
THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Good afternoon hon members and guests in the gallery.

Hon members I have to announce that due to the cessation of party membership of Mr D G Jacobs a vacancy occurred in the representation of the National Coloured Congress in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Before I proceed I would like to remind the hon members about some of the logistical, procedural arrangements. As has been our practise to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House; both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff, and via Microsoft

Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution of the Western Cape and in the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020.

Hon members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Hon members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order. Hon members, the Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance.

Hon members, I wish to remind you that you are also able to participate virtually and that you need to use the hand raise functionality if you want to draw my attention to a Point of Order. Hon members who are participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, I please request that you do not sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device.

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

Hon members, as per usual, for this Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels.

Hon members, I wish to lastly remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings, and to this end I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Good afternoon, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1) that precedence be given to the Executive Statement. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved by the Chief Whip?

No objections. Agreed to.

Hon members, I will then recognise the hon Minister of Mobility, the hon Minister Sileku in terms of Rule 146 to make an Executive Statement.

I want to just, hon Minister, before you proceed, I wish to remind all political parties that in terms of the Rules, you will have an opportunity to respond to the Executive Statement for no more than 3 minutes. I now recognise the hon Minister Sileku.

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Speaker, on behalf of the Western Cape Government I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives to the senseless violence in the minibus taxi industry. Our thoughts are with those who have been injured, traumatised and displaced, and we wish those in hospital a speedy recovery.

It is our working class and most vulnerable residents, those who rely on taxis because they have no other choice who suffers most as bullets fly in our streets. The very lifeline of our public transport system has become a battleground and it is the poor who pay the heaviest price.

For the past three months the people of Somerset West and surrounding areas have been forced to live under the shadow of violence, of violent clashes between rival taxi associations. Armed attacks, illegal blockages and deadly

stand offs have claimed the lives of operators, drivers and innocent commuters.

Just in recent days, hon Speaker, people were killed in Philippi East, Khayelitsha and Macassar. These are communities that already carry heavy burdens, not face to live with fear on their way to work, school or home. Hon Speaker, this violence erodes public safety, disrupts livelihoods and undermines confidence in the taxi industry.

Let me be clear, *Somlomo*, Government cannot and will not tolerate the use of violence to settle disputes. At the heart of this conflict is a long standing dispute between CATA and CODETA over operations in Somerset West, particularly the M18 route. What began as a regulatory matter has spiralled into open conflict between defections of members, competition over loading areas and disregard for agreements. If unchecked, *Somlomo*, it risks destabilising the industry far beyond the borders of Somerset West.

Hon Speaker, we have responded decisively on 25 August, SAPS closed the Somerset West rank for 24 hours to stabilise the area in terms of the powers granted under the South African Police Services Act 68 of 1995. I must share with the House, hon Speaker; no further shootings were reported during that particular period. The rank has since been reopened, but I have initiated the Section 91 process in terms of the NLTA, which is the National Land Transport Act, to close specific affected routes and link lanes.

This measure, hon Speaker, is a last resort and is not being finalised for publication. I have just signed the notice and it will go for Gazetting, and probably by tomorrow it will be put out. The Provincial Taxi Registrar has issued a Section 7820 Notice in terms of Section 7 of the Western Cape Road Transportation Act Law 98 of 1996.

The inquiry, hon Speaker, is expected to be held on 3 September and may result in suspension or deregistration of associations, or operators, in breach of the Code of Conduct of Taxi Operators. The Department has approached the High Court for an urgent interdict. An affidavit I signed yesterday was sent online yesterday to restrain intimidation, unlawful operations and interference by external associations. Hon Speaker, I am glad to share with you and with the House that proceedings are currently before the Court as we speak.

Should closures be necessary, *Somlomo*, a contingency transport plan is in place to protect commuters and to ensure no worker, learner or resident is left stranded. SAPS and law enforcement remain active in hotspots, including Somerset West, Khayelitsha, Philippi, Mfuleni; and will remain until stability is secured.

Hon Speaker, while we act firmly to protect lives and uphold the law, the door for peace is not closed. At the Taxi Peace Summit leaders pledged to prioritise safety and stability in the taxi industry. It is unfortunate that some have betrayed that commitment, but those who honour it will find

Government ready to work with them for lasting peace and transformation.

The taxi industry carries more than 75% of our commuters on a daily basis. For millions of workers, students, women and children, it is not just transport, it is a lifeline. That lifeline cannot be allowed to become a death trap. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government is resolute, the safety of commuters is non-negotiable. †Ek herhaal, die veiligheid van ons mense in ons provinsie is nie onderhandelbaar nie. [I repeat, the safety of our people in our province is not negotiable.]

It is not negotiable! Violence will never be condoned in this province. Those who choose conflict over dialogue will face the full weight of the law. Nothing can justify bloodshed. The only way forward, *Somlomo*, is dialogue, accountability and respect for the rule of law. I thank you very much, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister. Hon members, in terms of Rule 146, I have granted the permission for that Executive Statement to be delivered in the House in the interest of the people of this province, and in the interest of members of this House. I will now forward political parties an opportunity to respond to the Executive Statement, if they so wish, and I recognise the ANC.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon members, today I rise on behalf of the ANC Caucus in the Western Cape to

condemn, in the strongest terms possible, all those who are either actively involved in or complicit in this renewed wave of violence within the minibus taxi industry.

The violence continues to claim innocent lives, destabilise our communities and weaken an economy that is already fragile. This Government is complicit to the current wave of violence and must take full responsibility. To believe that the closure of ranks is a solution is yet another evidence of void leadership in this province.

Hon Speaker, [Inaudible 0:14:12] the then Premier of the Western Cape Rasool commissioned an independent inquiry, led by Advocate Ntsebeza. The purpose of the inquiry and its findings were clear, instructive and remains highly relevant even today. The Commission sought to achieve three important objectives:

- Investigate the underlying causes of the persistent violence in the industry,
- To identify the individuals and groups instigating a response with the violence, and
- To establish the structural and institutional factors that contribute to the conflict.

Hon Speaker, the Commission revealed a wide range of patterns which today are still relevant – a culture of lawlessness, a culture of fear and silence, a

culture of entitlement, the attitude by some operators that once they apply for a permit, it must automatically be granted. Exorbitant association with law enforcement and dereliction of duty by institutions such as the City of Cape Town, which happen to intensify taxi associations, dysfunctional operating boards, a widespread use of hit squad by CATA and CODETA, coupled with a failure to arrest and prosecute those who sponsor and fund killings.

Hon Speaker and hon members, the Commission concluded with a list of urgent recommendation to be implemented by Government through the Office of the Premier. Among them they include:

- The establishment of a semi-permanent resolution body, independent, yet accountable to the Provincial Transport Department Taxi regulator to meet the dispute between associations,
- A comprehensive review of the Provincial Operating Licence Board with the view of overhauling its working methods and internal controls,
- Immediate discontinuation of CATA and CODETA patrols along highways,
- The formation of [Inaudible 0:15:57] internal investigative team, comprising SAPS, SARS, NPA, [Inaudible 0:16:00] investigate the killings and address a related [Inaudible 0:16:11] and
- Join task teams of SAPS, Provincial Government, the City of Cape Town, City Port to manage disputes between owners association supported by [Inaudible 0:16:18] and anyone who assist him [Inaudible 0:16:21]

Hon Speaker, had this been implemented by this new liberal DA-led Provincial Government, we would not be witnessing the current wave of violence and the senseless killing of innocent people ... [Interjection]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Chair, the minibus taxi industry you must accept two things or truths, firstly, you betrayed your own Peace Summit resolution, you failed to learn from the 2021 [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ... a consequence which still [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The ANC is available to facilitate any damage. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Will the Table Staff please mute the hon member. Thank you very much. Hon members, I generally allow you leeway to conclude your sentence. There are Rules that guide how time is allotted to political parties, and when I call you to remind you that your time has expired, please adhere to that call. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Speaker, indeed the Order Paper cannot follow... Sorry, hon Speaker, I had flu, can I have my time back, I need to drink water.

The SPEAKER: You cannot get your time back but I can stop the clock. It does not work like that unfortunately, hon Member.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Okay.

The SPEAKER: You may continue.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): So the Order Paper cannot just follow a normal routine and things become normal in the circumstances when there is no peace on the street, therefore I want to welcome that you have allowed this debate to happen. Over just the past weekend and this week shootings were reported in Khayelitsha, Philippi East, Macassar, Somerset West and Strand.

Hon Speaker, in the interest of the Auntie Sara, a mother, a worker, a grandmother who depends on a minibus taxi to get to work, to the clinic or to the mall, she does not have the financial means to choose another form of transport, yet at any moment she could find herself caught in the crossfire of bullets that were never meant for her, but fired in the on-going disputes within the minibus taxi industry.

This is simply unacceptable! Commuter safety must be prioritised in an

industry that carries the overwhelming majority of our residents every single day. The taxi violence has already claimed far too many lives. Just this week so that you can get the picture, in Strand a woman transporting children was shot at. In Macassar an 8-year-old boy was wounded along with two other residents. In Philippi East three civilians were injured.

One innocent life lost is already one too many and the trauma for survivors and their families is immeasurable.

We must also recognise the economic impact this surge of violence has on the province. The minibus taxi industry is worth more than R7 billion. Every shooting disrupts workers trying to get to jobs, children going to school, small traders moving goods, and businesses relying on staff to arrive safely. Routes shut down, productivity stalls, and communities lose income at its core. This violence undermines the stability of our provincial economy.

Hon Speaker, to address this crisis every stakeholder must play its part, Government, law enforcement, taxi associations themselves. Government must do whatever it takes, even if it means making tough and unpopular decisions.

Member Ngqentsu, if taxi ranks must be closed to restore order, then the law must take its course. Yes, this will not be easy because of people like the Auntie Sara's, taxis remain their only mode of transport. But hon Speaker, if lives continue to be lost, if our economy continues to be disrupted, then the

cost of inaction will be far greater than the cost of decisive action.

Hon Speaker, through you to every citizen, the safety of our people, of every commuter, must always come first. Therefore that is why we want the Department to expedite the implementation of the National Land Transport in order to formalise the taxi industry, so that it does not only monopolise. We should include the buses, the e-hailing and everything. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Member, your time has expired, please conclude. Thank you very much, I now recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone. Hon Speaker, let me not repeat what the MEC already said, but let me be unequivocal. This violence is unacceptable! It threatens lives, disrupts livelihoods, and undermines public trust in the rule of law. These acts are no longer just disputes between associations; they are direct assaults on innocent commuters and communities. We must stand firm!

- The South African Police Service must expedite investigations, leave no stone unturned, and arrest those responsible.
- The Western Cape Government's use of Section 7820 Inquiry Notice must be rigorously enforced.
- Entities found in violation of regulations must face swift consequences, including the suspension of licences and closure of roads or routes.

I urge the associations to immediately recommit to a sustained and mediated peace efforts. This is not time for political infighting but for reconciliation in the interest of public safety. In parallel we must urgently restore trust and service reliability for commuters, alternative transport options, heightened security measures at taxi ranks, and immediate reopening of safe transport hubs should be prioritised.

Today I call on this House to join me in condemning these violent acts and insisting on concrete actions, zero tolerance for violence, and accountability from our enforcement agencies, and peace negotiations that protect lives and livelihoods. The public deserve safe, reliable and uninterrupted transport. Their safety must be upheld without failure. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, whilst the EFF does not condone the recent taxi violence incidents that continue to place the lives of innocent people and communities at risk, this Provincial Government led by the DA must take accountability and full responsibility for what is currently happening within the taxi industry in this province, and while the Provincial Governments spend millions of taxpayers' money each year heavily subsidising the Golden Arrow bus services, those in the taxi industry have been left out in the cold.

Hon Speaker, furthermore while there was progress made a few years ago

under the leadership of the former Transport and Public Works Minister, which then was Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela, with the Blue Dot initiative, however things took a sharp curve following his removal. Hon Speaker, as the leadership that followed reversed all progress made and thereby instigated the turmoil within the taxi industry.

In conclusion, the taxi industry also deserves the same financial assistance granted to the privately owned Golden Arrow Bus Services, and if this Government continues to favour only one transport system financially and deprive the other, this will only deepen the already strained transport industry in this province. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

†Mnr G P MARAIS (VFP): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. [Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker.] Hon Speaker, I support the measures announced by the hon Minister, but more must be done, we cannot stop there. The Western Cape is desperately in need of a reliable and safe transport for our commuters.

Can the minibus taxi industry meet the standards and the requirements to provide safe and reliable transport, and they must answer that question. They must answer the question if they are serious about being part of providing reliable transport. There must be a formal and a multilateral agreement in place to which they must be held accountable with legal consequences if they

do not uphold their end of the agreement.

How many and which recommendations emanating from the 2005 recommendations by the Commission of Inquiry Report have been implemented or not, is the question.

Taxis are needed, but we do not need their violence and we do not need their crime. We need them to cooperate.

We call for a Bill of Commuter Rights to be drafted by the Department and an anonymous complaints line to be set up to report rogue and illegal behaviour of taxis.

Now public trust in the South African Police is dwindling, it has been damaged, and there are doubts whether the South African Police can resolve this through talks and police intervention alone. The Western Cape Government has a duty to fulfil, and it must lead the process of restoring peace and stability of taxi routes.

The Freedom Front Plus calls for an end to the taxi violence and if temporary suspension of route permits will lead to the restoration of peace and stability, then it must be considered and it must be done. It was done before. Solutions must include regulating the sector more stringently and professionalising the service. Hon Speaker, if they want to be part of the future transport system, we need that in place.

There is just too much smoke among taxis. Smoke in the sense that there are links to gangs, that is concerning, and we need that to be cleared up in the public interest. The Freedom Front Plus condemns the taxi violence and we ask for peace to be restored in the Western Cape. I thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.] I recognise the Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and good afternoon, and good afternoon to all the colleagues. Hon Speaker, as the Al Jama-Ah we condemn in the strongest terms all forms of violence and we want to express our sincere condolences to all the parties involved that have lost their lives and those who were injured.

Hon Speaker, we want to urge and we want to encourage all stakeholders to come to the table and resolve these issues in a peaceful manner. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP wants to extend our condolences to those families who lost loved ones and we also want to as the ACDP condemn all the perpetrators who were involved in violence in the taxi industry in Macassar and the surrounding

areas, like Khayelitsha, Philippi, Somerset West and Strand.

We also, as the ACDP, want to thank the South African Police Services, the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town for the action they took to restore peace at the taxi rank.

Hon Speaker, I was saddened this morning when I saw on television how Hilton Williams, the late Hilton Williams and his elderly mother was interviewed, and his mother said that when he left she was half asleep, but he always said to her, “Mommy, I must go to work, I cannot stay at home”, and that same Hilton lost his life on Tuesday morning at the taxi rank on his way to work. Sad, sad, sad.

But I also want to agree with Minister Sileku, I saw in the paper, in the media he was saying that his first duty is to protect the commuters, no one has the right, he said, to endanger the lives of ordinary people trying to get to work, school or home. Let me be clear, violence will never be rewarded, and that is the stance we must take, hon Speaker. We must stand up, and our first duty is to make sure that our commuters are safe.

I also read further where the Premier said a couple of things like that we need to bring law and order. But, hon Speaker, this is a collective effort. Communities, the taxi industry, all spheres of government will have to come together to have lasting peace, and the people are crying for peace.

So, hon Speaker, on behalf of the ACDP, we will assist and help, and I think that is the role of us as public representatives, not to point fingers now, and to blame one another, but to look at solutions that are sustainable that will kill this taxi violence immediately, and the perpetrators that do not want to come to the table, they must be brought to book, those who are killing others must be brought to book.

The people need the taxi industry, they need the taxis to get to work, people must realise that our economy is already struggling, and with people not going to work we are in deep, deep trouble. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Member. Just for the record I was going to recognise GOOD, but I have been informed that we have received an apology from the hon Herron.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of the Executive Statement as granted in terms of Rule 146. We will now move on to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper in terms of Rule 197, and I recognise the hon Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, the hon Minister Doctor Meyer.

INTERPELLATIONS

- 1. Ms N D Nkondlo to ask Dr I H Meyer, the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:**

(a) What concrete programmes is his Department currently implementing to address food insecurity?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Speaker, thank you and good afternoon and thank you to hon Nkondlo for this question. I think this is a very important question given what is happening in different parts of South Africa but also globally. The issue of food security is very important and I want to thank her for bringing this subject matter to the House through this interpellation.

The Department Food Security sub-programme supports vulnerable communities and households with a means to produce own food. These interventions take the form of community or school gardens, as well as household gardens aimed at promoting food and creating security through own production.

We have also launched the One Home One Garden initiative to encourage own food production in affected communities, and this is also anchored by the skills training which is the foundation of the sustainability programme.

However, it must be noted that the South African food insecurity challenges are not tied to the lack of production, but is also rather an access issue due to the levels of unemployment which limits access to already available food. It is for this reason that the Western Cape Government's Growth for Jobs strategy had set ambitious targets for growth and jobs and remains our apex

priority in this Western Cape Government.

Hon Speaker, when any councillor on this side and on that side of the House or in the audience ask me “how can we help them” in their communities, or even the staff sitting here, my first call of duty is to say “where is this area, how can we help?” But my first priority is “where is there a dumping site?” Then I work with the local councillor irrespective for which political party, because we serve the citizens of the Western Cape.

I work with the local councillor, then we do a soil analysis and then we do a water analysis, and I encourage members of this House to please make contact with us, because if there is a dumping site I regard that as a perfect place, to clean it, to make sure that there is adequate water, we can drill water, but we do not want municipal water, because we do not want the people to have a bill. So we are happy to further roll it out wherever the need exists, and I want to thank the hon member for bringing this matter of food insecurity. As I said, it is not a matter of production; it is a matter of accessibility.

But, hon Speaker, this matter is so serious to this Government that the hon Minister of Health and Wellness is chairing an inter-ministerial committee on food security. One of my ministerial priorities is also food security and nutrition, because we also look at the nutritional value of the food that is available. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Nkondlo. Hon Nkondlo, you must just indicate if you need the podium. My apologies colleagues, for the rest of the Sitting, if you need the podium please just indicate to one of the staff and we will make sure you have it.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, thank you, Somlomo. The Western Cape is a province blessed with rich agricultural land. From the wheat fields of the Overberg, to the vineyards of Stellenbosch, and the fruit valleys of Ceres. Agriculture here is not only a key driver of economic growth but should be a strategic tool to fight poverty and hunger.

Mandela said: *“Poverty is not an accident, like slavery it is man-made and can be removed by actions of human beings.”*

This is why Minister, we have to spotlight inefficiencies in the food security value chain, and important as you have just said, that looking at also the quality of food that gets right into the end user, particularly into our stores, in our programmes and nutrition programmes, as you mentioned, and I think Government is spending a lot of money on nutrition that must go to schools, and I am not sure, to the extent, who monitors that the actual plate that is provided to the learners on a day-to-day basis is actually of nutritional value. So these are conversations that are very important for all of us to deal with this situation.

The SERI Food Insecurity Report 2023 drawing from Census 2022 and the

General Household Survey, show that 23,1% of households nationally experience inadequate or severely inadequate access to food. In the province the picture is equally dire, one in five households, which is 20,6% is food insecure, and 12% report experiencing hunger in certain rural municipalities such as Laingsburg, Beaufort West, Swellendam and Piketberg.

Households have reported children and adults going to bed hungry or even enduring entire days without food, and this is a province that prides itself on being the bread basket of South Africa. The irony could not be more stark while the province accounts for nearly 25,5% of all agricultural jobs in the country and generates billions annually in agricultural output, its own farm workers and working class residents cannot afford nutritious food.

It is unacceptable that in a province so central to South Africa's food production the very people who produce our food go to bed hungry and starving, which is why we must spotlight on our food production inefficiencies and what collectively we can do to deal with this as an emergency. I thank you.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I want to acknowledge the exceptional work being done by the Department of Agriculture here in the Western Cape, and also to welcome and congratulate the Minister for successfully hosting

KZN, the Minister of Agriculture and Department in this week on their benchmarking exercise with the best Department of Agriculture in the country.

Through Casidra the Department has implemented over 7 400 household and community food security projects across the province. That includes 2 933 household level initiatives and 161 community projects, while also clearing a backlog of more than 4 300 projects from previous years. These projects are putting food on the table, creating resilience and giving rural families a lifeline in tough economic situations.

However, hon Speaker, there is a challenge that continues to frustrate the small agricultural producers, the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme funding, being allocated as a Schedule 5 grant. This structure creates delays in transferring funds with submissions having to be done a year in advance. This creates immense pressure on emerging farmers who need assistance urgently. We know from experience that CASP functioned far better as a Schedule 4 grant where provinces had more flexibility to act quickly and decisively.

So the question to the hon Minister is:

“Given the proven success of your Department in implementing food security programmes, how is CASP funding affecting your work in reaching more food gardens to deal with food insecurity in the

province?”

I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Masipa. I now recognise the hon Nkondlo for your second opportunity.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, Somlomo. Jacques Diouf says:

“Hunger is not an issue of charity; it is an issue of justice.”

As the African National Congress we would like to know:

- What concrete programmes is the Western Cape Department of Agriculture currently implementing to address food insecurity, especially in high risk areas identified in the census and GHS data?
- Where these programmes are geographically located? Are they equitably distributed between urban areas, like Cape Town and rural towns, where farm worker hunger is in the extremes?
- What type of partnerships does the Department have with municipalities, with NGOs and community based organisations to expand sustainable food relief, nutritional support and urban farming?
- In the current financial year, what budget allocations have been ring-fenced specifically for food security interventions?
- Has the Department explored the expansion of community food gardens,

support for subsistence farming and improved school nutrition programmes in severely affected communities, and

- How does the Department justify the contradiction between the gross value of agricultural production in the province and the persistent inability of farmworkers to earn a living wage sufficient to buy the very food they harvest?

Hon Speaker, this contradiction is further compounded by the reality that South Africa wastes 10 million tonnes of food every year, much of it from the agricultural sector while millions go hungry. Studies have shown that 45% of this wasted food is fresh produce dumped despite the levels of hunger in our communities. It is a moral outrage that in the province, the agricultural heartland of the country, food is being discarded on such a scale while children in the areas of Laingsburg, Beaufort West and Khayelitsha go to bed hungry.

What responsibility is the wine industry taking to ensure that its workers, who produce billions in exports do not go to bed hungry, and what measures are farmers putting in place to guarantee that food security is addressed within their own workforce given that many refuse to pay the minimum wage.

Unless there is a focused data-driven and province-wide response, food insecurity in the province will continue to worsen. Our people do not need [Inaudible 0:42:35] strategies or press statements, they need urgent action to ensure that no household in this agricultural province goes to bed hungry. I

thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to hon members that took part in this interpellation. I think it is very important that we agree that the spotlight must be on the inefficiency also in the value chain. There was research done that shows that a certain heavy percentage of food goes to waste in that whole value system. The farmers, the commercial farmers and people in the whole value chain are very much aware of this and doing everything possible to minimise that impact.

Hon Speaker, nutrition at school is a very important programme, particularly for the learners, and the Minister, the hon Minister of Education, Minister David Maynier, he is doing everything possible to make sure that that money is protected in his programme for the learners in the school programme, and that is why we have one of the best nutritional programmes in this country for learners, and I want to thank the Minister of Education for doing that particular job. We are not cutting any stuff there like other departments.

But also I want to indicate to the hon member that the data is real, and I agree with you that a child that goes hungry should be a matter of great concern. No child can learn on a hungry stomach and this issue of food

security is therefore, for this Government, also a serious issue.

We have also the Ministry of Health and Wellness and nutritional food is important and I can assure you that the Minister of Health, both the Ministers of Health and Education are very serious in terms of dealing with these particular matters in their various portfolios, but not only them, also the Minister of Social Development and also the Minister of Sport, because nothing must happen in the sport environment when children are hungry. But the biggest investment happens in Education and Health when it comes to the food security and nutritional programme in particular.

Hunger, I think agree with you hon member, is a justice issue. Research also shows that the hunger is bigger in the urban areas, and that is why we roll out food gardens in urban areas. We have 26 sub-councils, and I have engaged with the City of Cape Town, because I want in every sub-council access to land, access to the counsellor, and access to food security through our particular programmes.

Hon Member Nkondlo, the sponsor of this specific interpellation has asked for some specific numbers and specific projects. We have also smallholder producer support. We planned about 33; we delivered 41 in the previous period. In terms of improved food security, this is the data that I collected now from the APP, Annual Performance Plan, subsisted producers, we have looked at increasing the food security for them. We have a target of 65; we delivered 142, since you have asked also for the numbers. The real numbers

in terms of improved food security and safety, we have rolled out community food security projects that we supported, the target was 20, and we have delivered 24.

You have asked also about other projects. We have school food gardens that we have supported in the previous financial year, not that significant but there were some numbers. Also in terms of food security awareness programmes, we have a number of households supported with agricultural food production. At the household level, we targeted 3 000 households, individual level, we have delivered 3 930.

But I think, hon Member, the Chairperson of our Standing Committee, Noko Masipa, raises a very important issue. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I wish to remind you that your time has expired, and I would ask you to please conclude your sentence. Hon Minister, please conclude, otherwise I have to ask you to please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I must give a last sentence?

The SPEAKER: You must conclude your current sentence, so if you do not have a sentence, I am not allowing you to start a new one.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: Okay, but my sentence started with hon member, Noko Masipa.

The SPEAKER: Can you please conclude hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Member Noko asked a very important question about the transfer of the conditional grant, the timeous transfer, and I agree with him, we need a new ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjection] Order members! Hon members, on a more serious note, as I indicated previously, I allow you the latitude to conclude your sentence. There are Rules that we have all agreed to at the start of the session. There are also Rules that dictate how Interpellations are allocated, and it is only fair that everyone gets the same amount of latitude. I want to again caution members that when I call you to order, to conclude, to please adhere to that call in order for us to get through the Orders of the Day.

Hon members that concludes Interpellation 1, we now move on to Interpellation 2 as printed on the Question Paper and I recognise the hon Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the hon Minister Bredell. Hon Minister, do you need the podium?

2. Ms B N Stoffel to ask Mr A W Bredell, the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(a) Whether the measures that had been implemented at the beginning of the winter ensured that authorities adequately and timeously responded to storm damage and flooding?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon Member Stoffel for the Interpellation, †of die maatreëls wat aan die begin van die winter geïmplementeer is, toegesien het dat owerhede voldoende en tydig op stormskade en oorstromings reageer. Die maatreëls wat aan die begin van die winterseisoen geïmplementeer is, het owerhede bemagtig om voldoende en tydig op stormskade en oorstromings te reageer en munisipaliteite van die Wes-Kaap in staat gestel om so te doen.

Die Departement van Plaaslike Regering, deur die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Rampbestuursentrum (WKRBS), het seker gemaak dat alle munisipaliteite reeds teen Februarie 2025 winterparaatheidsplanne ingedien het. Hierdie planne, gekombineer met die Departement se Paraatheid-, Respons- en Herstelplan, het die grondslag gelê vir 'n gekoördineerde en vinnige reaksie op noodgevalle, sou dit nodig word.

Alhoewel die Wes-Kaap hierdie winter oorstromings ervaar het, was dit nie op dieselfde vlak as die grootskaalse vloede van 2023 en 2024 nie. Die voorvalle wat plaasgevind het, het hoofsaaklik informele nedersettings geaffekteer en het gelokaliseerde kitsvloede ingesluit wat paaie en residensiële areas geaffekteer het. Munisipaliteite was in staat om deur hul

bestaande strukture en reaksie-meganismes hierdie impakte doeltreffend te bestuur.

Vroeë weerwaarskuwingssisteme van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weerdiens ondersteun deur Impakgebaseerde Waarskuwingstelsels en doeltreffende strategieë vir openbare kommunikasie, het munisipaliteite en gemeenskappe met voorbereiding gehelp. Hierdie waarskuwings is met munisipaliteite en departemente gedeel. Afhangende van die erns van die waarskuwings, is sosiale media platforms gebruik om paraatheidsboodskappe aan gemeenskappe te kommunikeer.

Munisipaliteite het ook voordeel getrek uit opleiding in gemeenskapsveerkragtigheid, vloedbewusmakingsveldtogte en die bedryfsvennootskappe met die nie-regeringsorganisasies en die reddingsorganisasies soos SARZA, dit is die 4x4 mense, en die NSRI, wat verseker het dat noodreaksies beide vinnig en goed gekoördineerd was.

Die Wes-Kaapse Rampbestuursentrum het ook bewusmakingsveldtogte regoor die Overberg, die Tuinroete, die Weskus en die Kaapse Wynland Distrikte uitgevoer, en op die volgende sleutelareas gefokus:

- Bewusmaking van brandrisiko wat ons tans mee besig is om vir die brandseisoen voor te berei.
- Voorbereiding op oorstromingsgevaar.
- Huishoudelike veiligheidspraktyke.

- Die bevordering van noodsaaklike noodkontaknommers.

Daarby het die finansiële en menslike hulpbronondersteuning plaaslike kapasiteit versterk deur die aanstelling van rampbestuur interns en befondsingtoewysings vir vloedreaksies. Die Wes-Kaapse Rampbestuursentrum het die aanstelling van tien rampbestuur interns in die Tuinroete, Weskus, Overberg, Sentraal-Karoo en die Kaapse Wynland Distrikte befonds.

Die Tuinroete Distriksmunisipaliteit het 'n toewysing vir branddienskapasiteit van R2,5 miljoen van die Departement van Plaaslike Regering ontvang. Hierdie fondse is strategies in die verkryging van toerusting vir vloedreaksie ... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[whether the measures implemented at the beginning of winter enabled authorities to respond adequately and timeously to storm damage and flooding. The measures implemented at the start of the winter season enabled authorities to adequately and timeously react and enabled municipalities of the Western Cape to do so.

The Department of Local Government, through the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (WCDMC), ensured that municipalities submitted winter readiness plans as early as February 2025. These plans, combined with the Department's Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan, laid the groundwork for a coordinated and rapid response to emergencies should the need arise.

Although the Western Cape experienced flooding events this winter, the province did not face the same scale of major flooding as in 2023 and 2024. The events that did occur primarily affected informal settlements and included instances of localised flash flooding that impacted roads and residential areas. Municipalities were able to manage these impacts effectively through their existing structures and response mechanisms.

Early weather warnings from the South African Weather Service (SAWS), supported by Impact-Based Warning Systems and effective public communication strategies, assisted municipalities and communities prepare in advance. These warnings were shared with municipalities and departments. Depending on the severity of the warnings, social media platforms were utilised to communicate preparedness messages to the communities,

Municipalities also benefited from community resilience training, flood awareness campaigns, and operational partnerships with NGOs and rescue organisations such as SARZA and the NSRI, ensuring that emergency responses were both fast and well-coordinated.

The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre also conducted awareness campaigns across the Overberg, Garden Route, West Coast, and Cape Winelands districts, focusing on the following key areas:

- Fire risk awareness with which we are busy to prepare for the fire season
- Flood hazard preparedness
- Household safety practices

- Promotion of essential emergency contact numbers.

In addition, financial and human resource support such as the appointment of disaster management interns and funding allocations for flood responses strengthened local capacity. The Western Cape Disaster Management Centre funded the appointment of ten (10) Disaster Management interns in the Garden Route, West Coast, Overberg, Central Karoo and Cape Winelands districts.

The Garden Route District Municipality received a Fire Service Capacity Building Grant valued at R2.5 million from the Department of Local Government. These funds were strategically invested in the procurement of flood response ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please conclude your sentence.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: ... en vinnige waterreddings belê.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ... and rapid water rescues.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. †Baie dankie, agb Minister. [Thank you, hon Minister.] I now recognise the hon Stoffel. Do you need the podium?

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: We will make sure that... Thank you very much, hon Stoffel, you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, every winter our people in Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Philippi, George, Saldanha and rural Karoo towns cry the same painful tears. Homes flood, children sleep in cold community halls and families lost the little they worked so hard for.

Each year in this House the same question is asked to understand what is the Provincial Government doing to protect the poor and vulnerable; and each year, hon Speaker, we receive the same copy and paste answer from the DA-led Government. Nothing changes except the suffering of our people worsens.

The so-called winter readiness plan lives only on paper, it treats the life of African and Coloured people as if they do not matter. This Government even tells residents of informal settlements to dig trenches around their shacks. Imagine that, hon Speaker, a government that tells poor people to pick up spades instead of providing real solutions. This is not readiness. It is neglect. It is not governance, it is abandonment.

It is the same arrogance that we saw under apartheid when Black lives were cheap. What we witness in the Western Cape is nothing less than apartheid and the reincarnation of heartless governance we thought we buried in 1994.

Flooding does not discriminate; it affects informal settlements, townships, farms and informal homes, because drainage systems across municipalities are broken, neglected, or non-existent.

Instead of fixing problems this Government runs awareness campaigns, they hand out pamphlets to people losing their homes. But awareness does not stop water from flooding a house. It does not dry the tears of a mother whose children are sleeping on wet floors. Our people need working stormwater systems, proper drainage, safe housing and emergency shelters when disasters strike. The truth, hon Speaker, is that this Government is playing with lives.

Look at Mthatha where more than 100 people recently died in devastating floods. Last year in Riverlands a dam collapsed. We are just as vulnerable as any other province, the difference is that when the disaster strikes here the Government will have no excuse because they were warned year after year and chose not to act. The DA-led Government is not just failing; it is complicit in suffering, destruction and loss of lives. Man up please. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Bryant. Hon members, I am not going to continuously ask if you need the podium. I have made a ruling and a point about it, if you do, please indicate to the service officers in the Chamber, they will assist you. Hon Bryant, you may continue.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, in 2020, the City of Cape Town provided over 10 000 emergency housing kits, more than any other municipality in South Africa. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): When disaster struck this DA-led City acted quickly, effectively and with accountability. Unfortunately the National Government has since centralised the Emergency Housing Grant. Instead of empowering municipalities that deliver, they have created more bureaucracy. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): And what does that mean for people, hon Speaker. Well, it means slower response times, it means layers of red tape and families left waiting for relief while Pretoria shuffles their paperwork.

Hon Speaker, when a fire or flood rips through an informal settlement, communities do not have the luxury of waiting for a central department to decide how and when to act, they need immediate relief, and that relief was best provided by local governments, like the City of Cape Town.

We have to ask why the rush to strip capacity from the one municipality that has delivered more, faster and with better results than anyone else? Residents

should not suffer because elements in National Government prefer central control over faster delivery. This mandate belongs in the hands of municipalities closest to the people and not in the corridors of Pretoria.

So perhaps the Minister can explain to us why the Emergency Housing Grant was centralised by National Government, particularly when municipalities like the City of Cape Town have already proven their ability to deliver more effectively than National Government can. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. I recognise the hon [Interjection] Order! Order members! I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, I do not raise this issue for political point scoring. I raise them because I have witnessed, I have witnessed that – where were you, with my own eyes, the profound suffering endured by the people of the Cape Flats, our township and rural areas every winter. I have spoken to mothers gripped by the terror of not knowing where the children will sleep. I have seen elderly citizens suffering under soaked blankets and homeless individuals suffering icy nights with nothing but cardboard for shelter. These are human beings deserving a government that values a life and inherent dignity.

Awareness is not enough. We demand concrete action. Municipalities must cease instructing residents to dig trenches and instead build powerful storm water systems, even with informal settlements. We require safe, warm and

well-resourced emergency shelters in every municipality, MEC, so that no family is abandoned to a storm.

Crucially the Province must end the chronic under-spending on housing budget. Flooding is a perpetual crisis because people remain in flood plains. The right to a house is a constitutional right and not a luxury, and this Government continues to fail in this to deliver.

Furthermore our Disaster Management Plan bluntly ignores the homeless who are left to survive on pavements with only plastic for protection. They are treated as invisible, and this is unacceptable. These plans must explicitly recognise and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Finally, we must address accountability. Disaster Management funds cannot become a DA cash cow looted under the guise of the use of emergency. The MEC possesses the power to intervene and prevent disaster. Those powers must be used to save lives, build safe communities, MEC, and deliver justice for the poor. Disaster is not merely about weather; it is the direct consequences of political choices that perpetuate inequality.

It is a glaring indicator of whom this Government prioritises and who is systematically abandoned to the cold. The evidence is neglected and is written in the mud and the tears of our communities, I therefore want to ask the MEC, do you really care for our people, or like your DA forbearers, do you hate maybe poor people, particularly Black people. If you love them

[Interjection]

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): If you love them, what is the right thing you need to do? Please MEC, do something.

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

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Yeah, hon Speaker, thank you very much. What a disappointment, because this is really a very serious conversation and it is a conversation where one would love to learn also from the Opposition and the Standing Committee, because we do not have all the answers, but what a pathetic interpellation from the ANC's side. It is really a disappointment.

But if they want, hon Speaker, one thing that I cannot understand is, if I was a member of the ANC I would be so quiet, because they bankrupt this country, they steal everything, they have got no successes to brag about, and then they come here and they grandstand, and the hon member made the mistake of bringing in other provinces, and it is sad.

If the hon member admits it, the number of people who died in KZN, and I

am not going to blame anything, because it can happen ... [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ... and nobody can prepare and to
protect the people 100%. But in KZN we lost hundreds of lives. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, please take your seat. Order!
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: The ANC.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Hon members, I have asked three or four
times for order in the House. I have allowed political interjections because I
am not going to stifle political debate, but it is now the Minister's
opportunity to respond to an interpellation that a member used the
Parliamentary and Standing Rules to place on the Question Paper. It is only
fair that those that participated in this debate have an opportunity to hear the
response.

Hon members please do not drown out the hon speaker. If you do not agree
with the response that you are getting, there are avenues in the Standing
Rules that provides opportunities for you to raise it again. But it is now the
opportunity of the Minister to respond to those members who participated in

this interpellation. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, in the Eastern Cape more than 100 people died, it is very sad, very tragic. But this Province phoned and told them we have got over 40 people with 4x4's that are willing to assist them. They did not care, they are ANC controlled. We have lost over 100, I think over 300 lives in the Eastern Cape.

This Province last week signed an MOU with KZN. They do not have a disaster centre in place to support them, to help them; irrespective, irrespective of political alliance, irrespective of where they are coming from, we want to save South Africans' lives and we have got the expertise to fast track and to support them and we will keep on doing that.

Hon Speaker, yeah, the centralisation... hon Bryant, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, it is a very simple answer for me, you centralise to steal more, it is as simple as that, irrespective of the poorest of the poor that will suffer, because if your informal settlement burns tonight you need another house, you need shelter tomorrow, not wait for the ANC for three or four months, and that is what they offer to the people. There is nobody else that cares more for the poor than this Western Cape Government. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: We fight for the poor, we bring the agendas to support the poor, and just as they laugh now, just last week I visited the township, the solution is easy to provide water, sanitation, electricity to a township, but they refused with their political agendas. They work behind the screens to stop us, to block us.

I am going to meet Monday with one of the National Ministers to ask him, the Minister of Rural Development, “just give us permission and we will put the electricity in for the people”, and by the way it is for Black people. We have delivered toilets last week to those communities that do not have it, because the ANC does not care. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order! Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Interjection.] Order members! Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellation 2 on the Question Paper.

We will now move on to Questions for Oral Reply in terms of Rule 202. Before I recognise the hon Minister for the first question, I wish to remind the hon members that there is an opportunity for four follow-ups after the hon Minister has delivered, I think it is only the hon Minister that is on the Order Paper today. After the Minister responded there are four opportunities, as has been our custom to date, the first follow-up will be allocated to the person posing the initial question to the Minister, and thereafter three additional questions.

For those members who are online, please use the hand raise functionality, and for those members in the Chamber, please give an indication to the Table Staff to recognise you. As soon as the hon Minister starts delivering the answer to the initial question, hon Sayed, you can then give me an indication that you have a follow-up. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With reference to this quote: *“So, for example, we meet with the Education Department on a monthly basis and there’s a lot we’ve already put in place, but it can only get better”*, which appeared in the *Weekend Argus* on Saturday 8 August 2025, that was said by Brigadier Wienand:

(a) How many times has his Department met with the Anti-Gang Unit and

(b) When did these meetings start occurring,

(c) Who attends these meetings and

(d) What has been “put in place” as a result of these meetings

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker, I must say that before I begin it has been very hard this week to ignore the hon Brett Herron's recent statements on an incident which took place in Philippi, and

which I am sure most hon members in this House are aware of. He seems to have positioned himself, hon Speaker, almost uniquely on the crime issue as a member fighting those who fight crime here in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, that of course being said, I would like to thank the hon member for the question, which of course traverses the very important question of gang related violence and schools in our province. Now I am sure that hon members would agree with me that gang violence is of course primarily a law enforcement matter, as the ability to police crime lies with the South African Police Service and Law Enforcement. So I would not want to speak on behalf of the police, but I can certainly speak to some of the matters raised in the quote in the *Weekend Argus*, to which the hon member refers.

I would like to speak more of course of the quote than just the small excerpt noticed by the hon member, because of course the hon member has to some extent selectively quote it. The SAPS member is also quoted in the same newspaper as saying the following:

"I do not believe that we alone, as the anti-gang unit, will ever bring down gang violence. We can make certain efforts to reduce gang violence, but with a multidisciplinary approach. That is where I believe that we can make a lot more impact."

I think this is too important a point to simply skip over. Yes, yes, policing gang violence lies with Law Enforcement, but we all, and I am sure that hon

members would agree with this, we all have a role to play. This includes Government departments, community organisations, school communities, and of course the general public and members of this House. Only a whole-of-society approach can have any hope of reducing gang violence.

Turning now to the small excerpt the hon member has highlighted, namely where the SAPS member in question is quoted as saying the following:

“So for example, we meet the Education Department on a monthly basis and there is a lot that we have already put in place, but it can only get better.”

That is the excerpt to which the hon member refers and where he focusses his question.

Again I would not presume to speak on behalf of the police, but I can infer that the monthly meetings he is referring to are the recurring monthly ProvJoints Priority Committee Anti-Gang Implementation Plan, or AGIP meetings, which are in fact led by the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety.

These meetings have been held monthly, and these are not new, monthly since 2017, and I think are a good example of what we mean when we speak about a whole-of-society approach to preventing gang violence in our province.

Now these monthly AGIP meetings are multidisciplinary engagements involving not just the Anti-Gang Unit, they involve, as I have said, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, the Western Cape Education Department, which I of course have mentioned, but also the Provincial Departments of Social Development, Cultural Affairs and Sport, Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and of course the Provincial Treasury, SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority, and the National Departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, National Department of Correctional Services and the City of Cape Town.

These departments and agencies all work together, all work together under the National Anti-Gangsterism Strategy and the Provincial Anti-Gang Intervention Plan, and I believe this is what the hon member is referring to.

Now in terms of the question, “What has been put in place as part of these collaborative meetings?” First, we have a Safety and Security Resilience Scorecard that has been developed jointly by the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, and also the Western Cape Education Department, in consultation with the SAPS to assess risk levels and inform targeted deployments of safety resources at schools. The tool also provides valuable management information on the enhancement of safety policies required to improve safety at each school.

We have also implemented targeted interventions to improve learner attendance at school to reduce the number of learners out of school and at risk of gang involvement. The aim is to reduce absenteeism and truancy, but also to reintegrate truant learners by conducting home visits and advocating the benefits of attending school, staying at school, and being at school of course consistently all the way to matric.

We work together of course on the development of Safety Plans and functional Safety Committees at individual schools, as well as targeted funding for security infrastructure at high-risk schools.

We collaborate on after-school and holiday programmes, as well as behavioural and training interventions at schools, and these are of course incredibly valuable, not only in terms of keeping children occupied and off the streets, but also in cementing positive behaviour and learner aspirations for their future.

Interventions we have implemented cooperatively with the SAPS and other departments, include programmes:

- To address gang and drug issues at school;
- Training of teachers on random drug testing and related programmes;
- Training of teachers on search and seizure operations;
- Leadership training;
- Training in creative and constructive approaches to conflict resolution;

- Peer mediation;
- Anti-bullying initiatives;
- Cadets and marching initiatives, which reinforce positive behaviour and discipline;
- Active involvement in diversion programmes involving, most importantly, sport, arts and culture;
- Values initiatives;
- Life skills for learners at risk of problem behaviour to prevent possible problems in advance; and
- Interventions to reduce physical and emotional abuse.

So hon members, there is a lot being done by the various departments in our province, working together with National Government, to combat gang violence and to combat gang violence in schools, but these are not the only measures we have in place to address safety issues in our schools that are related to gang violence.

SAPS and law enforcement assist us with search and seizure operations to directly tackle gang-related activities in terms of weapons and drugs in schools. Getting those weapons and drugs out of our schools is something that we really value and appreciate their support. We have, I think as most members know, we have school resource officers from the City of Cape Town's law enforcement operating at our schools in high risk areas to tackle crime and safety matters in the school environment.

So the City is part of the monthly meetings and we contribute of course to the funding of these officers, and I know that the hon member has a particular interest in this matter, and these resource officers, hon member, are making a real difference.

In the first six months of this year, just the first six months of this year, they have already undertaken 8 508 searches, performed 6 480 confiscations and made 10 arrests, which I think is an extraordinary result and has contributed to the safety in our schools.

So a big thank you to the City of Cape Town's SROs and to our Safe Schools teams for their efforts, but that is not all.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we also have a Safe Schools Call Centre with learners, teachers and parents, which can be accessed toll-free, where they can receive advice on how to tackle issues like gang involvement, problem behaviour, substance use and the like. This again goes to the issue of trying to nip at risk and problem behaviour in the bud, rather than trying to pull kids out of gangs later.

So I would certainly appeal to anyone who is concerned about a particular learner to contact the Call Centre on 0800 45 46 47 to seek advice. This is a toll-free service and well-connected in terms of referrals, particularly to other services if required.

We maintain open communication channels with the SAPS, which allow us to respond when incidents of gang violence occur. We have standard protocols in place at our schools to deal with such incidents, whether at school or in the surrounding community.

Very importantly, we have district support teams who, along with our Western Cape Government partners, can provide psychosocial support to our schools when an incident has occurred, and I want to commend our teams for the way in which they support our learners, our staff and our school communities, who have experienced violent incidents at the hands of gangs.

In general, hon Deputy Speaker, it is always preferable to keep a school open and that is our default position as a department. We aim to keep a school open when an incident has occurred in a community, to keep learners off the streets and in a safe place. Where we need to close a school early it must be done in an orderly manner in coordination with the district. So the information we receive from the SAPS of course is essential in making these decisions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on this note I want to highlight what I think is a very important matter relating to gang violence that is causing me great concern at present.

In the past few weeks, in the past few weeks we have seen a tremendous amount of fake news about gang-related violence and the impact this has had

on our schools circulating on social media.

An article also appeared in the *Cape Argus* claiming that a specific school had been closed because of gang violence, without even verifying this information, and the claim was completely false, and I regret to say some of that fake news has surfaced and has been aired in this House. This is a danger.

There is a danger of relying on social media. Anyone can post anything and it is instantly shared without any verification whatsoever, and the problem, hon Deputy Speaker, is that it causes panic, it causes fear, it causes confusion and it causes the disruption to our schools when parents rush to collect their learners from school early, and ultimately, hon Deputy Speaker, it potentially compromises the safety not just of learners, but also of parents.

So I am very concerned about fake news in this space, and I would urge hon members to verify the information which they are furnished with, which in the end also it means that I am pleased that part of our safety initiatives in our Department has been implementing an online safety curriculum. The lessons do not just include how learners can keep themselves safe online, but also how to be responsible citizens on the internet.

This means evaluating and scrutinising the information you receive online, and then treating that information responsibly. Our hope is that this will help our learners to grow up to become responsible adults and to be able to

distinguish between the sharing of information that is beneficial, and the sharing of information which is potentially harmful.

I would really also like to appeal to our learners, to our teachers, to the public and also to hon members of our House, who set the example, to be very, very cautious about information you share when it has not been verified or does not come from an official source, precisely because there is always the risk of causing panic, of causing fear, of causing confusion, of causing disruption to schooling and ultimately of compromising the safety of our learners. When you spread fake news you give gangs power and you allow them to mobilise fear as a weapon.

So please remember, just because it is on social media does not make it true. Do not make the jobs of law enforcement and the SAPS harder than they already are, and do not give gangs the upper hand by spreading fake news.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I hope that hon members share my view that the Department, working together with other departments in the Western Cape Government and indeed in National Government, are doing a lot to combat gang-related violence and gang-related violence in schools here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. In the absence of the hon member that posed the question, the first opportunity will go to hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

I must say that given the current context of gang violence, especially gang violence that is now affecting our learners, one does feel the void of you not occupying a seat in the Executive. I must say that. A major error of judgement on the part of the hon Premier, but let me thank hon Minister Maynier for the response, but also for cautioning us all about fake news. I want to thank him for that. I think we must be very responsible in this particular House, and on that note I want to say that as the Opposition, and especially as the Official Opposition, and I can speak for colleagues here, we do not come here with fake news. We bring real news.

The Nowers High School stabbing was a real issue that we brought last week to the hon Premier, and the hon Premier was unable to respond as to what mechanisms are in place to prevent these incidents from happening at our schools, and while the hon MEC has gone with a long narrative, we have not really seen what has been the – can the hon MEC tell us what has been the concrete impact of these joint meetings, of these mechanisms that have been put in place? What has been the concrete impact?

Can he give examples of concrete improvements in terms of being able to curb gang violence and violence generally at our schools, because we are concerned and maybe you must tell us, in all of this we have not seen civil

society being part and parcel of the solution. Civil society is not invited to be part and parcel of the solution, and I want to commend, I want to commend the fact that there are joint initiatives with different spheres of government, but we need to build on that. Perhaps that shows ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...that shows why ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...are you willing [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: ...evolution is not necessary, because here the hon MEC is involved in cooperative governance. It just needs to be effective. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Syed. Hon Minister, there was, during that particular input there was one specific question. I trust that you caught it. Over to you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I could not help noticing that the Leader of the Opposition was on rapid fire mode this afternoon and posed a number of questions amidst comments, but let me start by thanking him for his commitment and the commitment of his party to being careful of becoming vulnerable to circulating fake news, especially in

relation to gang violence at our schools, because of, as I have said, the very real danger of causing panic and disruption and compromising the safety of our learners.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we do in fact collect statistics in terms of gang violence on our school premises through of course our Safe Schools Programme, and certainly in terms of the first six months of this year we are currently on track to have fewer gang-related incidents reported compared to last year, and I think that that is evidence that the measures that we are putting in place do have at least some impact.

Of course the broader impact which the anti-gang strategy and the collaboration between the various departments is having, I think, was captured in a statement released yesterday by the hon Premier, where we were informed that there have been, for example, 679 arrests for murder, 684 arrests for attempted murder, 578 arrests for illegal possession of firearms and 29 804 arrests for drug-related offences. Possibly more importantly, hon Deputy Speaker, 842 illegal firearms have been seized, and probably most importantly, during the period under review 40 convictions for gang-related activity.

So I think that there is a demonstrable impact not just in the school environment, but indeed in society here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. On the online platform

I note the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for all those answers, but, hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to find out from the hon Minister, and of course I did not read the entire article, I only read the piece put by the hon member, is there – still at our schools there are gangs recruiting our learners and they go to the school with a mandate.

Is there cooperation between the school resource officers and the Anti-Gang Unit to identify these problems, because I can tell you with everything the hon Minister said, learners in certain communities are not safe. They cannot even go from the one quad to the other quad, because gangs operate different quads in different areas in the schools and different quads in the schools.

So, hon Minister, proactive, what proactive measures can be taken for our learners to be safe when they are in school? I am not talking about outside, I am talking about inside the school premises. What proactive measures can be taken? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I do want to assure the hon member that the school resource officers do collaborate with the SAPS in combating gang violence in our schools, and they certainly collaborate with the SAPS in their operations, and their operations in the past six months, as I said in my initial reply, are on what I regard as a fairly wide

scale.

I remind the hon member 8 508 searches, 6 480 confiscations and of course 10 arrests, all done in collaboration with the South African Police Service.

I think the most important thing, and the hon member has raised this in the past, is that we need in our strategies to be proactive, to identify at-risk learners early, and it is precisely for that reason that I outlined the kinds of programmes that we have in place to reduce absenteeism and truancy, and reintegrate our learners through home visits back into schools, to ensure that those learners are not vulnerable to becoming involved in gang violence. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I note the hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you to the hon Minister.

Hon Minister, I would just like to know how many school resource officers are currently operating in schools within the Western Cape and how do they support school safety? Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon member, for that question, focussing on our school resource officers, which of course is a key

programme in our efforts to reduce gang violence in our schools.

Hon members may not be aware, but we have 82 school resource officers operating in our schools, that is up from 64 school resource officers operating in our schools last year, and we are spending about R35 million a year supporting these school resource officers.

Now our school resource officers are deployed in two ways. First, some school resource officers are part of what is called area-based teams, and for hon members who may not be familiar with this environment, area-based teams are safety groups comprising of Government, but also non-government stakeholders, that focus really in a defined geographic area and work together to combat crime and violence in hotspots.

So some school resource officers are deployed as part of the ABT teams, but other school resource officers of course are deployed to what we call schools at risk, and these are schools where learners and teachers are negatively impacted by violence, by bullying, by harassment, by the influence of substance abuse and of course gang violence.

Now our school resource officers have several functions, and as I have said in my previous reply, work very closely with SAPS and law enforcement.

- They of course collaborate with school leadership to identify and address issues that could lead to crime or disorder.

- They detect illegal activity early in order to sort of prevent crime.
- They develop and run, importantly, crime prevention programmes inside our schools, including also after-school programmes and holiday programmes.
- They of course conduct security patrols in and around our schools, and they report any incidents to our Safe Schools Call Centre.
- They build partnerships, and this is important.
- They build partnerships not just with school staff and parents, but also with the school community.
- They obviously serve on the safety committees and assist with emergency planning.
- They maintain a visible presence at the school.
- They network with the local communities.
- They support learners through collaboration with support teams and referrals, and of course they promote law enforcement positively, and provide educational sessions on related topics
- Of course most importantly, as I have said, they do assist in investigations of criminal incidents at our schools in coordination, importantly, with the SAPS.

I believe that they are making a difference and they are contributing to the safety of our learners, particularly at at-risk schools in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, and the final question to

the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the hon Minister.

Hon Minister, I have listened to what you have said and I am just concerned that perhaps if you could indicate to the House that you have mentioned a lot about security, but the feeling of safety is something perhaps our schools are unable to offer, because of the environment they find themselves in, the under-resourced communities they find themselves in and keeping in mind that Christel House is a non-profit organisation offering a value proposition that public schools at the moment can only strive for, how do you find the balance between giving safety to our children and creating that safe environment so that they can actually learn as a child should learn without fear?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon member for the question.

I think that all our schools do the best they can to create a safe environment for our learners, working obviously in collaboration with our department, with other departments, with law enforcement and with SAPS. Of course it is very difficult for public ordinary schools to match the kind of standard that is put on by Christel House, but we certainly aspire to do so.

The hon member will, I am sure, be delighted to hear that we are of course collaborating with Christel House, not only to expand the existing school, but also working together with other departments in the Provincial Government. We are working to enable Christel House to build a second school here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Before we proceed, and I am not wanting to take additional time, hon members, I did not want to curb the context that was provided by hon members in posing the question, but I would want to again remind the hon member to ask the relevant question directly, and also for relevant Ministers to speak to the Chair. I trust that that is in order.

I now recognise the hon Minister, Dr Meyer.

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

Whether the National Department of Agriculture has released the conditional grant funding under the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) to support emerging farmers in the provinces; if not, what impact have the delays in CASP funding had on planting or production cycles this year; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you for this opportunity and thank you to the hon member, the Chairperson of my Standing Committee, Mr Noko Masipa, for his question.

†Ja, die Departement het beide Kwartaal 1 en Kwartaal 2 oordragbetalings gedurende vroeg Augustus ontvang, met ander woorde vroeg in hierdie maand het ons oordragbetalings ontvang, en die Departement is tans besig met die oordragbetalingsooreenkomste, die sogenaamde *TPA, Transfer Payment Agreement*, aan ons projekbestuurvennote, maar as gevolg van die verdragings sal die nuwe aanplantings van vrugte, wyn en tafeldruiwe tot die volgende seisoen uitgestel moet word, en die totale aantal hektaar wat geraak word, veral vir hierdie drie kommoditeite, is so ongeveer 29,65 hektaar. Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Yes, the Department received transfer payments in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 during early August, in other words, early this month we received transfer payments and the Department is currently busy with the transfer payments agreements, the so-called TPA, Transfer Payment Agreement, to our project management partners, but as a result of delays the new die verdragings sal die nuwe aanplantings van vrugte, wyn en tafeldruiwe tot die planting of fruit, wine and table grapes will have to be postponed until next season, and the total number of hectares that are affected, especially for these three commodities, is about 29,65 hectares. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Member that posed the question, hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you, hon Minister, for the questions. I mean the answer to the questions.

Really, hon Deputy Speaker, what really my question is just to understand the impact or the amount of farmers that are being supported through the CASP funding in the Western Cape, and the impact that this funding is making? Thank you.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ek wil net gou kyk hier na die data van die vorige termyn, want hierdie spesifieke oordragbetalings, die sogenaamde *CASP funding*, die *conditional grants*, het werklik 'n bepalende effek of impak rondom die programme vir die, veral die koper, die vrugte, en dit het ernstige implikasies, want ons volg hier 'n kommoditeitsbenadering in hierdie departement, en hierdie kommoditeitsbenadering gaan juis daaroor dat ons die klein boere, opkomende boere wil meer na kommersiële boere toe neem, maar wanneer daar verdragings is affekteer dit uit die aard van die saak hierdie spesifieke ontwikkelingsgeleenthede.

Die vraag ten opsigte van die getalle. Ek verwys hier spesifiek nou na nie hierdie tydperk nie, maar goed wat voor hierdie Huis gedien het, naamlik die *Annual Performance Plan*, want daar was in die verlede omtrent so 55 projekte wat ons ondersteun het:

- Sewe was vir wyn projekte;

- 19 was vir vrugte projekte, insluitende die bye projekte;
- Twee vir graan;
- Nege vir groente;
- Twee vir *wheat*; en ook, onder andere
- *Piggery and poultry*.

So hier is werklik mense wat direk geaffekteer word, vir spesifiek hierdie opkomende boere.

So hierdie verdragings vertraag ook die transformasie, en daarom is my departement voortdurend in gesprek met die Nasionale Departement, want ek dink dit kan nie meer langer so aangaan nie.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to look here quickly at the data of the previous term, because these specific transfer payments, the so-called CASP funding, the conditional grants, really have a determining effect or impact around the programmes for especially the buyers, the fruit, and it has serious implications, because we follow here a commodity approach in this Department, and this commodity approach is actually about taking the small farmers, emerging farmers, more to the commercial farmers, but there are delays, it naturally affects these development opportunities.

The questions is with regard to numbers. I refer now here specifically not to this period, but things that have served before this House, namely the Annual Performance Plan, because in the past there had been about 55 projects that

we supported:

- Seven were for wine projects;
- 19 were for fruit projects, including bees projects;
- Two were for grain;
- Nine for vegetables;
- Two for wheat; and also, amongst others
- Piggery and poultry.

So here are really people who are directly affected, for specifically these emerging farmers.

So these delays also delay the transformation, and therefore my Department is continually in discussion with the National Department, because I think it cannot carry on like this any longer.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I see no further hands on the online platform, neither in the House.

We proceed to Question number 3 and I again recognise the hon Minister, Dr Meyer.

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

(a) What plans of the Western Cape Government and Wesgro

are in place to support farmers affected by the imposition of a 30% tariff on exports to the United States and (b) how will these plans assist in diversifying export markets and in safeguarding agricultural jobs in the province?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Die hele kwessie van hoe affekteer hierdie 30% tariewe die uitvoere na die Verenigde State en wat is die beplanning vir die Wes-Kaapse Regering.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: The whole issue of how these 30% tariffs affect the exports to the United States and what is the planning for the Western Cape Government.]

Hon member Masipa, the Department supports the response measures by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Western Cape Government, along with other stakeholders, continues to supply data and analytical support to other stakeholders to strengthen South Africa's position on the trade negotiations.

Diversification of the markets are very important to mitigate the risk associated with the high tariffs in the US market, is also among some of the strategies, but this will also be accelerated by the promotion of the work that is currently being done by Wesgro.

Hon members, as we sit here in this House today I have a delegation that have met with the Singaporean enterprises. In fact yesterday another delegation was in Malaysia to do some economic diplomacy work in this particular regard, so I am particularly happy that the work is continuing in this particular regard.

Also furthermore we are engaging in soft diplomacy with various countries and partners to identify and unlocking opportunities. The Western Cape has done a study also to develop a diversification strategy for exports as a counter to the 30% tariffs imposed by the United States. This result and strategy will be released shortly. †So daar is 'n studie wat ons tans onderneem om die implikasies van hierdie 30% tariewe te ondersoek en te bespreek.

Intussen het my Departement ook bietjie gekyk na 'n nuwe uitvoerstrategie. Daardie strategie is tans – dis 'n bietjie in-huis ge-workshop. Ek beoog om dit na die volgende *Growth for Jobs* Kabinetskomitee toe te neem.

Nadat daardie Kabinetskomitee dit goedgekeur het sal ek dit voorlê aan die Kabinet van die Wes-Kaapse Regering. Daarna sal ek dit weer bespreek met die besigheidsektor, die uitvoersektor, die *Western Cape Export Forum*, en hulle was ook gekonsulteer ten opsigte van hierdie strategie, en dit is vir ons baie belangrik dat ons vra, “Maar wat is die Wes-Kaap se benadering tot hierdie 30% tariewe?” Een, wat is die benadering, en twee, wat is die strategie?

Ek het so dokumente opgestel intussen wat kyk na wat is jou strategie, want in hierdie verband is daar ook baie geraas, en ons moet hierdie geraas minimaliseer, en daarom is dit vir my belangrik dat jy die korrekte benadering volg, en die vraag is, “Wat is die korrekte benadering?”

Die korrekte benadering is kry jou data, kry jou feite, kry jou *evidence*. Tweedens, [So there is a study that we are currently doing to investigate and discuss the implications of these 30% tariffs.

In the meantime my department also looked at a new export strategy. That strategy is presently – it has been workshopped somewhat in-house. I aimed to take it to the next Growth For Jobs Cabinet Committee.

After that cabinet committee had approved it, I will submit it to the cabinet of the western cape government. Thereafter I will again discuss it with the business sector, the export sector, the Western Cape Export Forum, and they have also been consulted with regard to this strategy, and it is very important to us that we ask, “But what is the Western Cape’s approach to these 30% tariffs?” One, what is the approach, and two what is the strategy?

I have drawn up documents in the meantime that look at what is your strategy, the cause in this regard a lot of noise has been made, and we have to minimize this noise, and therefore it is important to me that you follow the correct approach, and the question is, “What he is the correct approach?”

The correct approach is get your data, get your facts, get your evidence. Secondly,] *do not panic, leaders do not panic*. Thirdly, engage in an open dialogue. The Premier and myself invited the people that do business with the US, Leeuwenhof. We had an open discussion, because the policy of this Government is first to listen. We listen to these people that do business with the United States, and there are 600 companies in South Africa that currently do business with the United States.

The Premier and I had discussions with them at Leeuwenhof to see what is the business environment, what they are currently doing, how they engage with the situation and how this will impact their business situation.

We had a follow-up discussion in the presence of the US Consul General, because we also ask them, firstly, South African farmers that do business with the United States, how do they feel, to listen. Then we had the second discussion with US businesses to see how do they advise us, as a government, how we need to deal with this, because they are also in South Africa, they are in the Western Cape and they are also importers of our products on the side of the border.

So first get the data, get the science. We know from the data that it is only about 4% of our agricultural products that go to the United States, significant though. Also we understand that after your dialogue it is also important to engage, hon member, with the National Government of Unity, the one that

you love so much, the GNU.

Yes, through the Chair, the Government that you love so much, we engage with the Government of National Unity. I have personally had some discussions with the Minister Park Tau at the G20 Working Group on trade and investment, that was held at Somerset, and since you love him so much I will further continue to engage with that, because that is our relationship.

You have indicated earlier, like you hon member Masipa loves the GNU, and so we also engaged with the B20 and the G20, and we also decided that we must have a proactive forward-looking approach. So that is the approach.

Now the question is what is the strategy of this part of the House? Well, we have decided, as this side of the House, that we must have a clear strategy, and the strategy is listen to the business community and consult the sectors, and that is why BFAP has been commissioned to do some research for us.

We are going to have a meeting with the business community. As I indicated earlier we are busy developing an export strategy. In fact the work has been completed, but it needs to follow the various Cabinet processes and, hon member, hon Deputy Speaker, through to hon member opposite me, the strategy is to say grow. Grow means:

- Gain new markets.
- R = retain your current markets.

- O = optimise the business processes starting with the harbour.

If I want to increase my exports by 5%, hon Deputy Speaker, it is 5% increase through the harbour's exports. This province generate 22 900 new jobs and so I am thankful that you support our approach to privatise the harbour and get efficiency, because that is part of the optimisation of that process.

So that is where we are, but very important to hon members of this House, very – hon Deputy Speaker, I went to the biggest company here in Cape Town, that is a boat building company. They build catamarans and they export it, and to hon members of this House, I know David Maynier would love to know the data, and the data is as follows: this company here in Woodstock, last year, 2024, they exported 212 boats and catamarans, *†en ek weet nie wat nog nie*. [and I don't know what else.] 212. R6,9 billion in value.

†n AGB LID: Uit Woodstock uit.

[An HON MEMBER: From out of Woodstock.]

*†*Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Uit Woodstock uit, [The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Out of Woodstock,] right from here, but I think the hon members on that side of the House love data, they love analytics ...[Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Pak uit, pak uit.

[An HON MEMBER: Pack out, pack out.]

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...and they will love to know how many of that 212 were exported to the United States. They told me of the 212 that they exported last year, 124 were exported to the United States. [Interjections.] Yes, and so that is a real risk, and I was accompanied by the then Deputy Minister Andrew Whitfield, and we asked some questions. When we left we said this company is a R6,9 billion export business, “What is your advice to politicians on that side of the House and on this side of the House?” Their advice is, and in fact I incorporated it in our strategy. They said, “Keep the political temperature low.”

In other words do not make statements like some political parties, I will not mention them. So do not make such statements, because you create further unemployment, because a reduction by 5% in exports will lead to job losses of 22 900. So keep the political temperature low, because you know that your temperature, if it increased in Washington, it has an effect that it can lose great jobs. So political temperature must be kept low.

Lastly I think it is also important to increase our economic diplomacy, which we have been doing all the time, and this, for us, is very important, but the question is also in the meantime the National Minister, whom I have met, and

together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, they have also put a package together, because that is the question, “What is happening?” We work with the National Government, because this is a concurrent function.

So we appreciate the five key elements of this strategy, namely to secure a deal and reduce the tariffs. Also to look at alternative markets, very important, because we are, in fact today 58% of South Africa's primary agricultural products come from the Western Cape. I think the hon member, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, will appreciate that last year, in 2024, South Africa – we speak about data and analytics, so let us go there.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] governance.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: This is good governance, and so we have decided to look at what the data says, and, hon member Nkondlo, I know you love data.

Last year South Africa's agricultural export, South Africa's agricultural exports, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, it was – this is very important stuff. Last year South Africa's agricultural exports, not only Western Cape, South Africa, R13,7 billion for agriculture. I think it is significant. It is the highest ever in the history of South Africa that we have had that agricultural exports, and so, hon Deputy Speaker, it is not so easy to just simply say, “Let us get additional markets,” but this Government is committed – I am in conversations with the hon Premier – also to look at further strategies in

terms of engagements through economic diplomacy, but I know that this hon members of this House like data and analytics, and here is the analytics that hon member here will appreciate.

96% of all the products that South Africa exports all over the world, 96% are free from tariffs.

So that is why on 9 May I went to Pretoria to attend the EU National Day. Dr Sandra Kramer, to meet – not yet, later.

So it is important that we engage with the European Union, because 96% of the products are free from tariffs, and so we need to understand the geopolitics, we need to understand our biggest trading markets, we need to understand that the situation in the United States is very complex, but we also need to know that the biggest investments into South Africa come from the European Union, and the 26 member states, we are engaging them on a regular basis.

So, hon members, this will drive economic growth through exports, but also through investments. That is why I went to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange two weeks ago to table at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange the Western Cape Investment Summit.

Our targets are clear. I want R1 billion investments to track it, but I want R70 billion by 2030, and I want R200 billion investments by the year 2035.

We are serious. This is a government that believes in Growth for Jobs. That is our apex priority.

Speaking about our apex priority, the apex priority says get investment, foreign direct investment, very important, very significant. Hence our Investment Summit that will take place on 5 and 6 November.

Following from that, we believe in growing our export potential. I have recently met with the Minister of Finance of Canada, and his surname will appeal to you, hon Deputy Speaker. His surname is Mr Champagne, which means we can already celebrate our [Interjections.] exports to Canada. He said to me, “Minister, Canada is now open for business, because I saw how the people take the wine off the shelves in Canada that comes from the United States. Those shelves are empty,” and the hon Premier said, “Minister, let us fill the shelves with wine from the Western Cape.”

So when I spoke to the Minister of Finance he said, “We are open for business,” and so I am so happy when we met him with the G20 Ministers of Finance meeting. He is quite a likeable guy and I think when we speak about Northern America, that is part of it.

So the wine region in America is from California, it is called the Napa Valley. The Napa Valley makes the best wine. You can ask hon member Dave Bryant. He knows, it tastes so nice.

An HON MEMBER: Not better than ours.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: So that wine is now no longer available in Canada, and so I had a meeting with Mr Rico Basson from the wine industry here, “How do we get that wine into the markets?” and there will be a delegation to visit that particular area.

So this is the reality that we face. Tariffs are very fluid. The situation is when you do business you want predictability in the system. The current approach of the White House is unpredictability. The White House is transactional, they only believe talking to business people, and so for us this is a real issue, but we believe that our strength as South Africa lies not in panicking, but in consolidating the situation, and unlike the Opposition on that side of the House, where there is little brainpower, little intellect, the data, the science and the research is guiding this side of the House. That is why we speak about evidence-based data-led governance. This is a matter that is so important because it affects jobs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I seat the hon member Stoffel.

†Me B STOFFEL (ANC): Met alle respek, agb Adjunkspeaker, [Ms B STOFFEL (ANC): With all respect, hon Deputy Speaker,] can he withdraw that statement? That little brains [Inaudible.]. †Dit is totaal en al

onaanvaarbaar, asseblief. [It is totally unacceptable, please.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, in terms of that particular comment made, in terms of ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Sorry, if there is a comment ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...referring to the intelligence of members in this House. I think it is that one. I would not want to repeat or get it wrong ...[Interjections.]

Ms B STOFFEL (ANC): Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...but are you willing to withdraw that statement?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I am willing to withdraw it if I refer to any specific hon member, which I did not.

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

Ms B STOFFEL (ANC): Can he withdraw it unconditionally?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the hon Minister – in the spirit of

maintaining order, there was no direct name of any particular hon member.

So, hon Minister, the clock is ticking, please continue.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon member, I think this is an important matter in terms of the tariff situation. We know that everything is happening with the trading partners in the US, in the UK, Europe. These are important trading partners. We know that some years about 77% of foreign direct investment came from these particular regions, but the world is now experiencing global geopolitical tensions, but I am sure that these matters will also be discussed with our GNU partners, because both manufacturing and agriculture, and particularly the automotive industry, is severely affected, particularly from the Eastern Cape, and we need to find a solution and work together in this particular regard.

This matter, hon Deputy Speaker, we looked at the history of trades and tariffs from the United States. This is not something that comes from this time or even from 2016, this thing comes from the 18th century tariffs in the United States. From the 18th century you see a pattern of these trade tariffs and we can show you all the data from that particular period.

So, hon member Noko Masipa, you are therefore correct ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat?

Hon member Benson Ngqentsu, is that a point of order?

Mr B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Chair, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MEC refers to the hon members on the other side. Now by implication he was referring to the individual, to the collective opposition. For that reason that I affirm hon member Stoffel's point of order, and your ruling I think is really unfair and biased.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Benson. I have afforded the hon Minister an opportunity. There was no direct name. In the spirit of wanting to continue this important point that is on our agenda, I will allow the hon Minister to continue. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, 47s do not do justice to the big scale and scope and magnitude and depth of the situation. We need more time. I would appreciate if you give us more time, because this is a matter that affects the economy of the Western Cape, it affects our Growth for Jobs strategy, because the second pillar of the Growth for Jobs strategy is exports, export-led strategy, but given the time constraints I am happy and willing to come back to this House, once the Cabinet approves the export strategy and the diversification of the strategy, I am very happy.

Once my Cabinet colleagues support our export diversification strategy, I am quite happy to come back to this House, but given that my time is up and that you are a gentleman that likes to be punctual, I will therefore conclude.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. This is a House of order and we follow rules.

Hon members, we now proceed in terms of Rule 204, Questions to the Premier without Notice. I have been informed that we have already established the order and I now recognise the hon member Lithakong.

Hon member Lithakong, before you proceed, I see the hon member Sayed.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, again thank you, and I am glad the hon Premier is now present. I hope he could have heard what I said earlier about your removal from the Cabinet, it was ill-advised, but just let me – and I think he must listen to the Hansard, but let me just make a point, hon Deputy Speaker.

I am concerned. I know it was within the Rules and we respect the Rules, but within the spirit of democracy and engagement I think it was out of order for the hon MEC to take up all the time with his response. No opportunity for follow-ups, but thank you, I will sit now so that hon member Bosman does

not have to take up more time, so we can be done at the time he wants to be done. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That is not a direct point of order. I will see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I think you perhaps need to caution hon member Sayed and perhaps invite him to a Rules Committee meeting, a workshopping on the Rules. We know in the previous Parliament he struggled with the Rules. He was educated then by the now Minister of Finance ...[Interjections.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...and perhaps [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...that is also – thank you. Hon members, we will now proceed. The hon Premier is in the House. Is it a new point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, no, no, my point of order is to protect my friend, our mutual friend, the hon MEC of Finance. She was sitting there in the corner, focused on her work. The Chief Whip must not bring her into this particular discussion. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All hon members are duly protected in this House.

Hon member Lithakong, are you ready? As soon as I can hear your voice we will start the time.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): I am now confused, hon Deputy Speaker. Where are we, because everyone is talking?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lithakong, before we proceed with the time, we are in terms of Rule 204, Questions to the Premier without Notice. The Rules also allow for two follow-ups by the hon member posing the initial question. So it will be you and then you will have two follow-ups. Are you ready?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Yes, hon House Chair. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon member.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thanks, hon House Chair. Greetings to you, the House at large.

Somlomo, hon Premier, on your State of the Province Address for 2025 ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lithakong?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Yes?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order, I will stop the time. Hon Minister, are you able to raise your point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. We have positions in this House and the hon member Lithakong has just called you a House Chair. That is an incorrect position. You were elected by this House and you are the Deputy Speaker of the House. Can you just please make an order? Are you now the House Chair or are you the Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, in terms of our Constitution and designated titles, allow me to once again remind hon members that it is the honourable thing to refer to the hon member in the relevant designate that they are either elected or appointed. I am totally comfortable with people calling me anything, but we have Rules and there is a designation that is either by election or by appointment. Hon member Sayed, a new point of order?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): The hon Premier ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Let me, let me also, through you, thank the hon Minister Meyer. I can see he is back with a great sense of enthusiasm. I am sure he has had a rethink on his attitude towards China and Taiwan also, because I can see he is very excited [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. Hon members, we are not going to prolong or waste any further time. I see the hon member Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): The hon Premier on his State of the Province Address of 2025, while touching on the issue of education and the province and its challenges, he never even with a single word as the leader of this province, mentioned challenges regarding racism in our schools as a challenge and matter of ongoing concern, despite the result that transpired last year at Pinelands High School, where Black learners were depicted being sold as slaves. Thank you, *Somlomo*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I am not exactly sure what the question is there that I did not refer to anything, but obviously I do take note of the ruling that came out from the Human Rights Commission that found against the EFF, and, you know, I mean that is really relevant, but I also want to say that obviously, we must condemn racism wherever it raises its head; at school level, in the workplace, in civil society, wherever it does. We must condemn it absolutely. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lithakong, you have two follow-ups. Are you going to take ...[Interjections.]

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, *Somlomo*. So, hon Premier, as the head of government in the Western Cape, what steps did you take to attend or address the latest racism incident that took place in York High School in George a few days ago, or any other schools in the province where racism is rampant, since the hon MEC for Education and the Head of Department remained not useful on that subject matter? Thank you, *Somlomo*.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Can I ask the hon member to please forward me the details and I will obviously have a look at those and then inform her of what my actions will be if necessary. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lithakong, the hon Premier has given an undertaking. Do you have a final follow-up?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): No, *Somlomo*, I am fine. I will forward the details to the hon Premier. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Lithakong. I now recognise the hon member Petrus.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you. Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you. Good afternoon, hon Premier and colleagues.

How does the policies of the Western Cape Government help to secure the

safety of passengers using public transport like the GoGeorge buses against violent attacks?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Petrus. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Obviously, you know, any violence that happens in this province, they will be covered in various spaces from a policy point of view, but if there is a specific case on one of the public transport offerings, as we have just heard in the House today, in the minibus taxi space, we have certain areas that we can intervene in, and we also work very closely with the South African Police Service, specifically when there is violence in public transport.

So in the discussions that hon Minister Sileku had with law enforcement and SAPS, they used their powers to close the rank while the hon Minister was going through the process with the taxi industry themselves, and also using the powers that he has within our own laws and regulations and the policies that underpin those that enable him to also close routes, etcetera, to deal with whatever the issue is.

So if there is an issue, obviously there are various layers on how that would be dealt with. Obviously if one individual commits a crime against another, there would be an immediate process of laying a charge with the police, but of course at the same time, because the Province has a role to play in specifically public transport and the GoGeorge specifically, then that would

obviously have to be raised with the hon Minister himself, and then we would then act accordingly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Petrus, do you have a follow-up?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, hon Premier.

Apart from a few vouchers, food parcels and counselling sessions, why did your Government, George Municipality and GoGeorge, never intervene to help the burnt victims who are seriously affected and injured in the petrol bomb attack on 1 March 2023?

The PREMIER: I am very sorry, I am not actually able to answer that. I am not sure where the food parcels came from, or how that was affected, or what the Municipality did, or what our province did, but I am very happy to give the hon member a detailed answer on that question, will he just submit it to me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Petrus, the hon Premier has undertaken for you to provide the relevant information. Do you have a final follow up?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I welcome the response.

Hon Premier, are you willing to make a commitment between yourself,

George Municipality and GoGeorge, that will ensure that justice be done to the victims of the GoGeorge petrol bomb attack, taking into account the victims' charter and the Batho Pele principles?

The PREMIER: I think that the only commitment I can make would be on behalf of myself and post any kind of investigation from this Government. I am not able to make a commitment on behalf of an entity, or on behalf of another sphere of government, but I think in the same point that once he has submitted the detail to me I will apply my mind, if I need to ask legal advice on it, and then we will obviously follow through with the consequences that are relevant to the findings once I have that information.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. We proceed to the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition. I recognise the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, my question arises from last week.

Last week, I was fortunate to be watching on the virtual platform the debate, and I invited my community to watch with me, because the topic was on the housing backlog, a matter that is always a pertinent question in my community when I go home as to how do you address it? As a member do you raise the issues? Even today I have asked them to tune in, because all the follow-up questions they were asking, I said, "I have opportunity today to ask the hon Premier."

Now listening right through the whole debate, something that lacked was to hear what is the plan with regards to the backlog? There is a backlog here in the Western Cape, how is the hon Premier intending to address that backlog?

When can people say that, “Okay, the DA was – in their inputs...” – *ag*, the Good Party, in their inputs they were saying we have about 600 and something, 665 000 houses of backlog and it will take a certain amount of years for that backlog to be addressed, but now as we speak people do not have homes. What is the plan to address that? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I am sure that as the hon member said, she was tuned in and she listened, and I also listened and the hon Minister gave a very substantial answer, and so my answer would be exactly the same thing. If you had listened to the hon Minister, that is the plan on how to deal with the backlog. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bans, your follow-up.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I think part of the reasons that I came back with a question was because of the attitude that one is picking up. It is that there is no urgency to address the issue. The appetite is not there. Although we are having our back and fourths, does the hon Premier know, for example, that currently as we speak, the backyard dwellers

in the past used to be when we are old, we cannot stay with our parents in our homes. Then, we must stay in the backyard.

But currently as we speak, in communities, the backyard dwellers are no longer that. There are different families that are staying now in †*hondehuise*. Hondehuise het nou tuiste geword, [doghouses. Doghouses have now become homes] and the appetite you get is that we are the best run Provincial Government. †Mense bly in hondehuise [People live in doghouses.] That is the reality. ...[Interjection.]

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans?

†Die HOOFSWEEP (ANC): Mense bly in ... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): People live in ...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Bans, I wish to remind you that in terms of the Rules, you can ask a follow-up question. You do not need to justify your question, just ask the question.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Can I rephrase it? Is the hon Premier aware that people are staying in doghouses as we speak?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Yes, I am fully aware of the backyard issue in our province. In actual fact, this Province is the only province in South Africa that actually has a plan for backyard dwellers. The only province, the only one in South Africa, number one and number two, the plan is to move to 30% of allocation of housing towards people in backyards. They must make sure they are on the housing waiting list to qualify.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Bans, your second follow-up question.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, in 2023, community activists demanded action from the hon Premier with regards to the same topic. What action has the hon Premier taken from 2023 from the community activists up until 2025 on the housing backlog?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. First of all, if the hon member had really listened to what the hon Simmers said, she would have received those answers. Secondly, I have spoken now to the only Province that deals with backyards. Go and have a look at any of the other provinces. Then thirdly, if you have a look at the systematic developments that have been announced and delivered on by hon Minister Simmers in the last five years, you would have noticed that there is a systematic town by town, municipality by

municipality difference in delivering housing to citizens. [Interjections.]

At the same time, the innovations around what we learned from the Conradie site in massification or bulk delivery of mixed-use development, which has now evolved into repeated announcements of inner-city and inner-town developments that are really making a difference to the housing backlog. It is absolutely unique and refreshing to see this kind of innovation taking place in real delivery to people where we are. Of course, we are the fastest growing province in South Africa. [Interjections.]

So, I suppose the most important thing if we really are to get ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon members ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Nkondlo, I am on the floor. Hon members, there has been a question posed to the hon Premier. The hon Premier is responding. If you do not like the response, there are other avenues that you can follow in terms of the Rules, but you cannot continue with this running commentary.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Then, he must stop lying then. He must stop!

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Order, order! [Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, the Table Staff: can I please ask that you mute all hon members on the hybrid system.

Before I recognise the hon Chief Whip, I want to address the fact that if you as hon members, when you choose to be part of the hybrid or be part of the Sitting using the hybrid system, you need to use the hand-raise functionality to draw my attention to a point of order. What has just happened is completely against the Rules in terms of Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. [Interjections.] Hon members, I am on the floor and the same respect that I provide or offer to you as hon members when you are on the floor, I expect the same when I am on the floor.

Interjections in terms of Rule 40, are not allowed for hon members participating of the Sitting on the hybrid system. You use the hand-raise functionality. So, the hon member that just unmuted herself: that is completely against the Rules, and I will make a considered ruling at the next Sitting.

Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the hon member who interjected and broke that Rule is also in violation of Rule 58, as well as Rule 59. I think for this Sitting, we have to insist that the hon member must withdraw that comment.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, what is the comment?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): The hon Windvogel said, 'he is lying', referring to the hon Premier saying that the hon Premier is lying.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am not going to entertain ...[Interjections.] Is that a point of order on a point of order, or is that a new point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, I think you have made a ruling, and we heard the ruling. The addition on your ruling when you are done making a ruling, it is unacceptable.

The SPEAKER: No, that is a different ...[Interjections.] Order! That is a different point of order. Hon Chief Whip, I hear your point of order and that is not a point of order, and that is my ruling. Hon Chief Whip, is that a new point of order? Referring to an hon member and saying the hon member is lying, is not against the Rules. Deliberately misleading, is against the Rules. I want to caution hon members, however, that if you ...[Interjections.] Order! I want to caution hon members that if you are casting aspersions on the integrity of an hon member, then that is against the Rules. Hon Chief Whip, what is your point of order? With that being said, hon Premier, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and of course, if the hon member is really keen on getting the full data on these questions, then put a proper written question in and we will give chapter and verse. While the to-and-fro

was happening, if you just Google ‘backyard dwellers Western Cape plan’ you will get a very detailed plan in the system and of course, that would be given as an answer.

But just randomly, if you have a look at Cape Agulhas, 50% of that housing programme is for backyard dwellers. If you look at Vredendal, 25% of the latest housing development is for backyard dwellers. Forest Village, 30% and so it goes on, hon Speaker. So, of course, they are in this province and taken into account. We understand the backlog, and we have got to make sure that one by one, we undo this legacy.

In addition to that, the hon Minister also has a programme specifically in rural municipalities that makes provision for farmworkers in exactly the same way. But thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise ...[Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, are ...[Interjections.] Hon members, have you finished your dialogue now across the floor, while the citizens of this province are watching you, that voted you into office to represent their interests and not your own interests? Are we done? Can I continue? With four minutes left on Questions to the Premier without Notice, I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. My question to the hon Premier is what is the Provincial Government’s response to the South

African Police Service's recent acknowledgement of a staff in crisis within its detective service, evidenced by the re-recruitment of former detectives; and what assessment has been made out of the impact of ongoing vacancies and public safety outcomes in the province. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, to the hon Van Minnen for that question. I actually thought I was going to get this question from the ANC but thank you very much for the question.

It happens to be that the South African Police Service came and reported to the Provincial Cabinet yesterday and I brought along the report that they gave us. Because we have ongoing crime growth, we have ongoing reduction in police numbers, in police officer numbers, we are now sitting at just under 13 000 active police men and women in our province.

You know, when I became the Premier in 2019, we had just under 20 000 active police officers in our province. The resourcing is absolutely shocking, and you speak specifically of the announcement made that we have got some extra detectives pulled in, pulled out of retirement. I support that one hundred percent because at least that is bringing some skills back into the system where we cannot get the convictions. I mean, what use were the arrests in the first place?

But we in South Africa, in a detective space, we have 8 400 detectives short in South Africa. In our province, we have 902 vacancies when it comes to detectives. So, of course, we are not going to get the convictions. I told you about the active police officers in the system. If I go to just the budget spend and how it is below inflation rate every single year, SAPS's budget nationally, it really is a tragedy.

I look at that in contrast to the City's budget which we know now that the average is 4,9% over years now for police. It is 34% increase from the City in crime fighting, trying to use local authority money and law enforcement regulation to try and fill that gap. But, of course, we need much, much more than that. So, it is a huge, huge problem and you know, the arrests, even the arrests. I looked at some of the numbers, there are some really impressive numbers when it comes to arrests, but then it does not help that people are just back on the street again and go and create or do exactly the same crimes over and again because we need the conviction.

So, your point about those extra members being brought in: we absolutely support it. In actual fact, I have just had a reply on my message now from Minister Cachalia because I have asked him, please, we really urgently need a meeting in the Western Cape. So, we are due to have a phone call straight after this Sitting and we will push for more numbers in policing.
...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Van Minnen, your first follow-

up.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much. My question is: is the hon Premier aware what the current average case load per detective in the province is?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: The actual numbers, I actually repeated those numbers last week in the Sitting, but we know that the average should be 60 cases, which is a global norm, per investigator. Then, if you go into the actual numbers, depending on the policing precinct, it sometimes goes up to 300 and 400 cases, and sometimes, under 500 cases per investigator. Do you know where they are the highest? Where crime is the highest.

So, they do not get the resources where it is really necessary, where we have debates in the House about crime and our children being shot at. Go and have a look at the resources in those specific gang related places, taxi violence spaces and extortion spaces. That is where you will see those investigators are under such pressure with hundreds of cases each. You cannot expect to get convictions if that is the kind of system that we have in place.

We need to drastically change that. We need to drastically push resources into the areas where crime is the highest. Data and evidence are how you should fight criminals, and we need to make sure we get that right when it comes to the South African Police Service.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that also brings us to the end of Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145. I recognise the DA.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Die kunste en kultuur is meer as net 'n buitemuurse aktiwiteit. Dit is deel van onderrig, welstand, toerisme en maatskaplike en ekonomiese ontwikkeling. Dit is deel van sosiale kohesie. Dit vorm en bou ons gemeenskappe. Dit alles sluit aan by die doel van die Kunstekaap Hoërskool Dramafees wat in samewerking met die Suidoosterfees weer onlangs met tien skole van reg oor die Wes-Kaap met sukses aangebied is.

Die platform bied skoolleerders die geleentheid om hul kreatiwiteit, opinies en onderwerpe wat vir hulle belangrik is, te deel. Deur deel te neem, ervaar die leerders die teater in sy volle glorie met ligte, klank en aksie. Die skoolleerders leer ook hoe belangrik dissipline is vir 'n kunstenaar en kry die

geleentheid om te groei, om gehoor te word en deel te wees van inspirasie.

Aan elke opvoeder en leerder wie betrokke was by vanjaar se produksies en dié wie al begin werk het aan 2026, dankie vir jou toewyding, opoffering, deursettingsvermoë en kreatiwiteit. Dankie, agb Speaker.

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The arts and culture are more than just extra-mural activity. It is part of education, wellbeing, tourism and social and economic development. It is part of social cohesion. It forms and builds our communities. It all links to the goal of the Kunstekaap Hoërskool Dramafees that was recently successfully presented in cooperation with the Suidoosterfees with ten schools all over the Western Cape.

The platform offers learners the opportunity to share their creativity, opinions and subjects that are important to them. By participating, learners experience the theatre in its full glory with lights, sound and action. The learners also learn how important discipline is for an artist and therefore gets the opportunity to grow, to be heard and be part of inspiration.

To each educator and learner who had been involved in this year's productions and those who had already begun to work on 2026, thank you for your commitment, sacrifice, determination and creativity. Thank you, hon Speaker.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Today, I rise to confront the DA-led City of Cape Town's newly austerity offensive against persons living with disabilities following his decision to cut the budget for the Dial-a-Ride service. For all to know, this service was established long before the DA took control of the City. It has been a lifeline for thousands of people with disabilities.

Hon Speaker, the DA's decision to reduce its funding is not only socially and economically irresponsible; it is an outright attack on one of the most vulnerable sectors of our society. Hon Speaker, the claim that a letter was written to the hon Minister of Social Development is nothing, but more than a deflection. The DA knows very well that funding requests must follow due process, a true Provincial Department of Social Development. This is a case of political scapegoating, rather than taking responsibility.

The Dial-a-Ride service is not a matter of welfare, it is a matter of mobility, rights and dignity. For this reason, we argue that the Department of Mobility must take full responsibility to ensure the continuation and expansion of this service. We call on all disability organisations to unite and form a broad front to resist this austerity attack. We further call on the people of Cape Town who stand in solidarity with persons living with disabilities and to rise against this new liberal assault by the DA Government. I thank you.

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to reflect on the tragic loss of Constable Courtlin Lakay, a young man of only 23 years old, who was brutally stabbed to death in the early hours of Sunday morning on Gaba Road, Kwa-Mandlenkosi, Beaufort West. Two suspects, aged 15 and 20, have been arrested and remain in custody awaiting their day in court, once officially charged. While justice must take its course, I cannot ignore the most troubling fact before us. A 15-year-old child was out at such an hour of the night, in a place of entertainment where they should never have been in the first place.

Hon Speaker, this tragedy forces us to confront an uncomfortable truth. Our children are increasingly being drawn into lives of violence, crime and reckless behaviour at alarming young ages. As a parent myself, I find myself asking difficult questions: where was the supervision? Where was the guidance and most importantly, how do we as a society, allow this to continue?

I want to extend my deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Constable Lakay. May they find strength in this painful time, and may his memory remind us of all of the dangers our youth are facing. But condolences alone are not enough. As the community of Beaufort West and, indeed, as South Africans, we need to take back our communities. We need to return to being the village that raises every child, whether they are our biological children or not. Protecting the next generation is not the duty of

parents alone. It is the responsibility of all of us. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Constable, can you please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): If we are to build a safer and brighter future it must start with us in our homes, in our schools, in our communities. Let us stand together to protect our children. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): This year's annual BFAP report has confirmed the importance of Wesgro's Growth for Jobs strategy in building a resilient export-led economy for the Western Cape. The report showed that Global One consumption declined by 3,3% year-on-year, dropping to 21,3 billion litres in 2024. The lowest level in almost 65 years. South African also experienced a 2,8% decline falling to 456 million litres, driven by inflation, rising costs and long-term shifts in consumer behaviour.

In response, the industry noted that South African's trends lie in its diversity, expertise and innovation, with producers increasingly elevating bulk wine into premium offerings. However, to fully unlock this potential, Government must provide an enabling environment, something the corrupt ANC has been sleeping on for 30 years. ANC, you have missed your alarm. Stop sleeping! It is time to wake up.

We need regulatory certainty, efficient ports and a reliable transport system. Faster turnaround times at ports and stronger logistics will lower costs and boost competitiveness. At the same time, trade agreements, tariff reductions and proactive diplomatic engagements are so vital to opening higher value markets for local producers.

What the industry further highlighted is the urgent need for policy clarity on excess duties, labour regulations and water rights to encourage sustained investment in quality. May I also add that we are tired of the corruption of the ANC.

In the context of the 30% US tariffs, it is more critical than ever to deepen economic resilience through investor summits and Wesgro's global reach to help find new markets and grow their premier presence worldwide. By partnering with the private sector on port operations and combining trade promotion with ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...regulated stability, Wesgro and G4J will strengthen our economy, insulate it from external shocks and ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Please take your seat.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...and export-led growth. Thank you, hon Speaker.
...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon ...[Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, hon members! You do not have to agree with the statements being delivered, but you cannot drown out the speakers on the floor! I also wish to draw your attention, hon members. There is a digital clock on the screens in front of you for you to be reminded of your time in terms of the Rules. I recognise the EFF.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the EFF would like to take this opportunity and call for action to be taken following racism incidents that took place across three different schools in the Western Cape in the past week. This follows events that took place at York High School in George, Knysna High and Diazville High School in Saldanha Bay where racial slurs were used to address Black learners.

Hon Speaker, the fact that these incidents took place within a space of a week and were reported in different parts of the province, is a testament that it is a problem recurring and that needs urgent attention and appears to be at the tip of the iceberg. Hon Speaker, the majority of these similar incidents are handled quietly and kept secret by those running those schools, where the victims of these acts remain quiet due to fear of reprisal. It is for these reasons why most of the victims will only narrate their racist experience once they have later completed their studies in these schools.

Hon Speaker, despite last year's incident that took place in Pinelands High School where Black learners were placed in a cage ready to be shipped out on a slavery market and other similar incidents in the Western Cape, the hon Premier of this Province did not see it fit during his SOPA to address these issues as a crisis in our schools and which is in need of urgent attention.

Hon Speaker, the EFF calls for a uniform code which will govern the Western Cape schools on the subject of racism and calls for the Provincial Education Department to institutionalise programmes across all schools in this province aimed at raising awareness on the issue of racism in schools and the dangers of racism and its repercussions. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey by Stats SA paints a worrying picture for the Western Cape under the DA Government's so-called Jobs for Growth strategy. Far from delivering jobs, this province has suffered a blow to employment. In Quarter 1 of 2025, the unemployment rate in the Western Cape stood at 19,6%. In the latest Quarter 2 report it has climbed to 21,1%, a 1,5% increase. That means 117 000 jobs were lost in this province in just one quarter, making the Western Cape the third highest in job losses after Limpopo. The expanded unemployment rate now sits at 27%.

What makes this even more alarming is that the Western Cape is an agricultural hub. Stats SA's 2023 Annual Agricultural Survey confirmed that our province employs 25,5% of all agricultural workers in the country. The highest share followed by Limpopo at 13,4%. Yet, in this past Quarter, the agricultural sector had shed 24 000 jobs. That is a 2,6% decline. While Gauteng recorded an increase of 95 000 jobs, the Eastern Cape 89 000 and even Limpopo at 27 000, the Western Cape stands out for the wrong reasons, sliding backwards from a gain of 69 000 jobs in Quarter 2 of 2024 to a loss of 117 000 Quarter 2 of 2025 at 59%.

When the DA launched its so-called Growth for Jobs strategy in 2023, it promised to create over 600 000 jobs by 2035 with hon Premier Winde even pledging 800 000 job opportunities in the next few years. Remember making that promise in Athlone, hon Premier Winde. Yet today, instead of jobs created, the Western Cape has lost 117 000 jobs in just the last Quarter. This is not Jobs for Growth. It is jobs lost under DA mismanagement. The global context cannot be ignored. The United States' proposed debt tariffs on citrus imports and uncertainty over other trade deals posed a direct threat to jobs, especially in the agricultural sector. Thank you.

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

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Speaker, our schools are under serious financial strain, and this crisis is threatening the quality of education across the country. The challenge is simple. Almost all the growth in Education

budgets over the past three years has gone into salaries, leaving less and less for the things that matter most in the classroom.

Today, nearly 80% of provincial Education budgets go to employee compensation, up from 76% just a few years ago. In some provinces like KwaZulu-Natal, that figure is as high as 83%. This means only 17% of budgets remain for essentials such as textbooks, learning materials, scholar transport, school meals and IT services.

To put this into perspective, while overall Education spending grew by about 4,6% per year since 2022, inflation has eaten up most of that and salary agreements have outpaced everything else. As a result, goods and services budgets have barely grown at all and in some provinces like Gauteng, they have even declined. The consequences are clear: overcrowded classrooms, outdated resources and schools that cannot invest in infrastructure or modern teaching tools. We cannot allow this trend to continue.

Hon Speaker, we urgently need to rethink how our Education funds are being structured. Yes, teachers deserve fair salaries, but not at the cost of learner resources. We need sustainable models that protect classroom quality, improve efficiency and ultimately, focus on better learning outcomes for our children. Without this, we risk an education system that simply cannot deliver for the future. Thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to

the hon member.] I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Agb Speaker, namens die Vryheidsfront Plus, beoog ek om 'n mosie ter tafel te lê teen die volgende Sitting en dit sal lees om 'n ordelike verstedelikingsplan vir die Wes-Kaap te debatteer. [Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus, I intend to table a motion by the next Sitting and it will read to debate for an orderly urbanisation plan for the Western Cape.] In English: it will call that this House debates for an urgent need for an orderly urbanisation plan for the Western Cape within the confines of the National Constitution, and that it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Western Cape, and our continued long-term economic stability and development.

Migration is a worldwide phenomenon. It can be advantageous, but if not orderly, it can have disastrous negative effects on South Africa's economic Hong Kong, namely the Western Cape Province. We need to have a futuristic view of the Western Cape and not lose total control of what is happening to our beloved province. I thank you.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, for decades our communities in Cape Town have lived under the grip of gangsterism. Families are trapped in fear. Local businesses are

destroyed, and lives are lost daily to senseless gun violence. In many of our townships, gangsters have become the rulers while ordinary people suffer. Gangsterism is not only a crime problem; it is a social injustice. The local municipality has failed our youth. The Expanded Public Works Programme is not enough. It does not create permanent, decent employment with opportunities. Our young people are vulnerable to gang recruitment, instead of building a future of dignity.

Hon Speaker, Islam teaches us that the sanctity of life is sacred, and all faith traditions remind us of our duty to protect the vulnerable. That is why Government, civil society and religious leaders must work together to address the root causes. The neglected state of township infrastructure continues to be a breeding ground for gangsterism, and this cannot continue. We must also ask why is it that whenever PAGAD marches in a crime-ridden area, police deployment suddenly triples. Yet, in our daily reality where shootings happen, every night our people are left unprotected. Why can that same level of policing not be permanent in high-risk areas? I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, earlier this year, 23 South Africans were rescued from Myanmar. They arrived back in South Africa on 27 March 2025. It is alleged that they were victims of human trafficking. They were lured to Thailand by an employment agency that promised lucrative job offers. These offers were advertised on

various social media platforms. Through the adverts, the victims were promised good salaries, free accommodation and paid travel expenses.

However, once they arrived in Thailand they were taken against their will to Myanmar. There, they were subjected to physical torture and forced labour. They were intimidated and received brutal treatment.

Hon Speaker, human trafficking is morally wrong and evil. It robs people of their dignity and plunges them into despair. People, like we know, can be trafficked for sex enslavement, child labour or even the sale of body organs. They can be forced into marriage, illegal adoption and so on, and so on. But hon Speaker, the plea of the ACDP calls especially on young people to take great care before accepting international job offers. We urge young people, when it comes to international job offers, to please verify it before taking the plunge to go overseas. I thank you.

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

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape is deeply concerned about the recent surge in taxi violence that continues to endanger commuters, operators in our communities. This violence has already claimed too many lives, disrupted schooling and work attendance, and undermines confidence in our public transport system. As an immediate intervention, the DA in the Western Cape will be calling for a joint meeting of the Standing Committee on Police Oversight and Community

Safety, and Mobility.

At this meeting, we will invite the hon Provincial Minister of Mobility, the National Police Commissioner and the Western Cape Provincial Police Commissioner to discuss urgent coordinated interventions to stabilise the situation. Hon Speaker, the safety of communities, especially commuters, must be our top priority. The DA in the Western Cape condemns these acts of violence in the strongest terms and we call for immediate action to reduce incidents in this vital industry. The people of the Western Cape deserve safe, reliable transport and a secure environment. I thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon member.] Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish. I recognise the hon Minister of Mobility, hon Minister Sileku.

†Die MINISTER VAN MOBILITEIT: Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Somtyds, agb Speaker, moet ons nou nie politiek speel waar daar nie politiek van toepassing is nie. [The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Speaker. Sometimes, hon Speaker, we must not play politics where there is no politics applicable.] And I think we need to understand the service of Dial-a-Ride.

It is a specialised service which is not being supported by any national grant.

It is currently funded from ratepayers of the City of Cape Town and we, as the Department of Mobility, have been funding it for about R10 million every year. It is a specialised service and there has been a deficit of about R1 million for the last 12 years.

So, but I also need to share with the House. I had a conversation with my counterpart from the side of the City of Cape Town and everybody that is affected, organisations, they had a meeting with Councillor Quintas where he explained the financial implication of this service. They came to a conclusion saying that they are going to look at other avenues on how we can co-fund the shortage so that the service can continue because the service is critical and there is a need for that particular service.

But currently, if you look in our country, financially there are financial constraints and we are not immune from that. But we are working with the affected parties and the politicians need to get the facts instead of trying to use any opportunity to score political points.

In closure, hon Speaker, I need to share with the House that the Court actually gave us the interim interdict, which is a step in the right direction. It will help us as Mobility to make sure that there is stability in the minibus taxi industry. Thank you very much. ...[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister, hon Minister Sileku. I recognise the hon Minister ...[Interjections.] Order! I recognise

the hon Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I wish to give the House the assurance that on the matters raised in respect of schools that these matters, and they are serious matters, are being investigated by our school governing bodies. I think the House should note that at least one Opposition party in respect of one of the schools, complimented the school on the swift action that they had taken. I wish to give all hon members of the House the further assurance that we will not tolerate racism in schools in the Western Cape. Thank you.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb Minister. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon Minister.] Are there any further? I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you. There are a few minutes left, so I must respond to the hon Nkondlo raising issues around jobs numbers and the Growth for Jobs plan. It is great, we need to have a strong debate on this, but I mean, we also need to be upfront with the data. Sure, we have seen seasonality in our region kicking in. We have had a whole long debate today and a discussion on question time, around the implication of tariffs.

But what the hon member forgot to put in place or remind this House of when looking at the data and the statistics from our data that we received on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, was that this province is 69 000 jobs up on

where we were at this time last year. Bearing in mind, last year would have also had seasonality. We are still at a 21,1% unemployment rate versus South Africa under the rest of the ANC rule, at 33,2%. That is a 12,1% difference between this province and the rest of the ANC-run South Africa.

We have the highest participation rate in the economy at 67,9%. The highest in South Africa. Job absorption rate: the highest in South Africa at 53%. That is 13% better than the engine room of our economy called Gauteng. Gauteng is only at 40,2%. The engine room of our economy run by the ANC, totally failing everyone in our country. Totally unacceptable!

So quite frankly, we need to get Growth for Jobs right. We should actually all be working together on this and in actual fact, the most important place to work are those provinces where it is totally dismally failing. That is why this province will work with other provinces that are prepared to work with us.

We have had a great session with the Province of KwaZulu-Natal in a two-day workshop of how we are going to work together to get much better outcomes in our province and their province. That is how we actually make South Africa a better place. Not the kind of statement that the hon Nkondlo puts on the table and carries on with verbal, I was going to say the 'D' word, but just verbal commentary running through on and on and on and on and on. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: And that brings us to the end ...[Interjections.] Order. Hon members, hon members! Can I please ask that the Chief Whips please assist me because I have been asking for the entire day, that hon members please adhere to the Rules. Interjections are allowed. Running commentary and drowning out the speaker is not allowed. Hon members, we still have two sessions on the Order Paper that we need to get through. Two sections. So, can I please ask that the Chief Whips assist me to ensure that we get through the Order Paper. That brings us to the end of Members Statements.

MOTIONS

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

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

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

That the House debates the recent surge of shootings in the Western Cape and holds the South African Police Service and the Parole Board accountable for failing to protect citizens.

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

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

That the House debates the impact of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) being classified as a Schedule 5 grant rather than Schedule 4, and how this affects the timely disbursement of funds to farmers during critical planting seasons.

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

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

That the House debates the recent decision by the City of Cape Town to reduce the scope of the Dial-a-Ride transport services, and the impact this downscaling will have on persons with disabilities.

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

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

That the House debates the high number of protection order applications in the Western Cape, which recorded the second-highest figures nationally in the 2024/2025 financial year.

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

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

That the House debates the rising and deeply concerning incidents of taxi-related violence and shootings in the Western Cape, which have resulted in the loss of lives and placed commuters in constant danger.

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

The SPEAKER: We now move onto Motions Without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of the Standing Rule pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 26 August 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that at the Programming Authority meeting of 26 August 2025, political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the

Programming Authority as follows: hon G Brinkhuis, hon M K Sayed, hon A P Bans, hon B Ngqentsu, hon P Z Lekker, hon B M Ngqentsu, hon M D Nkondlo, hon M K Sayed, hon B Ngqentsu, hon B Ngqentsu, hon B Ngqentsu, hon N P Masipa, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon P Johnson, hon P Johnson, and hon Professor N Mbombo.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): I move without notice:

That the House recognises the release of a documentary, Christopher Truter, A child of 1976, which will have its first screening on 6 September 2025 at the Anglican Church Hall in Bonteheuwel; further recognises that 15-year-old Christopher Truter was brutally shot by an apartheid security branch officer on 25 August 1976 during the country-wide student uprisings; notes that Truter was a learner at the Arcadia High School at the time of his murder; further notes that he died six days after being shot in the head; acknowledges that the documentary, a Green Leaf Films production in association with the National Film and Video Foundation, was produced by local film producers and directors; further acknowledges that the documentary is based on the life of Christopher Truter and others killed during the anti-apartheid struggle; and congratulates the producers of the documentary.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with great sadness the tragic passing away of 22-month-old Amandla Ziqubu who lost her life at an unregistered Early Childhood Development Centre, Little Innocent Day Care Centre, in Goodwood; further notes that this devastating incident highlights the urgent need for stricter regulation, monitoring and enforcement of compliance in the ECD sector to ensure that the lives and safety of our children are not placed at risk; and extends its heartfelt condolences to the Ziqubu family and loved ones.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its deep sorrow at the tragic passing away of 24-year-old LEAP officer, Shaqeel Abrahams, of Philippi East who lost his life in a vehicle accident on the morning of Sunday, 17 August 2025, while returning from an anti-gang operation in Atlantis; notes with appreciation his courage and dedication as a young officer serving on the frontline against crime; recognises the immense sacrifice he made in the line of duty; extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues and loved ones; and pays tribute to his service to the people

of the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with great sadness the passing away of former Orlando Pirates and Ajax Cape Town soccer player, Tendai Ndoro; recognises his immense contribution to football both locally and internationally, where his talent, skill and dedication brought joy to countless fans and inspired many aspiring young players; extends deepest condolences to his family, friends, former teammates and the broader football community; and honours his legacy as a sportsman who left an indelible mark on the beautiful game.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House conveys its heartfelt condolences on the passing away of Comrade Sello Simon Moahloli, a dedicated member of the African National Congress and a stalwart of our movement; recognises his lifelong commitment to the struggle for freedom, justice and equality, and his contribution to the community of Mbekweni and beyond; notes that his passing away is not only a loss to his family and loved ones, but

also to the broader democratic movement and all those who cherished his wisdom, humility and unwavering dedication; extends our deepest sympathies to the Moahloli family and friends during this difficult time; and salutes Comrade Sello for a life well lived in service of the people. Hamba kahle, Comrade Sello!

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep sadness the tragic death of 11-year-old Esmine Franke who was killed by a stray bullet in a suspected gang-related shooting in Kraaifontein; further notes that this devastating loss of an innocent child highlights the ongoing scourge of gang violence that continues to terrorise our communities and rob young lives of their future; extends our heartfelt condolences to the Franke family and loved ones during this time of unbearable grief; and calls for urgent, coordinated interventions from all spheres of government to confront gang violence decisively and to ensure the safety and security of our children and communities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Rachel Mahommed of *Voice of the Cape* for being awarded the Best News Reader Award; recognises her professionalism, dedication and excellence in journalism, which has earned her this prestigious accolade and brought pride to the Western Cape; further acknowledges the important role of community media in strengthening democracy, informing citizens and amplifying voices that are often marginalised; and extends its warmest congratulations to Ms Mahommed and wishes her continued success in her broadcasting career.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates Ms Chantelle Carstens, a dedicated teacher at the Paarl School in Brackenfell, on receiving the Excellence in Special Needs Teaching Award at the 2025 Western Cape Provincial Teaching Awards; acknowledges her outstanding commitment to inclusive education and her tireless efforts in empowering learners with special needs to reach their full potential; further recognises that her achievement brings pride not only to her school community, but also to the teaching profession as a whole; and extends its warmest congratulations to Ms Carstens and wishes her continued success in her noble vocation.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates the players from the Western Cape who have progressed in their careers by signing contracts with PSL teams, including Asanele Velebhayi and Luke Baartman who have signed with Kaizer Chiefs, the biggest team and most successful team in the country, as well as Sivile Nkwali from Kuyasa in Khayelitsha who has signed with Stellenbosch FC; congratulates these young lads; and wishes them well on their careers.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep sadness the tragic passing away of 26-year-old Tharwah Bazier from Bonteheuwel who was shot and killed; condemns this senseless act of violence, which has once again robbed a young life and devastated a family and community; extends heartfelt condolences to the Bazier family, friends and loved ones during this time of sorrow; stands in solidarity with the people of Bonteheuwel who continue to face the trauma of violent crime; and further calls for urgent and sustained action to end the cycle of violence that plagues our communities and to ensure safer environments for all residents.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Professor Quinton Williams who rose from humble beginnings in Bishop Lavis to earn a full professorship in Linguistics at the University of the Western Cape (UWC); notes that his remarkable journey, from working at Shoprite and studying part-time to becoming one of UWC's leading scholars, exemplifies perseverance, excellence and the transformative power of education; notes with admiration his dedicated advocacy for historically marginalised languages, especially his mother tongue, Kaaps, and his pioneering work in language justice, including the creation of the first Trilingual Dictionary of Kaaps and bilingual Kaaps–English learning materials for schools; commends his commitment to rethinking multilingualism as a socio-political phenomenon and empowering speakers through 'linguistic citizenship'; and extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof Williams and wishes him continued success as he delivers his inaugural lecture on 25 August 2025, a milestone that marks the formal commencement of his full professorship.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Simamkele Tutsheni of Langa on being crowned the IBO Africa Junior-Featherweight Champion; notes that she remains undefeated, and that her hard work, discipline and determination have made her an inspiration to her city, her province and her country; recognises that her success highlights the talent and potential that exists in our communities when young people are given the opportunity to thrive; and celebrates her as a shining example of South African sporting excellence and a role model for the next generation of athletes.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House extends its sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of LEAP Officer Shakeel Abrahams who tragically lost his life in an accident while returning from an anti-gang unit operation; notes that, while Officer Abrahams did not lose his life in the direct line of duty, his passing remains a profound loss to the safety fraternity; and recognises the value of every hardworking officer in combating crime and maintaining public order in our province.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House extends its congratulations to the Metro Police K9 Unit, the handler and the Safety and Security Directorate for their outstanding work in recent drug busts and their ongoing contributions to keeping Cape Town safe; and formally recognises the exceptional service of by the unit and its commitment to enhanced support in order to strengthen their capacity in combating drug-related crime; and, further, proposes launching a comprehensive public awareness initiative to encourage anonymous tip-offs.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House warmly congratulates Zoë and Kendra Beresford on their selection to represent South Africa at the International Surf Rescue Challenge in New Zealand; commends their dedication, the sacrifices of their family, and the guidance of their coaches and club; further calls on our community to support not only their fundraising efforts, but also the many other local initiatives that uplift our youth and empower volunteers; and, finally, recognises and thanks all those whose work and service continue to make a positive difference in our community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the 1 918 newly trained police officers on completing their training and preparing to serve communities with integrity and dedication; recognises their placement at high-crime stations to strengthen frontline policing; and calls on the National Police Commissioner to fill outstanding vacancies urgently to further enhance safety across the province.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with appreciation the launch of the Guide to Investing in Education in the Western Cape, a joint initiative between Edu Invest and Wesgro, which provides a clear framework for private sector investors who wish to support education in the province; and welcomes this important step in strengthening partnerships between the Western Cape Government and the private sector, recognising that every investment in education is an investment in economic growth, job creation and a better future for our learners.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Ms Wedaad Esau of the Bergvliet Primary School in the Metro Central Education District on receiving the National Best Teacher Award at the Western Cape Teachers' Awards 2025, and for representing the province at the upcoming National Teachers' Awards; notes that Ms Esau consistently goes above and beyond for her learners and for student teachers, including Ms Dene Visser, an Education student at the University of the Western Cape, who praised her as exceptionally dedicated and inspiring; and recognises Ms Esau as a most deserving recipient of this prestigious honour.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, in partnership with the Western Cape Mobility Department and the Swellendam Taxi Association, on the successful launch of the free patient transport pilot service for Railton residents to the Swellendam Clinic; notes that this initiative ensures uninterrupted access to healthcare while the Railton Clinic is being rebuilt following the devastating fire in 2024; and commends all partners involved for prioritising the health and dignity of the Railton community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

Hon MEMBERS: No! No.

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

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

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Hon Speaker, thank you very much. I move without notice:

That this House strongly condemns the actions of the Mayor of the City of Cape Town, Geordin Hill-Lewis, for appointing his Chief of Staff, James-Brent Styan, to the Castle Control Board, an organ of state that governs and manages the Castle of Good Hope on behalf of the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans; that the House notes that this

appointment is nothing less than a blatant act of political patronage and cadre deployment, made not on the basis of expertise in heritage, culture, or tourism, but purely on the grounds of political loyalty and proximity to power. By choosing his right-hand man over a city councillor, who is an elected public representative, the Mayor has not only undermined the principles of accountability and transparency, but has also exposed the blatant hypocrisy of the DA, which continuously decries cadre deployment while quietly practicing it behind closed doors; that the House further notes that the Castle of Good Hope is a national heritage site of profound historical and cultural significance to the people of South Africa and must never be reduced to a playground for DA political insiders and loyalists. The Mayor's actions demonstrate a disturbing attempt to plant a political pawn in the Accounting Authority of the Castle, thereby threatening the integrity of this institution; that this House welcomes the Mayor's stated interest in the Castle and encourages him to visit, to engage, and support programmes that preserve and promote this historic site. However, the Mayor must immediately withdraw this inappropriate appointment and instead ensure that a duly elected councillor or an appropriately qualified representative with the requisite expertise in heritage, culture, and tourism is nominated to serve on the Castle Control Board; and that the House resolves that the DA's double standards on cadre deployment be exposed, and that all appointments to bodies of historical, cultural, and public significance be made on the basis of merit, accountability, and service to the people, not on political allegiance or loyalty. I so

move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Objections!

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

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes the recent announcement of the Western Cape Energy Resilience Plan by Premier Winde and welcomes, with caution, the intentions outlined therein. While the plan speaks to the urgent need to address the ongoing energy crisis that continues to strangle households, communities, and businesses, this House stresses that plans alone will not keep the lights on, what is required are clear timelines, transparent implementation, and measurable outcomes; that this House further welcomes the appointment of a former Eskom Executive member who was active here in the Western Cape, Mr Alwie Lester, to lead

aspects of this plan, recognising his experience and expertise, especially in the Western Cape. However, this House insists that his appointment must be accompanied by a clear mandate to ensure that the plan is people-centred, inclusive, and responsive to the lived realities of ordinary citizens across the province, especially those in historically disadvantaged and marginalised communities. That this House also calls for the plan to prioritise local economic beneficiation, ensuring that opportunities for skills development, job creation, enterprise support, and procurement are directed towards local communities, SMMEs, and cooperatives, rather than being captured by private interests or external contractors. The House demands that the hon Premier presents a clear and accountable timeline for the implementation of the Energy Resilience Plan, including regular progress reports to this Legislature through the Standing Committee of the hon Premier, so that the people of the Western Cape can judge for themselves whether this plan delivers real energy security or remains another political promise. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bans.

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

That the House extends ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Bans. I will now protect you.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor.

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

That the House extends its sincere condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Mathilda Bains; Ms Bains served as a Western Cape delegate to the National Council of Provinces; she was a valued and beloved member of our delegation, whose commitment to public service and tireless efforts in her oversight role, particularly in the social sector, earned her the respect of all who worked with her; her passing is a great loss not only to this institution but also to her constituency and the people of our province, whom she served with integrity and compassion. We honour her memory and express our gratitude for her years of service. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bans. For procedure, I am going to put it to the House, but I will also address that at the end of this Sitting.

Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objection, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bans.

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

That this House welcomes and commends the proactive and professional work of the South African Police Service's National Intervention Unit [NIU] in Gugulethu, Cape Town, where officers successfully traced and apprehended suspects involved in illegal firearm possession and related criminal activities. During operations at a property in NY4, the NIU confiscated an AK-47 rifle and ammunition concealed under a mattress, and arrested the suspect without any exchange of gunfire, ensuring the safety of the community; further notes that subsequent searches on Great Dutch Street led to the recovery of additional firearms and ammunition, with the second suspect also arrested and set to appear in the Athlone Magistrates Court. This operation demonstrates the effectiveness, discipline, and restraint of SAPS officers in ensuring that dangerous criminals are removed from our communities while minimizing risk to residents; and commends the NIU for their courage, diligence, and commitment to public safety, and calls on all law enforcement agencies to continue acting with the same professionalism and restraint in keeping the citizens of Cape Town safe. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

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

That the House expresses its deep concern over the alarming rise in attacks on social workers in the Western Cape, with 54 incidents reported since April 2024, including hijackings and intimidation, particularly in townships such as Khayelitsha, Mfuleni, Gugulethu, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga East, Philippi, Blue Downs, and Kleinvllei. These attacks have forced the Department of Social Development to implement safety measures, such as removing identifying information from government vehicles, advising social workers to travel in pairs, and recommending police escorts for high-risk areas, yet the threats continue leaving vulnerable communities without essential social services; that the House condemns in the strongest terms all acts of violence and intimidation against social workers and calls for immediate and decisive action by law enforcement agencies to investigate these attacks, apprehend the perpetrators, and ensure justice is served. Further, that this House urges the Department of Social Development to allocate sufficient resources to enhance the safety and security of social workers, including the provision of protective measures, risk assessments, and emergency support, while working closely with communities and law enforcement to develop long-term strategies that safeguard frontline

workers. Finally, that this House calls on all hon members of the Provincial Parliament to support these initiatives and to raise public awareness of the dangers faced by social workers, ensuring that their crucial work continues without the fear of attack. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

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

That this House expresses its grave concern over the recent escalation of taxi-related violence in Cape Town, which has resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries. On 26 August 2025, two individuals were shot dead and two others injured at the Macassar taxi rank, believed to be linked to ongoing conflicts between rival taxi associations, namely Codeta and CATA, over taxi disputes and fare disagreements. This follows earlier incidents on 25 August 2025, where two separate shootings occurred at the Vuyani taxi rank in Khayelitsha and the Luzuko taxi rank in Philippi East, leading to the death of two individuals and the injury of seven others; that this House condemns these acts of violence in the strongest terms and calls for immediate and decisive action from law enforcement agencies to apprehend those

responsible and restore peace to the affected communities; furthermore, that this House urges the relevant authorities to engage with all stakeholders in the taxi industry to address the underlying issues contributing to the violence, including fare disputes and route conflicts, and to implement measures to ensure the safety of both commuters and taxi operators. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

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

That the House notes with profound concern the systematic targeting and assassination of journalists in Gaza, including the recent killings of Anas Al-Sharif, the Al-Jazeera crew, and Reuters' cameraman Hossam Al-Masri, among others, in attacks such as the 'double tap' strike on Nasser Hospital; that this House further acknowledges that media outlets, including Reuters and other major Western organisations, have repeatedly disseminated false claims and propaganda justifying these killings, thereby failing in their ethical duty to provide accurate reporting and to protect journalists in conflict zones; that the House

condemns the role of such media complicity in enabling violations of international humanitarian law and the dehumanisation of civilians, and expresses solidarity with journalists in Gaza who risk and, in many cases, lose their lives in pursuit of truth; that the House and calls on all media institutions to uphold the highest standards of ethical journalism, to critically assess claims made by parties to conflicts, and to actively report on violations against journalists and civilians to prevent further loss of life. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Stoffel. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise †die agb Windvogel [the hon Windvogel.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. On behalf of the ANC, I without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the City of Cape Town's decision to drastically downscale the Dial-a-Ride service, a move that will come into effect on 8 September 2025. The revised eligibility criteria restrict the service only to wheelchair users and those with severe walking impairments, thereby excluding persons with visual, hearing, cognitive, and other disabilities who depend on this essential service for access to healthcare, education, work, and social

participation. This exclusionary decision, described by the Western Cape Network on Disability as ‘devastating’, undermines the dignity and constitutional rights of thousands of residents and places an additional financial burden on those who cannot afford alternative forms of transport such as e-hailing; that this House further notes that the service will now only be limited to home-to-work trips, denying disabled residents the right to move freely to clinics, shops, recreational spaces, and cultural venues. Organisations such as the Unmute Dance Company, which supports artists with disabilities, have already warned of the severe impact this will have on their ability to operate and on the lives of their members; that the House therefore calls on the City of Cape Town to immediately suspend the implementation of the new Dial-a-Ride policy, to engage in meaningful consultation with disability rights organisations, and to redesign the service in an inclusive, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner. We reaffirm the principle of ‘Nothing about us without us’, and demand that the City upholds its constitutional and moral obligation to ensure equitable access to public transport for all. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Windvogel. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel.] Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

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

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

That the House notes with concern the recent response by Mr Ian Cameron, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Crime, to the African National Congress' statement on rising crime in the Western Cape, in which he demonstrated a clear partisan bias by defending his political party rather than fulfilling his constitutional and parliamentary duty to exercise independent oversight over the Executive; that this House further observes that Mr Cameron's conduct reveals a fundamental misunderstanding or disregard of his role as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee. Instead of holding the Executive accountable for its failures to address crime, he has repeatedly shielded his party from scrutiny, thereby undermining the very purpose of parliamentary oversight. Such behaviour threatens to render Parliament toothless and ineffective, repeating the same pattern of partisan dysfunction already evident under DA leadership in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Accordingly, that this House calls for the immediate removal of Mr Ian Cameron as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Crime, as his continued leadership represents a liability to the functioning of oversight, the integrity of the legislative process, and the safety and

security of the citizens of the Western Cape. Parliament must reaffirm its independence and insist that Chairs of Portfolio Committees act in the interest of accountability, not party politics. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Hon MEMBERS: Yes! Objection!

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus, I move without notice:

That this House notes the negative impact that gang shootings and crime is having on the mental state of our young scholars and Matric scholars who have this week started their preliminary exams. Acts of violence like this pose an additional barrier to the education of children from under-resourced and crime ridden communities such as in Mitchells Plain, Delft, Bonteheuwel, Manenberg, Bishop Lavis, Langa, Khayelitsha and Phillipi, and among other poverty stricken areas in the

Cape Metro Region; that the hon Minister of Community Safety and hon Minister of Education in the Western Cape, take decisive joint measures to ensure the safety of our children and matriculants during this time; and that we identify problematic schools and devise a plan to prevent a spilling over effect, so that copy-cat murders do not become a norm in the Western Cape. That this House condemns acts of criminality against our children and calls for an end to the violence on the Cape Flats. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance without notice:

That this House acknowledges the vital role of community journalism in strengthening democracy, building social cohesion, and amplifying local voices; notes the recent R Labs' First Thursdays event, which celebrated

community journalists and marked the third anniversary of RLabs House as a hub for creativity and storytelling in Cape Town; recognises that platforms like First Thursdays contribute to the creative economy, support small businesses, and create opportunities for collaboration, objectives that align closely with the Western Cape Jobs Summit scheduled for November 2025; further affirms that showcasing the province's creative sector and community-driven initiatives will complement the Jobs Summit's focus on investment, job creation, and economic growth, positioning the Western Cape as a leading hub for innovation and opportunity. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.] Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise Hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): The DA moves without notice:

That this House notes the attempt by various Opposition parties who have chosen to prioritise politics over people; further notes the absurd attempt by the African National Congress to politicise the surge in violence; recognises the ANC's inability to hold their National Minister accountable for the failure to capacitate vital services; condemns the Opposition parties in this House, including GOOD, the Patriotic

Alliance, and the EFF, for voting against the City of Cape Town's motion to devolve policing powers in order to make the City safer; notes that such opposition undermines the safety of the City and the basic needs of the people of the Western Cape; and calls on this House to put the safety and wellbeing of the people above narrow political interests.

I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion ...[Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: Object! No! Object!

The SPEAKER: Just for the record, please allow me to put it to the House. [Interjections.] Order! Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: Object!

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

Order Paper. I recognise the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Democratic Alliance I move without notice:

That this House notes the centenary of Pinelands, marking 100 years since its establishment as South Africa's first 'Garden City'; acknowledges that the Garden City model, inspired by Ebenezer Howard's vision and implemented locally by the Garden Cities Trust, transformed what was once drift sand and scrubland into a planned community promoting better housing and social conditions; further notes that this historic achievement was built on principles of thoughtful design, green spaces, and community living, values that remain relevant as we confront today's human settlement challenges. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Hon members, that brings us to the end of the Sitting and the Orders in front of the House for today, but before we ...[Interjections.] Is that a point of order? But when I am concluding, then I am going to say, 'the House is adjourned'. So, what is your point of order, hon Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I do not want to take us back because you were not chairing the session, but I want to bring a matter to your attention that has a bearing on Rule 60 and Rule 58. A ruling was made earlier, hon Speaker, that hon members can use offensive language freely, as long as it is not directed to a specific member. Now, if this is left unchallenged, it can set a precedent.

The SPEAKER: Okay. I want to interrupt ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I think in terms of Rule [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order, order, order, order, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja.

The SPEAKER: So, hon Sayed, I respect the fact that ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I want you to look at that.

The SPEAKER: ...that you want me to look at it, but there is process. There is a mechanism where rulings can be challenged, and rulings can be debated. So, please follow that process. This is not for the House to debate, a ruling or challenge. Hon Sayed, is that a new point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, if I was going to be allowed to conclude, hon Speaker, I was going to say that I wanted to put it on record that we will be challenging this matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Absolutely. There is a process to do that, and I encourage that, and we can deal with it in that manner.

Hon members, you would have noted that in the Motions without Notice I have allowed a condolence motion which is ordinarily not allowed in terms of the Rules. I want to use this opportunity to extend, on behalf of this entire institution, my condolences to the late hon Bains who was a directly elected, a nominated member to the National Council of Provinces representing the African National Congress and the people of the Western Cape.

For that reason, I have allowed it to be put to the House in case anyone was wondering why I did that. I have also extended our condolences to the families, but I think it is important for the record that I also state and keep you informed of what has already been done.

With that being said, that brings us to the end of this Sitting and the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:48.