parents fight, the kids are unhappy, and the neighbours know.

So, like you, I am concerned, and I pray that the fiscal constraints will be relieved. I can only, and as a Department, cut our cloth according to the grain. We have cut substance abuse, but it is not the substance abuse programmes, it is the training programmes to universities that were cut. So, that team of people there have put their heads together, pitted their skills to try and make sure that we keep the system afloat and for that, I want to say thank you.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to thank my hon Cabinet colleagues, caucus colleagues. I also want to express my thanks to all the staff in the Ministry. I would like to acknowledge Ms Ananda Nel sitting up there. She very capably leads the Ministry. She manages it with an iron fist, and she makes sure that we deliver on our objectives. I also want to say thank you to Dr Robert Macdonald, our HOD, who is away at the moment, but together with the senior management team sitting in the box and those on the virtual platform, for their contribution. Team DSD has probably been in difficult times for a long time. Hon Minister Meyer was there, Minister De Lille was there, and they have been cutting the cloth since then already. They are saying Minister, if we cut any more, we will be cutting to the bone, so we are mindful of the constraints, yet we soldier on. We get up every day and we try to create hope and urgency.

More importantly, hon Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank every single staff member in the Department of Social Development and that includes the tea lady that makes my cup of Rooibos every day and the cleaner who so courteously greets me at 6:30 when I arrive in the morning because DSD is a team effort. We are a family because we deal with broken families, we deal with wounded communities and it is our role to create hope, to keep hope alive and make sure that people see there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I also want to, first time ever and I have been doing this for eight years now I think, probably my ninth year. I would like to acknowledge my family because we have been through a difficult time, yet it is my family, everybody

on this bench, on that side of the bench, the hon Bakubaku-Vos. Many of you know that I lost my life partner and somehow through all of that, I still get up every day and I say I have got to get out there and I have got to make a difference. I encourage everyone in this House to be mad, to make a difference every day. So, despite the serious headwinds we are facing, as a Department we are working to keep hope alive and we are working with the fierce urgency of now. I thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote. The House will be suspended just for two minutes just to have our guests leave, for the hon Speaker to come. Thank you, hon Speaker. The House is suspended.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Eighth Order of the Day.

Mr A POGGENPOEL: Debate on Vote 2: Provincial Parliament – Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Poggenpoel. I recognise the hon Speaker Mitchell.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Provincial Cabinet, hon members, officials of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and ladies and gentlemen. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to introduce the Budget of the Provincial Parliament of the

Western Cape today.

Some ten days ago, hon Deputy Speaker, the team and I had a fruitful engagement with the Parliamentary Oversight Committee under the able chairpersonship of the hon Maseko, where detailed discussions and robust dialogue took place on the specifics of the Budget for 2023/2024, and where the Administration had the opportunity to respond to specific questions from members on the Annual Performance Plan of the Institution.

Hon Deputy Speaker, at the outset I would also like to thank and commend the hon Minister of Finance for her positive outlook and thorough understanding of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and its work, and the manner in which we could engage around the allocation of funds for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

When I took office, hon Deputy Speaker, in December 2022, I committed to following principles and formally pledged that I shall discharge my duties as Speaker and Chief Presiding Officer of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament in an impartial and fair manner, upholding the dignity and the decorum of the House; that I shall fulfil the obligations placed upon me by the Constitution, the law and the Rules, regulations and policies of the Provincial Parliament with honesty and diligence; that I shall protect the honour and the dignity of the Provincial Parliament and represent the interests of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as the Speaker, both locally and abroad, and that I shall ensure that all processes and procedures

of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament are fair to all parties represented in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; and that I ensure that a stable workforce serving and supporting all members of the WCPP in their work; and that I will ensure that the constitutional responsibilities, hon Deputy Speaker, of the WCPP of law making, oversight over the Executive and public participation in its processes and work are maintained and where necessary, enhanced.

Having had the opportunity, hon Deputy Speaker, over the past three months to establish my office and have rigorous engagements with the Secretary of the Institution and the senior management team, as well as engagement of a general nature with all the staff of the WCPP, we were able to collectively sign off on our Annual Performance Plan for 2023/2024.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the APP is underpinned by key priorities which we identified during various engagements with stakeholders for the remainder of the 6<sup>th</sup> Parliament. They are: that we will build a credible WCPP that is respected, reputable and a stable legislative body; that we will expand our citizens' service to create an Institution that is first and foremost, a Parliament for all the people of the Western Cape; that we will strengthen the core business with specific emphasis on its mandate – and I want to emphasise this – on its core mandate of law making, public participation and oversight; strengthening the support to our members to ensure optimisation of their impact as legislators and supporting our employees, hon Deputy Speaker, as valuable constituents to ensure highly motivated and a content-

driven employee compliment.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a thorough process of the reprioritisation of resources was embarked upon to ensure that the above priorities that I have just mentioned, are realised, that they are cognisant of the enormous strain on the fiscus and the resultant budgetary constraints, affecting all entities covered in the budget.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I will deal with specific figures linked to the above priorities later in my address. We have adopted, hon Deputy Speaker, a Back to Basics approach which we shared with the Parliamentary Oversight Committee and the Back to Basics approach simply entails that as an institution, hon Deputy Speaker, we focus on the core mandate of the institution as essential services and cut back on the nice-to-haves that do not meaningfully impact our role and function as a legislative institution.

The details of the initiatives can be found in the APP, but please allow me, hon Deputy Speaker, to emphasise a few of our initiatives. Friday past, the Rules Committee established a multi-party subcommittee under the convenorship of the hon Baartman and with the hon Kaiser-Philander and hon Sayed as permanent members, to consider proposals to enhance our Rules and their impact on our business. Procedures to be considered, hon Deputy Speaker, include that we redesign our public participation and engagement strategy, as well as the oversight and accountability model to ensure that the core business of the House takes place in a complimentary and structured

manner, with the aim of establishing processes that will result in synergy amongst the core business processes of the House.

The procedure to amend money Bills, hon Deputy Speaker, is also well underway under the auspices of the Budget Committee. Once the recommendations have been finalised by the Budget Committee, the Rules Committee will consider the proposals and report back to the House on the way forward.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I also intend to appoint a multi-party subcommittee to consider internal arrangements' priorities, like accommodation, the utilisation of facilities, possible challenges with facilities for our members and staff, and all other things that we are daily being faced with. It is important, hon Deputy Speaker, that we address these challenges collectively and I will consult with the members on this in due course.

The process of considering the increase in seats is also well underway and with the potential adoption of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Affairs Recommendations later this evening, the next step of amending the Provincial Constitution will commence with the introduction of Amendments to the Provincial Constitution.

I wish to take this opportunity to commend the members involved in this process that was started during the 5<sup>th</sup> Term, hon Deputy Speaker already, for a transparent, scientific, and inclusive process. With the introduction of

constitutional amendments, a comprehensive public participation process will be embarked on as required by Rules and by the Constitution.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me move onto the international relations front which I wish to share some exiting new developments with the hon members. At the 52<sup>nd</sup> CPA African Region Conference, the WCPP CPA branch proposed an amendment to the CPA Constitution to enable the option for subnational branches to increase their delegates of Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences from one to two, with the proviso being that the second delegate should be a woman. This was supported at the CPA Africa Region Conference in Sierra Leone in 2022, and subsequently passed at the AGM of the 65<sup>th</sup> CPC in Halifax in Canada.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this amendment supports the strategic objective of the CPA to increase the representation of women at these conferences. The WCPP recently committed to participating in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Gender Sensitivity Self-Assessment Project. This project, hon Deputy Speaker, stems from the CPA's commitment to assist Commonwealth Parliaments to establish an initial benchmark to ensure members measure themselves against the standards set out in the CPA Gender-sensitive Parliament's Guidelines, which will be used to measure and evaluate future gender-sensitive efforts and developments.

Undertaking a GSP review helps to uncover the institutional environments in which Members of Parliament and employees work, and to understand how



institutional design affects parliamentary behaviour.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have just hosted a large parliamentary delegation from the state of Baden-Württemberg in Germany. The WCPP is expecting a visit by a delegation of Senators and Speakers from the National Conference of State Legislatures on 24 October. This forms part of the NCSL's public education programme by interacting with other jurisdictions, specifically with those who actively participate in their annual legislative summit.

Hon Deputy Speaker, during the 2022/2023 financial year, the WCPP entered into Memoranda of Intention. One with the Welsh Parliament and the second with the Bavarian State Parliament. As a result of the interaction with Bavaria, virtual interactions with three of our Standing Committees and their counterparts in Bavaria will be held during the First Quarter of the new financial year.

The Secretary to the Provincial Parliament was also elected to the Society of Clerks at the Table Steering Committee in November 2021, to serve three years as the SOC at Africa Subregion representative. To this end, hon Deputy Speaker, Mr Adams, in his capacity as the subregion representative, organised a workshop for the purpose of developing a blueprint on e-Parliaments. This workshop has led to initiating new partnerships which the WCPP has benefitted from and as a result, the Secretary and two WCPP officials will be participating in the upcoming Leaders Tech Conference taking place in Brazil from 12 to 14 April. While in Brazil, the delegation was also invited to visit

the Administration of the State Parliament in São Paulo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our International Relations Plan sets out to strengthen institutional and inter-parliamentary relations for the WCPP. Our strategy aims to position the WCPP as a benchmark of excellence for Parliaments across the world. Internal relations is not just about travel, but actually about enhancing our partnerships among organisations globally. Hon Deputy Speaker, we will continue to foster our ongoing strong relationships with our Consular and Diplomatic Corps that build alliances between countries and within the parliamentary space.

On the ITDS front, the WCPP has built a collaborative intranet with an integrated member's toolkit, including House papers, and issuing of corporate items being integrated as applications. The Voting APP will further streamline business processes, so too, will engagement with the public via the development of our online digital portal.

Hon Deputy Speaker, key stakeholders in terms of law making and oversight will be incorporated through the stakeholder database application. Enhancement with respect to enabling members will be achieved through the optimisation of the ERP and the New People Management plugin. Business process automation will be centred around automated routing of forms through the workflow engine but targeting low-hanging fruit and priority processes. Standing Committee digital assets will be centralised through our Enterprise Content Management System and Metadata Management.

As far as public engagement is concerned, hon Deputy Speaker, it must be emphasised that one of the key priorities of the WCPP is to be a citizen-centric Parliament. The WCPP values the people that its members represent and actively seeks engagement with the citizens of the Western Cape. Apart from the facilitation access to the WCPP through organised public hearings, submissions and petitions, the Public Engagement Directorate of the WCPP also reaches out to the communities throughout the province. Such outreach seeks to inform the communities of the role and the function of the WCPP and the role that members of the WCPP fulfil as public representatives, but also to make sure that the people of the Western Cape know how they can connect with the WCPP and their representatives to air their views and to raise their concerns. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am not going to break the Rules that I enforce, so I am not going to speak directly to the hon Leader of the Opposition, but I will do so in my response.

The WCPP also embarked on a modernisation strategy that seeks to embrace ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The SPEAKER: ...the digital transformation [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Continue.

The SPEAKER: Can I continue? The WCPP also embarked on a modernisation strategy, hon Deputy Speaker, that seeks to embrace digital transformation. Whilst continuing with the public engagement that we have become accustomed to, the WCPP understands that to maintain relevance, we too, have to change the manner in which we do things. The expansion of the WCPP engagement on digital platforms is thus a major project, while we seek to expand our media presence particularly on social media platforms.

On the specific needs required for the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament, a Steering Committee with five workstreams has been established that will focus on different areas of preparation relating to the needs of the new and returning members, and this will also involve the potential increase of the seats of the WCPP. As undertaken earlier, hon Deputy Speaker, let us now have a look at the specific figures that underpins the Budget of the WCPP.

The WCPP's Budget has increased by R2,766-million from R237,476-million – that includes the direct charges – to R240,242-million. It must be noted, hon Deputy Speaker, that in the 2022/2023 financial year, an amount of R10,673-million was added to the Main Appropriation from the 2021/2022 rollovers to fund once-off projects planned for the 2022/2023 financial year. In this financial year, additional funding to the total of R11-million was received from Provincial Treasury for the funding of specifically requested projects which include cyber security based on the WCPP Cyber Security

Strategy, Microsoft 365 upgrades to support the cyber security implementation, to support members in terms of their second dwelling, WCPP online platform and as stated, WCPP will continue to provide procedural and related support to the House and committees to conduct their businesses of law making and effective oversight.

The Provincial Parliament will also continue, hon Deputy Speaker, to promote public participation in its parliamentary processes. Enabling facilities for members and financial support to political parties will continue so that members and political parties have the appropriate resources to perform their constitutional obligations. This will be continually reviewed and assessed on an annual basis, linking the 2023/2024 Budget to the key priorities to the end of the current term.

Under the building of a credible WCPP that is respected, reputable and a stable legislative body, a Workplace Skills Plan implementation of R800 000 has been set aside and the Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation of R2,588-million has been set aside. Under the key priority of expanding citizen service and a WCPP that is a Parliament for all the people of the Western Cape, a digital online platform to the allocation of R2,4-million has been budgeted for this financial year and under public engagement programmes throughout the province, R391 000 has been set aside. On the Oversight and Accountability model, a budget of R350 000 has been set aside.

If we move onto strengthening the core business of WCPP with a strong focus

on expertise in its core business of Parliament with a specific emphasis on its mandate of law making, public participation and oversight, a provision of capacity-building initiatives of R800 000 has been set aside. Under strengthening support to Legislatures, a WCPP that provides extensive and comprehensive support to its members are in order to optimise the impact to an upgrade of various Committee rooms to the value of R1,5-million, laptop refresh for staff to the value of R1-million and the implementation of the IR Plan for interparliamentary engagement, R633 000.

And then, hon Deputy Speaker, [Interjections.] I want to speak about something that is very close to my heart and that is improving the moral of employees. [Interjections.] As part of the key priorities as I have identified, WCPP needs to become an Institution that supports employees as a valuable constituent to achieve a highly motivated and a content employee compliment. And for that, we have set aside for providing employee wellness to the cost of R238 500 and then to continue with the implementation of the study assistance programme to the value of R200 000. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker – you can, absolutely. Hon members, we are fast approaching the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> Parliament with a lot of work that still needs to be done in our Parliament, but also in our constituencies where we engage with the people that we represent and that have elected us to drive their interests with all that we have. Hon Deputy Speaker, I table this Budget with immense gratitude to you as the Deputy Speaker, for your support in the last three months [Interjections.] and then, to every one of the 108 officials in

this Administration: thank you very, very much and I mean it sincerely, for your support throughout these last three months and I look forward to the remainder of this term in office.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it will be remiss of me not to thank my office for their support – I think they are in the gallery: thank you very, very much for everything that you do every day and nothing is too big or too small, and nothing is too early or too late. Thank you very, very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am very proud to table this Budget. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] I now recognise the hon Lekker. Oh, you are waiting for that? [Interjections.] Yes, thank you. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon colleagues, in opening his address to Parliament in his first State of the Nation Address, the late President Nelson Mandela quoted the Afrikaans poet Ingrid Jonker's poem. I quote:

“The child is not dead.”

In paying tribute to her, Madiba reminded us of the glorious vision of this Afrikaner woman who instructed that all our endeavours must be to ensure the liberation of women, the emancipation of all of us and the liberty of our children. Addressing members of Parliament, it is these things said by

Madiba:

“That we must achieve to give meaning to our presence in this Chamber.”

And so, we must be constrained by and yet, regardless of the accumulated effect of our historical burdens, seize the time to define ourselves what we want to make of our shared destiny. The Constitution of our Republic, which we all took an oath to on assuming our seats in this hallowed Chamber, endows us with the sacred duty of ensuring non-racialism, which at the same time recognises the injustices of the past. Writing the forward to the book *Native Life in South Africa*, Bessie Head wrote, and I quote:

“It is possible that no other black legislation has so deeply affected the lives of black people in South Africa as the Native Land Act of 1913. It created overnight a floating landless proletariat whose labour could be used and manipulated at will and ensured that the land had finally and securely passed into the hands of the ruling white race.”

Describing the pain of the African people, Sol Plaatje declared that awakening on Friday morning, 20 June 1913, the day that the Native Land Act of 1913 was passed, the South African natives found themselves not actually as slaves, but a pariah in the land of our birth.

Hon Deputy Speaker, calling black Africans in this hallowed Chamber



‘foreigners’ reminds us too much of the deep pain of when we were pariahs in the land of our birth. The ANC takes this opportunity at the commencement of this Budget Vote. We recall our all too bitter and painful past which some in this Chamber wish to repeat and others wish to forget. It took the hon Speaker of this House three weeks to call out racism displayed by hon Marais, and we can assure the hon Speaker that for Africans in this House, once pariahs in the land of our birth, it was a painful three weeks.

As a younger man, one of us, we thought that you would be quick to condemn such outright racism to the dustbin of history. The liberal and democrat that he says he is, we would have expected him to isolate hon Marais and his backward thinking. The Constitution declares that the Legislative Authority of a province is vested in its Provincial Legislature. The hon Speaker, as the Executive Authority of the Legislature, would represent the Legislature and his is the noble task of ensuring that the halloed walls of this Chamber are imbued with our constitutional values.

Three weeks after the hon members of this House were reminded that they were once marked with passbooks and pariahs in the land of their birth, the hon Speaker could simply request hon Marais to withdraw his remark. We would have expected our hon colleagues on the other side of this House, to declare unequivocally that racism is stupid, that the thinking of hon Marais belongs to the 1980s and that his thinking is completely outdated. We would have expected hon members of all parties in this House, but especially from the Government benches led by the first citizen of this Province, to come out

and condemn the hon Marais and to indicate that his thinking and abuse of free speech has no place in this Parliament, but all we got from the other side was silence. Silence in the face of the outdated tyranny of racism.

To quote Dr Martin Luther King Jr: in the end, we will not remember the words of hon Marais, but we will certainly remember the silence of the Democratic Alliance. Quick to remind hon Kama of the nonracialism exposed by our Constitution, the hon Mayor sat arms folded for three weeks not uttering a word against hon Marais. But hon Deputy Speaker, birds of the same feather flock together.

The ANC wishes to say to the leadership of WCPP today: budgets, facts and figures mean nothing if you allow us to be taken back to the thinking of the 1980s. We can debate this budget, we can speak about public participation, we can complain about the cut in institutional enablement and how members will again be affected because their enabling allowance has been cut. We can complain about the 37% cut in the Budget of [Inaudible.] and how it is duty to ensure occupational health and safety, while lamenting the nearly R2-million spent on consultants. But all of this means nothing if we allow fellow members to feel like foreigners. When we sit by silently and allow the schoolyard bully to call others' names, some in this House will ask what is the relevance of this to the budget as they squirm embarrassingly in their seats.

Yet, as black people we will never expect you to understand what it means to

live as black people. Our endeavours in this Provincial Legislature mean nothing when we have not internalised what 1994 meant to us and our country. Unfortunately, this disgusting remark made by hon Marais three weeks ago highlighted a number of behavioural issues in this House, especially among members.

The Presiding Officers often expect us to sit quietly with our finger on our lips as if we are in a school classroom. We are reprimanded as if we are children and yet, one often wonders whether the Presiding Officers have any idea of what happens in a democratic Parliament. Not that I watch it, but I think a session of the British Prime Minister's question time would assist Presiding Officers to balance between hearing a member speak and allowing other members not necessarily on the floor, to make gibes, jeer and chat. This is part of a democratic Parliament.

In conclusion, the ANC never agreed with this title of 'father of the House' in the first place, but we allowed it because if anything, we respected hon Marais because of his age. My caucus and I have always shown Mr Marais the utmost respect and will continue to do so.

In fact, I joined my organisation knowing full well that it taught young black people like me, that South Africa belongs to all those who live in it. My organisation rejected and continued to reject the idea that white people must be marched into the sea. My organisation rejects the backward thinking of Afrikaners as descendants of Dutch and the French that must be shipped back

to Europe. Maybe Marais has not realised it, but the ANC has long realised that we cannot call white people ‘foreigners’, even though there were people at the Cape already when they arrived here. As painful as it is, my organisation believed as far back as 1955 with the Freedom Charter that together with all our faults and failures, we are called upon to build a better country for our children.

Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Speaker, do not ever delay in condemning what is wrong. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Premier in his absence as the first citizen of this Province, missed out an opportunity to condemn racism. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, Mr Marais must know that the ANC will no longer regard him as the ‘father of the House’. He has lost the respect of our caucus; he has lost the dignity of one to whom we go to for wisdom and council. He has lost the stature as elder statesman. He does not deserve it. He will be discarded with his thinking into the dustbin of history because our beautiful country and province, as well as this halloed Chamber, has no place for people like him.

I wish to end with a quote by Prof Jakes Gerwel who once said:

“Nonracialism is the most precious gift of the African people to this nation. There is no objective reason why as a majority, they should have continued to defend and promote this vision of our society, except that they believe it to be a morally superior vision of a society. It is that generosity of spirit which is the future of our nation.”

Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. [Applause.] I now call on hon Cassiem online, to deliver her speech.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF has no interest in the budget that would speak to more comfort and increases for the hon Members of Parliament, and this is not important and should be the last on the list after all critical issues or needs, rather, of the people of this province has been resolved.

However, the EFF welcomes any comfort and increase to the staff of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament to include general workers like cleaners, security guards, as well as administrators and interpreters among others. And call for an increase on the amount allocated to these staff in order to provide more bursaries and study opportunities so that even the general worker like the cleaner or the drivers serving the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, can too, reach their actual career goals in life.

The EFF do have some concerns when it comes to member support and enablement as there is a lack of efficiency from this Institution and more so, always delays when it comes to requests for resources within office in order for both members and staff to operate efficiently because an institution which is run efficiently will result in members and staff being comfortable and able

to execute their duties with the same efficiency.

The EFF calls for support and any increase of programmes or rather more an increase and more programmes and outage to all communities across the province. It is critical for Parliament to be taken to the people, especially those in areas facing major crises and while it is true that the parliamentary sessions and its committees are open to the public on platforms like YouTube among other, we must realise that we live in a vast province where segments of our people are found on the outskirts of the city and in rural areas and some, hidden in deep poverty within dry and hidden mountains where no electricity and signal are found.

Ours is participatory democracy. It cannot be so only in form and not in substance. When this Parliament participates in outreach programmes, people are also keen to see Parliament in action so that when there are Bills that require public participation reach them, they know the process that should unfold. They can also make informed representation, among other. This Institution has a duty to make people interested in the business of this House because its decisions affect the very same.

The EFF rejects any budget which funds organisations led by colonisers like that of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We will...[Interjection.]

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): ...benefit from this budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): The EFF rejects this budget, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now call on hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon members, hon Deputy Speaker, and the residents of the Western Cape, the Secretary of our Parliament, all directors in their respective departments, I recognise you and I rise in support of Vote 2 of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

The Democratic Alliance welcomes the more than R187-million that will be allocated towards the Western Cape Provincial Parliament of the 2023/2024 financial year. This is an increase of R503 000 from the Revised Estimates of the 2022/2023 Budget or an increase of 0,27%.

Last week, during the Parliamentary Oversight Committee deliberation on this Vote, hon Speaker Daylin Mitchell indicated that his vision for the Provincial Parliament is to, and I quote:

“Get back to the basics.”

Despite some fiscal constraints, this Budget will provide the resources and funding to ensure this House and its members deliver in their constitutional obligations as set out in Section 144 of the Constitution (1) to ensure that all provincial executive organs of State are accountable to it and (2) to maintain oversight of the exercise of the Provincial Executive Authority in the Province, including the implementation of Legislation and of any provincial organ of State.

Hon Deputy Speaker, all across the country the independence and the ferocity of the South African Legislature are under increased threat. Far from being institutions with bite, many have become a mouthpiece of the Government decision-making concerned with rubber stamping Government's resolutions, instead of scrutinising those decisions. Last week reminded us of the constitutional mandate of Parliaments and Legislatures and the fact that we will be resolute in the ensuring that this Provincial Parliament is focused on its mandate in order to further solidify and entrench the process of democratic consolidation within the Western Cape and South Africa.

As hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, we all have a collective responsibility to represent the interests of the people of our great province, as well as holding the Executive of the Provincial Government to account. Across the country, national, provincial and local governments are crippling under maladministration and corruption that has flourished due to poor oversight mechanisms and resistance by certain governing parties to



open themselves to accountability.

However, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament has become an example of what an effective, non-partisan Legislature can be. This is a result of the political will from the Executive to account before committees and this House, as well as the non-partisan cooperation among parties across the political divide. By getting back to basics, this culture of transparency, oversight and accountability will continue to flourish within the Provincial Parliament in the upcoming financial year and beyond.

Hon Deputy Speaker, for the upcoming financial period, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament has identified five key strategic priorities that the hon Speaker has mentioned. Through the implementation of those priorities, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament will strengthen the mechanism of this Legislature and work towards its goals of deepening democracy. In order to ensure the successful implementation of these priorities, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament requires an efficient, skilled and competent staff compliment.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and contributions of the WCPP staff. Each and every one of your contributions play a significant role in ensuring that the work we, as members do, is for the betterment and advancement of the people of our province, and I thank you for all your hard work.

For the upcoming financial year, the Provincial Parliament has allocated more than R33,6-million towards the Programme Institutional Enablement. This programme focuses amongst other subprogrammes, on people management. Through this allocation there will be a renewed focus on the development and training of the Provincial Parliament staff compliment in the 2023/2024 financial year. This is because the WCPP recognises that in order for this Legislature to function in a sustainable and efficient manner, the skills development training of staff members should be prioritised.

The Provincial Parliament has identified some inadequacies in regard to the skill sets in its arsenal, as it works towards becoming a Parliament of the modern era. In order to mitigate this potential risk, the WCPP through its Workplace Skills Plan continues to identify core competencies linked to individual performance, desired future skills and organisational performance. The WCPP will prioritise the reskilling of staff to meet future fit requirements. This is in addition to the WCPP Learning Portal.

In another bid to strengthen its staff compliment, the WCPP Intention Programme, as well as the move towards expanding its pool of researchers is welcomed. The DA commends the Provincial Parliament playing its role in contributing towards providing opportunities, skills and employment to young people in a country ravished by record unemployment.

Hon Deputy Speaker, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the WCPP set itself apart as an efficient and effective, vibrant Legislature. The planned

procurement to equip and fortify IT requirements has strengthened cyber security and a choice of systems is in accordance with cyber security protocols, to establish full business system integration, improved platform accessibility for members and staff, and develop engagement platforms aimed at public participation in parliamentary processes. And that is one of the departments we have to look at. We trust that these procurements will make law making and public participation in the Western Cape more accessible and efficient and safe, hon Deputy Speaker.

This year, hon Deputy Speaker, the Provincial Parliament will once again, set itself apart from other Legislatures across the country in the field of oversight. Two ad hoc committees have been constituted to conduct important work in addressing some of the most pertinent issues facing the residents of the Western Cape.

In September last year, the parties of the House unanimously agreed to establish an ad hoc committee on Tuberculosis. This ad hoc committee will provide direct oversight of the medical response to this disease in the Western Cape. Through the ad hoc committee, the WCPP will be empowered to advocate for budgets to be reinforced and reviewed to support necessary TB interventions; result in legislation being evaluated and drafted to promote TB services; allow for greater accountability over the public institutions that are responsible for the implementation of TB programmes; and bring about more advocacy in communities in consultation with the civil societies and the NGOs.

The WCPP will also play a significant role in monitoring Western Cape Government's response to South Africa's energy crisis. Rolling blackouts are South Africa's biggest existential crisis. It is encouraging to see that the Western Cape Provincial Parliament has been at the forefront for setting the agenda on moving urgently on the country's energy crisis and its impact on the residents of the Western Cape. The ad hoc committee on the impact of loadshedding in the Western Cape Province will ensure that this House will perform greater oversight of National and Provincial Government institutions and especially where it impacts on the Western Cape Province; evaluate the implementation of regulations on the Western Cape Province and allow for greater representation and inputs on Western Cape communities, civil and non-government organisations, as well as private and business institutions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA welcomes the commitment made by the hon Premier Alan Winde that both his Executive and the Provincial Energy Council will regularly report to the ad hoc committee. This House will also deal with various pieces of legislations in the financial year. We have already seen the success of the public participation process and the WCPP's capacity to host this during the public participation process of the Copyright and Performance Protection Amendment Bills. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, public hearings were organised in all the Province's district municipalities and included in rural and urban communities. Hearings were advertised in regional and community newspapers and

provisions were made for online submissions, among the other steps taken by the Legislature. This is a progressive Parliament, by the way, through you, hon member Marran. I trust that this process will set the tone for all future public participation processes within the Provincial Parliament. The foundations have now been laid for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament to hit the ground running in getting back to basics, and strengthening its mechanisms to perform oversight and represent the interests of the residents of our province.

I want to thank the hon members of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee for all their inputs on the Debate on the 2023/2024 Financial Year Budget for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I trust that their inputs today have been duly noted by the hon Speaker and the Administration. And with that, I do support and the DA supports the Vote. Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. [Applause.] I now recognise the hon Speaker Mitchell.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, let me start off by saying thank you very much to all the inputs and to all hon members for their comments.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is very difficult because Parliament and the Vote is of such a nature that it affects everyone in this House. The Institution of

Parliament is non-political, so I am not going to venture down that road today. As one of the key priorities for me for the remainder of this term is to build a credible and reputable institution. So, all the comments I took note of. There are just one or two that I just want to highlight.

I know that hon Cassiem raised the issue about the efficiency of the Institution and the support provided. There is currently a survey out where I think the closing date for the survey is at the end of or 30 March. So, hon members are encouraged to complete those surveys so that we can see where there is a need to change and a need to better things, and let us call a spade a spade. Not everything is where it should be and for that reason, we need the input of Parliament, of the hon members of Parliament because it affects all of us regardless of political affiliations or who we represent in this House. So, I encourage all hon members to complete that.

Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much to hon Lekker. I am not going to get into the merits of that ruling. I have made the ruling and I want to on record state that in order for a Presiding Officer to make a ruling you need to have all these facts in front of you. And as I started off the ruling, I gave a reason why it took – I do not think it was three weeks – but why it took a little bit longer and the hon members, I took the hon members with me during that process. So, I am not going to go into the merits of it. I have ruled and there are other avenues where that can be challenged.

Thank you very much to hon Lekker for her comments and for hon Maseko,

thank you very much for your input and for the Parliamentary Oversight Committee that hold us accountable regularly. So, thank you very much for that. And then lastly, hon Deputy Speaker, I am very happy that hon Lekker quoted Ingrid Jonker because Ingrid Jonker is also † 'n digter baie na aan my hart [is also a poet very close to my heart.] So, allow me an opportunity to end off with *Bitter Bessie dagbreek* by Ingrid Jonker:

*“Bitterbessie dagbreek*

*bitterbessie son*

*'n spieël het gebreek*

*tussen my en hom*

*Soek ek na die grootpad*

*om daarlangs te draf*

*oral draai die paadjies*

*van sy woorde af*

*Dennebos herinnering*

*dennebos vergeet*

*het ek ook verdwaal*

*trap ek in my leed*

*Papegaai-bont eggo*

*kierang kierang my*

*toddat ek bedroë*

*weer die koggel kry*

*Eggo is geen antwoord*

*antwoord hy alom*

*bitterbessie dagbreek*

*bitterbessie son”*

Thank you. [Applause.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, the hon Speaker. That concludes the debate on this Vote. I am going to just give a moment for our SMT to leave. Thank you very much for being here so late. Hon members, let us get through the Ninth Order of the Day. Mr Poggenpoel, are you ready? Over to you.

Mr POGGENPOEL: Consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters: WCPP Seats.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: thank you very much, Mr Poggenpoel. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and parties who wish to do so will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the report for a maximum of three minutes. I recognise the African National Congress. Is the ANC ...[Interjection.]



The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The ANC again, cautiously welcomes the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Increase of Seats in this Legislature. The ANC believes in representative democracy and will afford the right of our people to be properly represented. If the report is correct, then we should be almost doubling the number of representatives in this House and therefore, the research suggests that we are not doing our people justice in representing them.

The ANC, therefore, welcomes the report to increase the number of seats, however we welcome the Report cautiously because amidst the trying economic times it may be seen to be excessive that the number of members of the House increases. Already managing a tight budget, we will be cutting the budget of frontline services in order to fund the increase of the House. The money will have to be coming from somewhere. The ANC is therefore suggesting that we be cautious in this approach, despite the need to ensure the correct representation of our people. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. I now recognise the EFF. Hon members ...[Interjection.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF will abstain from this one. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I know that the Administration is on [Interjections.]. Hon Kama, if I can please ask you to switch your camera off, if you can hear us. Your camera is on. Thank you very much. Thank you. Alright, we may move on. I now recognise GOOD.

Mr S N AUGUST (GOOD): No declaration, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, thank you very much. I recognise the ACDP. Hon Christians, I see you are online.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP supports the increase of the seats. We know that the population of the Western Cape has grown significantly and therefore, the people deserve proper representation. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise – I know the Freedom Front Plus is not here. They have made apologies. I recognise Al Jama-Ah. Not here. And then finally, I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr C FRY (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet members and hon members of this House. On 15 December 2022, the Report by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Seats was referred to the Standing Committee on the Premier in Constitutional Matters for the purpose of making policy recommendations for the amendment of Section 13 of the Constitution of the Western Cape. This is due to the debate and concerns that the number of seats allocated to this Provincial Legislature over 20 years ago may no longer accurately reflect the Western Cape's population which has grown significantly over the past two decades.

According to Statistics South Africa, as reported in August last year, the Western Cape is the third most populated province in South Africa, accounting for 11,9% of the total population. When the seat allocations for this House was first determined, the Province's population stood at 3,9-million people. Today the estimated population size of the Western Cape has nearly doubled. Having kept this in mind and based on the report by the Ad Hoc Committee, the Standing Committee made the following policy recommendations in respect of Section 13 of the Provincial Constitution and the alteration of the number of seats in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The recommendations include: adding a formula for the determining of seats; adding an upper limit for the number of seats; providing a mechanism for the determination of the number of seats and amending the heading of the clause to reflect these recommendations.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to welcome the multi-party collaboration in

regard to this process. The majority of political parties represented in this Legislature has acknowledged the need for improved representation within this House to the benefit of the residents of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA supports the recommendations and looks forward to engaging with all hon members of this House in bringing this Bill to fruition. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I have to announce that there are currently 27 hon members present and entitled to vote and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House WCPP is that the Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters be adopted. Are there any objections to the Report being adopted?

Hon MEMBERS: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. Those in favour?

Hon MEMBERS: Aye! Aye! Aye!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has already been adopted. So, those not in favour? None. Thank you very much. I know the 'ayes' have it. The Report as is has been adopted.

That concludes, hon members, the business for the House and the business for the day, the House is now adjourned. The Secretary will end the meeting, the longest meeting I have ever had in four years. Thank you very much.

The House adjourned at 12:20.