
WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Good morning, hon members, members in the gallery.

Before I proceed I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been practice to date hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officers and the Table staff, and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings.

The hon members experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting, are

requested to contact the WCPP, ICT colleagues will assist to resolve the connectivity challenges.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution and in the Standing Rules.

The 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.

The Serjeant-at-Arms have recorded members' attendance.

In instances where these directives do not cover a particular eventuality, the Standing Rules will apply.

In instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Hon members, all microphones have been muted. However, for those hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, are requested to use the raise hand function when you desire to raise a point of order and I will then recognise you. When an hon member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such hon member may address the Presiding Officer as [Distortion.] but must be [Distortion.] when they have completed

speaking. Hon members are requested to please ensure that their microphones are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them and when they are done speaking so to please mute their microphones.

Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams are requested not to sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device.

The media and members of the public have also been granted access to the MS Teams meeting as guests of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. However, members of the press and the public may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. If an individual, who is not a member of the House, activates their microphone and video camera, such an individual will be exited from the Sitting immediately.

For the Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams by their respective channels.

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

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

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 13: Cultural Affairs and Sport – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2-2023].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

I now see the Hon Minister, Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues and members of the Provincial Parliament, Heads of Department and Managers of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, our partners in the sport and culture sectors, members of the media, residents of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, today I present the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's Appropriation Budget for the 2023/24 financial year, acknowledging that the 2023 MTEF Budget is premised on prioritising the recovery of our sectors by aligning it to the Western Cape Recovery Plan in the areas of jobs, safety and wellbeing.

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is in the business of bringing hope to the people of the Western Cape. We bring hope through creating safe spaces of connectedness through libraries, theatres and sport facilities. We

bring hope through creating work experience opportunities for our youth. We bring hope through showcasing people who have worked hard and reached success, despite their circumstances.

Hon Speaker, our Department is focused on putting preventative measures in place that will aid in stemming the tide of unemployment, youth disillusionment and social ills that stem from frustration and hopelessness. We believe that it is better to create an environment which stops the problem at its source, rather than trying to manage the fall-out effects. Our Department is perfectly positioned to take on this role of prevention through our various programmes.

In the coming financial year, we will build on our successes, learn from our experiences and together with our partners focus on our priorities which include:

- Supporting youth in providing first work experience opportunities.
- Focusing on the promotion of physical and mental health and well-being through our various programmes.
- Establishing safe spaces for communities and especially the youth.

Hon Speaker, the DCAS budget decreased from an Adjusted Appropriation of R938,4 million in the 2022/23 financial year, to a Final Appropriation of R895,5 million in the 2023/24 financial year, resulting in a net decrease of R42,9 million. The decrease is mainly attributed to a R30 million allocation

for the 2023 Netball World Cup included in the 2022/23 financial year; and a once-off earmarked allocation of R16,4 million received in 2022/23 for the procurement of digitisation scanners to enhance the virtual and digitisation services in the Western Cape Provincial Archives.

This is an exciting year for major sporting events as the province gears up to host various big events. The Department is supporting more than 100 events across the province, with the biggest one being the Netball World Cup which will be held in Cape Town for the first time in history in Africa, from 28 July to 6 August 2023.

We will be partnering with the municipalities in all districts to co-host viewing centres and Fanparks for the Netball World Cup so that people across the province will be able to watch the matches.

There will be one FanPark in Central Karoo, one in Garden Route, one in Cape Winelands, one in the West Coast and one in Overberg.

The earmarked FanParks will be held at the following venues:

1. Rosemare Stadium, George Municipality.
2. Dal Josaphat Stadium in Paarl.
3. White City, Saldanha Bay Municipality.
4. Caledon, Theewaterskloof Municipality.
5. Rustdene, Beaufort West Municipality.

There will be two viewing centres in Central Karoo, two in Garden Route, one in West Coast, one in Overberg and one in Cape Winelands.

The Viewing Centres will be at the following municipalities:

1. White Location, Knysna Municipality.
2. Bongolethu, Oudtshoorn Municipality.
3. Main Street, Plettenberg Bay, Bitou Municipality.
4. Thusong, Riversdale, Hessequa Municipality.
5. Bella Vista/Wolseley, Montana Hall, Witzenberg Municipality.
6. Callie de Wet Hall, Robertson, Langeberg Municipality.
7. Laingsburg Municipality. [Interjections.]

Then Malmesbury have decided to rather have four viewing centres in:

1. Kalbaskraal.
2. Darling.
3. Malmesbury itself.
4. Chatsworth.

They will be taking the matter formally to Council and will announce next week, and this is specifically for Minister Anton Bredell.

After our initial request to municipalities, some did not indicate if they want a FanPark or viewing point. A number of municipalities have now requested to have FanParks and we are in a process of finalising their applications in

addition to the ones already signed off.

Additional funds have been made available to fund the Cape Town E-Prix in the 2023/24 financial year. Formula E is the world's first fully electric street racing series, bringing the latest innovations in electric vehicles and alternative energy solutions to city centres. The event provides a catalyst for the Western Cape Green Economy and provides a platform for global, African and local green economy players to meet on an annual basis to identify opportunities to support business and drive job creation. The first event was held on 25 February 2023 and was very exciting, well supported and received.

Hon Speaker, since the beginning of 2023 we have seen various women's sporting tournaments being hosted in the province. In January our netball team competed at the Quad Series event, which saw South Africa, Australia, England and New Zealand competing in Cape Town. We also hosted the International Women's Ice Hockey tournament in February and most exciting, we saw a record crowd attending the final of the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup at Newlands, where our Proteas women narrowly missed out on the trophy.

We have seen a huge appetite for women's sport and now is the time for us to advocate for equal salaries for our female athletes.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: We cannot condone that our women compete on the same level as men, but that they are paid less.

[Applause.]

Hon Speaker, in our aim to ensure inclusiveness in everything that we do, we have continued with the project of translating the rules of various sporting codes into isiXhosa. To date we have completed the translations of the rules of chess, netball, cricket and boxing. We have just completed the translation of the laws of cycling and we will commence with table tennis in 2023.

Over and above providing protective factors for school going youth, we also create pathways to mastery. Hon Speaker, I am proud to announce that Team Western Cape was crowned champions at both editions of the Winter Games and Summer Games at the SA National School Sport Championships in 2022. We are extremely proud of our young athletes for these achievements.

Hon Speaker, we have seen a need to improve literacy and to provide municipalities with support to continue rolling out library services. Many young children find comfort in a safe space that a library provides. Librarians often become surrogate parents and trusted adults in the lives of our young children. Libraries have the power to help us prevent more youth straying down the wrong paths and we must ensure that we provide an engaging library service, which is the heartbeat of every community.

Hon Speaker, the Final Appropriation for the 2023/24 Financial Year includes additional funding for Library Services in the amount of R26,6 million over the 2023 MTEF for B3 Municipalities, and R5,5 million over the same period to replace the book selection and furniture in the Beaufort West Regional Library Service office and distribution centre, which were sadly destroyed by a fire in November 2022.

The additional funding for B3 municipalities is welcomed. We will fund the shortfall currently experienced by these municipalities, mainly due to rising inflation.

The Department received an additional allocation of R1,3 million towards the Municipal Replacement Fund, which enabled the Hessequa Municipality to convert all of their contract library staff to permanent appointments. This made an important impact on the lives of those working at the library and brings renewed hope to the library and the community it serves.

In society libraries remain the hub for information, knowledge and culture. With a view to providing a more rounded library experience, DCAS will implement the concept of libraries serving as multipurpose community art centres. Initially we aim to enable and optimise collaboration with recreational centres in our library spaces to serve as an outlet or service centre for other Government services, exhibition spaces for museum artifacts and gallery exhibitions and performance spaces for literary arts.

The Department will therefore continue to maintain 375 public libraries across the province. The libraries offer 375 opportunities for imagination and hope, with an increased focus on partnerships with other Government departments and Local Government.

The public libraries continue to play a pivotal role in promoting a culture of reading and lifelong learning, while providing safe spaces for our youth and children, and also our elder.

Hon Speaker, our youth are showing growing levels of disillusionment and hopelessness, which leads to us losing them along the way. Our Department has positioned itself to act proactively and address the problem at the source so that we can make interventions in the earlier stages of our young people's lives, rather than trying to fix the aftermath of the problem.

We are channelling our funding into interventions that will make positive impacts on our youth and will help them to develop holistically into successful, economically active adults.

Funding to the amount of R2 million was received to unlock learners' creativity. This programme is part of the Mzansi Golden Economy Strategy, which aims to create sustainable jobs and develop the arts, culture and heritage sector. It is designed to create and develop intellectual capabilities and skills that art practitioners can utilise in schools to collaborate with arts and culture educators.

25 artists will be appointed to work with classroom teachers to teach arts and culture in three districts – Cape Winelands, Central Karoo and West Coast.

An additional R7 million was received to grow the EPWP programme in the 2023/24 financial year in the areas of arts, culture, museums, heritage, archives and library services. This funding provides an opportunity to create additional work opportunities for unemployed youth in the Western Cape.

We have also received funding to continue our Youth in Service Programme, YearBeyond, providing 4 000 youth with a first work experience. We are the only province to partner with National and offer full time work opportunities to youth giving service.

Youth have been prioritised in the following way by our Department:

- Investment in rolling out various literacy and reading programmes for children in ECD centres, schools, libraries and communities through its Library Services and YearBeyond. These are aimed at building a culture of reading and improving reading for meaning by the age of 10.
- Investment in whole child development with a focus on ensuring children are exposed to a range of sporting, art and culture activities, and supported to find and pursue their passions through after school programmes.

- Investment in building youth's sense of belonging by creating positive peer groups through sport, arts, culture and giving youth access to heritage resources via our museums and community facilities.
- Youth are supported to develop mastery in sport and the arts.
- Opportunities for youth to gain work experience are maximised through a combination of youth service opportunities, EPWP and other public works programmes and partnership programmes.

The Department continuously works to extend and expand its services to youth and reviews its youth development work annually.

Hon Speaker, I would like to share the story of Melikhaya Mzola, who is here today. You can stand up for us Melikhaya. Thank you, thank you.
[Applause.] [Interjections.]

Melikhaya was accepted onto the YearBeyond programme in 2022 and was working at the Mossel Bay Library as an ICT cadet. During this time a system challenge with the SITA Library Information Management System arose, which slowed down checking in and out of library books. Melikhaya took the initiative to develop an app which could assist with the continuation of the circulation system so that patrons could still access books.

An HON MEMBER: Jôh!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: With the support of officials from the Municipality and the library, Melikhaya's app was implemented and service delivery could continue.

This is the kind of innovative solutions that our youth can bring, and we thank Melikhaya for what he has done. You are a true asset to the area and to our Department.

An HON MEMBER: Well done! [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, an additional R3 million was received to effectively implement the Customary Initiation Act 2 of 2021, over the 2023 MTEF. The focus will be on improving governance of the customary initiation practices to prevent the death of initiates.

The Customary Initiation Act, Act 2 of 2021, was promulgated on 4 June 2021 and implemented on 1 September 2021. Following the implementation date and as required by law, the Premier appointed the Western Cape Initiation Coordination Committee. The first term commenced on 30 November 2021 until 30 June 2022, and the second term started on 1 July 2022 for a period of 5 years.

The Department has, together with partners in the community such as traditional leaders and initiation forums, introduced several strategies and

approaches to ensure a safe rite of passage. We will continue accelerating our efforts to achieve a zero-mortality rate as we highly value the lives of those who have undergone this important cultural rite of passage.

The Department will use the increased budget allocation for the initiation programme to increase the current capacity, assist with early detection of conditions that could lead to deaths, upscale our current monitoring system and increase our training efforts for the cultural practitioners.

Hon Speaker, support to the Arts and Culture fraternity remains a priority for our Department. We increased our allocation by R3 million to support arts, culture and heritage NPO organisations, individual artists and arts companies. The total allocation of R20,4 million reaches 109 beneficiaries across the province. Arts and culture organisations play a significant role, not only in the development and promotion of arts, but also ensure that youth at risk do not fall through the safety net. We will continue employing all efforts to increase the financial and other contributions to broaden the art landscape.

In October 2022 the Department hosted a Cultural Affairs Awards, where we had a deaf Master of Ceremonies for the first time. Mr Jabaar Mohamed is here today [Applause.] and I want to thank him for being one of the MCs at the event, and for helping us host a truly inclusive event.

An HON SPEAKER: Well done! [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, Community Art Centres continue to be places for primary access to arts participation, training and celebration for communities. This fundamental role of community art centres has become more important over the years given the high levels of violence in our society, resulting in the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance abuse and other mental health challenges particularly in young people.

Through Community Art Centres we can focus on providing youth with meaningful platforms to find and unlock their passions, which is key to reducing risk-taking behaviour.

In order to harness their diversity of views and interventions, and to bring much needed efficiencies and collaboration in the sector, DCAS has adopted a managed network institutional model which consists of partner organisations, institutions and bodies with whom DCAS has, or should have, formal agreements that contribute towards delivering on DCAS's mandate.

The Community Arts Centres form a key component of this network whose aim is to encourage greater efficiency in mobilising the creative economy using scarce fiscal resources, to improve sharing of information and knowledge.

In 2019 the Department developed a Community Art Centre Strategy and

together with the National Department as well as implementing agent, Stand Foundation (Sustaining theatre and Dance Foundation), under the leadership of Mr Mike van Graan, we have begun to progressively implement the strategy. Mr Mike van Graan, thank you for being here.

Together with our partners in the community arts sector, a community arts centre network of the Western Cape was formed to engineer peer learning and support. In addition, Community Art Centres toolkits were developed. These toolkits, which form part of the WCG Arts Centres Plan, place governance, marketing, production and programming skills in the hands of centre managers and arts organisations, and by so doing play a central role in building capacity and ensuring much needed sustainability in the community arts ecosystem.

I also recognise Odwa Stemele, the Chairperson of the Community Art Centre Network. Thank you. [Applause]

Hon Speaker, we will continue to engage EPWP interns at museums across the province. These interns receive significant museum experience while also contributing to the work of our museums. Furthermore, where possible, we expand similar internship programmes to non-affiliated institutions in order to promote the expansion of the museum sector in our province.

One of the interesting new activities we will introduce this year is the placement of EPWP Heritage Ambassadors in selected hotspot locations to

undertake research on community facilities. By doing so we hope to instil pride and a sense of ownership among the province's youth.

Last week we also re-opened the newly renovated George Museum. The museum space has been reconceptualised to showcase performing and visual arts and we hope to use this as blueprint for our other museums, where the spaces can become culture spaces where communities can showcase their talents, and I urge everyone to visit the museum when you are in George.

The World Heritage Site nomination dossier entitled:

"The Emergence of Modern Humans: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa".

The three sites: Diepkloof Rock Shelter and Pinnacle Point Site Complex in the Western Cape and Sibhudu Cave in KwaZulu-Natal, were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in August 2022.

The World Heritage Centre received the dossier and commented in October 2022, requesting a few points of clarification and suggesting improvements. These changes were completed by November 2022 and the dossier was officially submitted in January 2023, in an effort to preserve and promote these heritage sites of national and international significance.

Hon Speaker, I am proud to announce that a major milestone on this journey

was reached. On 1 March 2023 we received communication from the World Heritage Centre that the nomination of "The Emergence of Modern Humans: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa", met all of the technical requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines concerning completeness check of nominations to the World Heritage List.

The achievement of this milestone is a major step forward towards the inscription of the sites as World Heritage Sites in 2024.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport continues to adopt an approach of working closely with other Government departments, as well as with outside partners, to ensure that we can effectively and efficiently deliver our services to the people of the Western Cape.

We are constantly improving on our Managed Network Model approach to innovatively use the resources at our disposal to make the biggest impact possible. We continue to bring hope and joy through our programmes as we work towards a preventative, proactive approach in supporting our youth, especially so that they can become successful adults. We believe in the power of sport, arts and culture in changing the lives of people who feel despondent and hopeless.

Under the leadership of Premier Alan Winde, I look forward to taking the next steps to establishing the Western Cape as the sporting and culture hub of the country, where hope and joy abounds for every person living here.

With this said, allow me to congratulate the Western Cape winners of the South African Sport awards:

- Jonathan Ntutu, Sportsman with a disability.
- Minke Janse van Rensburg, she is still in Pretoria, she is a Sportswoman with a disability.
- The Waves for Change, Ray-Dowling, for the Recreational Body of the Year.
- Charl du Toit for the Minister's Excellence Award.

Then also in our gallery we have the Kung Fu master, M J Lee. Our six time gold medallist, Legends of Kung Fu World Champion. [Applause.]

- Natalie Doran, 2019 gold medallist in Hong Kong. First South African woman to win this medal, in 2022 became the first South African female to be an official judge and at AKF World Kung Fu Cup in Turkey.

Then Saifullah Chafeker, he won several gold and silver medals and recently a gold and silver medallist in African Youth Kung Fu Tournament in Goodwood in Cape Town in 2023. You can all stand up. [Applause.]

And I must say Saif is a differently abled Kung Fu athlete. [Applause.]

Sinawo Yola, 19 years old from Gugulethu. He also won several gold and silver medals and recently a gold and silver at the Africa Youth Kung Fu tournament in Goodwood.

Then I want to just thank those who have given up their time to be in the concourse today and some in that gallery as well.

- ZipZap people, Laurence van Rensburg, Ayanda Nomvelva, Solunku Ndulula, Mazisak Kofi, Uyani Lottering.
- The Kronendal Music Academy, Zakil Arendse, Zugu Nanten, Colbe Hector and Duane Griesel.
- Our visual artists, Netsikilelo Magwaka and Ms Wandikle Faroh.
- Our saxophone player, he is from our own Department. We are very proud of him, Dan Lucas from DCAS, he is from Beaufort West. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, and then Lila Hadden and her family, you are in the gallery, thank you for being here.

And thank you, I will do to reply later on. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb Minister.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister].

I now see the hon member Kama.

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you very much, hon Speaker, and good morning also to members and the MEC. What a beautiful speech from the MEC.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: A very beautiful speech, [Applause.] but me, the MEC ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr M KAMA: ... and the Department know that the budget that we are talking about today will not do half of the things that the MEC is talking about and one point that I think I must be able to make as I was looking around and which I think is relevant, hon Speaker, to this Department, is that I am very much impressed for the first time today with the box in the corner. It is very diverse. Many women ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

Mr M KAMA: ... and I am very, maybe I was not noticing, but I am very impressed, hon Speaker, and as the ANC I think from then, from when hon member Bans was our spokesperson in this Department, we always said that when we meet this Department we meet men and women who know what they want to do, but the reality is that the Government does not give them the

support financially to do what they must do in this province, and making Western Cape a sports hub or a cultural hub is a far-fetched dream with the money that we are allocating for this Department.

So, hon Speaker, and I say this because I think the HOD, and apologies for putting you on the spot, the HOD is on record in our Committees, expressing what I am expressing about the budget of the Department, and I think in the last meeting that we had there is an important point that the HOD said and he said that if you want to deliver something, you must be intentional and your intention must be shown in the money that we are putting.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr M KAMA: He made an example and he said in KZN cultural component of the Department alone has plus-minus R1 billion, because the KZN Department is intentional about what it wants to do. [Interjections.]

So if Western Cape is intentional about creating a sports hub ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M KAMA: ... it will be intentional ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr M KAMA: ... in the budget that it puts for sports.

An HON MEMBER: Listen!

Mr M KAMA: If it is intentional about youth development, it will be intentional about the money it puts up for youth development. That is just about it. [Interjections.] And in order for the Department to achieve its objectives, it must be given sufficient resources, we thought we must emphasise that point.

MEC Wenger's response to the silent protest, because we view those remarks of the HOD as a silent protest. The response to that was the 4,58% decrease in the Budget Allocation. This was a R42 million reduction from over R938 million in 2022/23 Adjusted Appropriations, to just R895 million in 23/24.

The ANC does not support this budget, and I am sure the HOD does not support this budget, but he cannot do anything. [Interjections.] There is nothing he can do [Interjections.].

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr M KAMA: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M KAMA: ... the youth of the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M KAMA: The youth of the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M KAMA: ... in this administration ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, please take your seat.

Hon members on my right, [Interjections.] – hon members on my right and now on my left too, you are drowning out the speaker. I cannot hear the speaker. Can I please ask that you allow hon member Kama an opportunity. Interjections are allowed, but please do not drown out the speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Minister Fernandez, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, on a point of order.

Is it appropriate for an hon member to call out a member of staff in a political debate? Thank you. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

Minister, I will listen carefully. Hon member Kama, please note that you have privileges in this House that the administration or the officials do not have, so they do not have an opportunity to respond. So just please bear that in mind. Thank you, hon member Kama.

Mr M KAMA: I can even happily withdraw, hon Speaker. I do not think that is an issue.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr M KAMA: The youth of the Western Cape saw ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, please take your seat.

Hon Minister Meyer? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I think it is unparliamentary to engage with the officials because his Government and the oath that he undertook in this House requires that we practice the principle ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... of separation of both party and State ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is not a point of order.

An HON MEMBER: It is a point of order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... but Government and officials. The official does not have an opportunity to defend himself in this House, but we allow the officials because this this Government here ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... is a liberal party ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... get to the point of order.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... and we allow people to differ, but they do not have the right now to engage in a political debate.

The SPEAKER: Okay ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: So the officials are allowed to differ with us.

The SPEAKER: Absolutely.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Absolutely fine, and there will be no punitive actions.

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: So we allow that.

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

The SPEAKER: But we cannot go there ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... because the officials must be protected by this House.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Absolutely, hon Minister, thank you very much.

Hon member Bans, please take your seat. Hon Minister, I have ruled, hon member Kama has responded to that ruling, so that point of order is not sustained.

Hon member Kama, please continue. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you very much.

Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Sorry, hon member Kama, my apologies.

Hon member Bans, is that a point of order – you had your hand up on a point of order? [Interjections.] Or have I addressed the point of order?

Ms A P BANS: Hon Speaker, my hand was up because you have allowed out now the hon member to have a speech, and when I am raising my hand you allow him to speak as much as he wants to speak. Then you say you make a ruling, "I have made a ruling."

What is the use if you already pass the message that you want to pass?

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Ms A P BANS: The point is we were also – I know what hon member Kama was speaking about because hon member Kama did not say that the HOD, he made a reference of a meeting, a Committee meeting, so that must also be clarified. He was quoting, he did not say he is wanting an interaction. I just wanted to correct that. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon member Bans, thank you very much for the assistance. I do not need assistance to the Chair. Hon Bans, I have ruled and so that is also not a point of order.

Hon member Kama, please continue.

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you very much, hon Speaker, and once again I withdraw if there is anything untoward that I have said to that Department.
[Interjections.]

The youth of the Western Cape saw Premier's R1 billion investment on the Safety Plan. They have also seen the R1 billion allocated for the Energy Plan and are wondering to themselves when will the Premier follow what he says about youth development in this province, and allocate a R1 billion to respond to the crisis of youth unemployment, substance use disorder and

other social ills.

The Department's budget must be increased to enable it to fully implement the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy, as well as to execute its vision to create a socially inclusive, creative, active and connected Western Cape.

That we are forced to share the Legislature precinct, hon Speaker, and especially the Parliamentary Chamber, with unrepentant bigots and racists, is a monumental failure on the part of this Department to promote nation building and social cohesion.

The ANC Chief Whip already made the point yesterday, that backward and outdated thinking and conduct of the dishonourable Petrus Jacobus Marais has no space in our democracy. It belongs to a [Inaudible.] Parliament where he gladly participated as a stooge for his white bosses. The ANC does not recognise him as the father of this House. As a former National Party member and a founding member of the DA, maybe he should be referred to as "the father of the DA".

In the words of President Nelson Mandela during his address to the World Economic [Interjections.] Forum in 1999, I appeal to members of the House that, and I quote:

"We should lay the scourge of racism to rest."

As members of this House we must be intolerant to racism.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr M KAMA: In line with Department's drive to provide a platform for community dialogues to raise issues relating to social inclusion and nation building, including racism, discrimination, xenophobia and cultural intolerance, we call for increased budget for this initiative.

Hon Speaker, at the Inaugural Laureus World Sports Awards in 2000 President Mandela remarked, and I quote:

"Sport has the power to change the world."

The Department refuses to see this and utilise the full potential of sport and culture to combat social ills, including crime and substance use disorder that is prevalent amongst youth.

While we welcome the Department's commitment to prevent youth from engaging in criminal activities by engaging them in after-school programmes in reading, recreation, sports, arts and cultural programme, we are disappointed that the commitments are not backed with the sufficient resources.

While talking about the Department's after-school programme, we are extremely concerned by the recent media headlines about the Community Chest of the Western Cape, the organisation that handles this programme. The organisation has been embroiled in accusations of financial mismanagement and abuse of funds over a number of years.

In this regard we call on the MEC to institute an urgent investigation into allegations of corruption and mismanagement and other irregularities at this organisation. We will not allow the MEC to turn a blind eye on this, like she has done in many other allegations of corruption in the Department, and I can hear others saying that it is DCAS, but every day here the Premier and many of the leaders of Government tell us of how integrated this Government works. So the Department of Sports must be concerned about monies that are mismanaged which are supposed to go to sports development.

Hon Speaker, the 14% reduction in the budget for the programme for sports and recreation is regrettable. While we welcome the over 7% increase in the allocation to sports programme, but we must be honest that R72 million for the programme is not enough. While we note the over 1% increase in the budget for school sports, we must agree that R46,5 million for the programme is not enough.

The decreases in the allocation for recreation, youth programmes and the MOD programme are also regrettable and not carefully thought of. The impact of this defunding of youth development can be seen in the

Department's non-existent safety interventions in the identified crime hotspot areas. As reflected in the APP, in terms of funding for sports clubs in crime hotspots areas there are no supported sports clubs in Hanover Park, Samora Machel, Bishop Lavis. There are no recreational centres in Gugulethu, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga, Delft, Harare and Philippi East.

Neighbouring schools and [Inaudible.] and the funding to Arts and Culture and cultural NGOs and Art Centres are non-existent in the majority of the identified crime hotspot areas. All this is happening because youth development is undermined. [Interjections.]

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

Mr M KAMA: The director for sports development ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M KAMA: ... is vacant [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M KAMA: The director for sports development is vacant and the office for Head of Youth and After School Programme is held by someone nearing retirement age. Is this a vote of no confidence against youth? Are there no qualified and experienced young people that can lead youth programmes in

the Department?

We reiterate our calls for the MEC to create a new directorate for youth development that will coordinate the transversal youth programmes for the Provincial Government. It is highly unacceptable that this important function is coordinated in a junior youth development office who are against the direction this Department is taking. Ours is a demand for more investment on sports and recreation, creative arts and the cultural sector, especially in these crime hotspot areas, to address social ills, prevent crime and create jobs.

Lest we forget that the DA Government contributed immensely in the rising youth unemployment and the net rate in this province, when it terminated the 1 000 jobs for young people employed through the Safety Ambassadors Project, but as we said when we welcomed that project, we knew that it was just done for elections, [Interjections.] and it was introduced before the 2021 Local Government elections, and it was ended after, and the MEC came here to say we are going to look at how do we assist those 1 000 young people safety ambassadors, and the reality is that they were not assisted, and maybe some of them might be contributing to the crime levels in this province. The DA is failing young people in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, we are happy and welcome the appointment of Minister Zizi Kodwa as the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture. Allow me to quote him in his recent statement, and I quote:

"We must build a good young person so that we put an end to crime. School sports plays an important role in that regard. We must master what we will be able to deal with, we must master that so we are able to deal with social ills like drugs and alcohol because young people do not have appropriate sporting fields to go to."

[Interjections.] Comrade Zizi [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr M KAMA: Can you help me ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr M KAMA: In Comrade Zizi ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, speak to me.

†n AGB LID: Die waarheid maak seer.

[An HON MEMBER: The truth hurts.]

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

†n AGB LID: Die waarheid maak seer. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: The truth hurts.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr M KAMA: In Comrade Zizi we trust. Here we have a Minister who knows what he is doing. He is not a ceremonial Minister who just shows face at events. He is ready and prepared to get his hands dirty and address our challenges. [Interjections.]

We call on him to prioritise the Western Cape on his drive to build sports infrastructure in schools. [Interjections.] A written reply to hon Sayed's question showed that this Department only spent over R100 million on school sports since the start of the Sixth Administration to date. This is not enough; more funding is needed.

The reply also exposed critical challenges hampering school sports in the province, especially at schools in previously disadvantaged communities. This includes teachers who no longer play an active role in school sport, a lack of physical education implementation in schools, which resulted in games at interclass, interschool and inter-circuit levels to no longer form part of the school sports system and/or activities for schools.

As a result of the above there are no after school engagements for sports and recreation after school. Learners end up roaming the streets and getting

exposed to social ills between two and five o'clock.

Her Department's interventions include MOD programmes and the Neighbouring School Programme, but the Department only supports 184 Neighbouring School Centres and 181 MOD Centres. This is not enough and the MEC knows this too. Over and above this the MEC and the Department allowed the allocation for MOD programmes to be reduced.

Hon speaker, we also want to call on Minister Zizi to champion transformation in school sport. Affluent schools, like [Inaudible.] schools [Inaudible.] are discriminating against poor schools [Interjections.] like Sedgefield Primary School.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: The MEC confirmed knowledge of the incident where learners and teachers ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr M KAMA: ... from the schools were left out of athletics events. We call for thorough investigation of this.

Hon Speaker, similar to sport and recreation programmes, where the need for budget increase is met with budget cuts, funding for Programme 3: Library

Services, has been reduced, including a 28% decrease in budget for Archives sub-programme. The budget for Library Services is increased by 2,5% to over R389 million. Despite this increase the Government is forging ahead with its reckless decision to stop building new libraries in the province. Beyond the two new libraries planned for this year, there will not be any new libraries built in the province. Municipalities are encouraged to use containers and wheelie bins to bring books closer to areas of need. This is highly unacceptable and an insult to the poor.

Furthermore 42 libraries in the province do not have internet access and 367 libraries do not have alternative power sources. These are the reasons we call for this Department's budget to be increased to over R1 billion, because as you can see everything is in shambles. We demand that all libraries are provided with alternative power sources and connected to internet access.

We note the R8,8 million for the purpose of Broadband library connection and Library Services top-up for Broadband, and we will monitor this. Actually we will monitor its expenditure.

We also noted the R1,5 million allocation in this financial year, as well as the R4 million in the 2024/25 for the purpose of replacement funding for the burnt Beaufort West Regional Library Services. While we are welcoming this we have to ask what about other libraries that have been vandalised or destroyed, where is the budget for them?

Hon Speaker, as stated by the Leader of the Official Opposition, the ANC welcomes the process for Khoi and San communities and leaders to lodge applications for recognition, which is open up until the end of March. In this regard we call on the MEC to lead widespread awareness campaigns across the province.

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, I make a humble plea to the MEC to form partnerships with the City of Cape Town ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, your time has expired, please take your seat.

Thank you very much, hon members. [Interjections.] No-no, we are sticking to our timelines. Everyone has been informed about their time, so I am sticking strictly to the times today. [Interjections.]

Can I see – I now see hon member Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The EFF calls for an increase of funds to traditional and cultural programmes to uphold the promotion of the history and beauty of our diversity as such programmes contribute ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Cassiem, my apologies, I see a hand from, is

that, hon member Marais, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Hon members ...[Interjections.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes, I did not want to interrupt before, hon Speaker, I am a disciplined person.

I just want to know whether the word "racist" is now viewed not as an ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: ... aspersion?

The SPEAKER: ... there is a member on the floor.

Mr P J MARAIS: Oh.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: No, it was before ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Please hold on, I cannot hear you. Hon members in the Chamber, there is a member on the floor on the virtual platform, please allow the hon member to raise his point of order.

Hon member Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I raised it when the member before spoke. I did not want to interrupt him, but is it now viewed by the hon Speaker that to call somebody continuously a racist, after you listened to and said it is not racist, but it was just insulting, is "racist" now an acceptable word that can be flung about by anybody to anybody without anybody being asked to withdraw? Because I would like to use it now as a normal introduction when I address ANC members.

Are you ruling that "racist" is acceptable?

The SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, that point of order was in the previous speech. Are you saying that the member directly refer to you as a racist?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes, sir, he did.

The SPEAKER: Alright. I am going to come back to the House because I am not allowing hon member Kama the, or pose the question to hon member Kama because there is a member on the floor delivering their speech.

So you should have raised that point of order at that point. So I will come

back to the House.

Hon member Kama, I am not going to entertain this because hon member Cassiem is on the floor. If you are going to respond to that point of order, that is not a point of order then. You cannot raise a point of order on a point of order.

Mr M KAMA: I want to raise a point of order.

The SPEAKER: You cannot raise a point of order on a point of order.

Mr M KAMA: It is a different one [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: No, I – because the Rules, hon Speaker, as you are saying because I hear you now saying that you are going to entertain this, but the Rules, as you were saying, that when a member feels that I am out of order, he was supposed to rise at that particular moment and raise a point of order, of which he did not do.

Now you are trying to see how can you accommodate him outside the Rules, because the Rules say he should have raised it then, and he never raised it.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, please take your seat.

As the Chief Presiding Officer and as a Presiding Officer of this House, I have an obligation, and which I do after every Sitting, [Interjections.] to go through any point, any breaches of the Rules across. So it is not just on points of orders that I can make rulings of as per the Rules allow as the Presiding Officer. [Interjections.]

Hon member Cassiem, I will now allow you to continue. Please note that your time has been stopped, so you may continue.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The EFF calls for an increase of funds towards traditional and cultural programmes to uphold the promotion of the history and beauty of our diversity, as such programmes contribute to a sense of belonging and social inclusion and empowers our people with knowledge about their heritage, many of whom we will find are still searching for their identity.

With this being said, the EFF would also like to raise concern around the Khoi and the San and how the Government needs to start acknowledging them more by making them part of these intended programmes to promote their heritage, because they are not getting the same attention that other cultural groups are getting when it comes to promoting their culture.

On page 1 of the EFF's party manifesto it reads that:

"The EFF locates the struggle for economic emancipation within the long resistance of South African to resist colonial and imperialist political, economic and social domination."

This glorious resistance started with the Khoi and San people rising against colonial domination. It further reads that:

"The EFF draws inspiration from the gallant fight of those who came before us and who have [Inaudible.] generation after generation against the superior firepower of the colonialist."

Hon Speaker, it is sad to know that there is still a continuous delay from this Government who failed to prioritise their concerns and to acknowledge the identity of the Khoi and the San by respecting their choice of not wanting to be identified as Coloured, because part of being revolutionary is to respect the culture and traditions of all people and to uphold it, because colonialism robbed them of it and colonisers sought to impose their own traditions on our indigenous groups.

The Khoi have also been denied access to land for cultural and traditional practices, but it is only under the EFF's first cardinal pillar of land expropriation without compensation for equal distribution in use, that we will be able to ensure that the Khoi would get access to their land.

Secondly, hon Speaker, knowing the circumstances of the Western Cape and how racism increases daily, which has become a norm for racism to be tolerated in society and even here within this House, it is sad to know that this Department has not budgeted much towards programmes that tackle racism.

Tell us what is your plan of action to prioritise this [Inaudible.] programmes within schools and communities, especially in areas like Mitchells Plain and [Inaudible.], where there is a constant tension and fights between African and Coloured residents? Because racism under this DA-led Government is always ignored and you will never find statements made by the DA in public when it comes to racism, and if they are put to pressure on these cases, the usual outcome is for this DA to delay cases of racism.

This is the same treatment given to the councillors and MPs when they decide to ignore the wrongdoings of the white public representative, but immediately dismisses the black public representative.

Hon Speaker, this budget does not speak much to programmes which will ensure all communities benefit from his budget, especially those in severe poverty stricken areas. The budget limits many farming areas and ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassiem ...[Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM: ... informal settlements ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... your time has expired. I now ...[Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you, the EFF rejects this budget.

The SPEAKER: ... see the hon member Marais. [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: ... see the hon member Marais.

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

Hon Speaker, I have been mandated by the Griqua Royal House and the *Kapteinsraad* of the Western Cape, of which I am a member, to make the following plea, in terms of a report provided by the United Nations Human Rights Council, November 2007, please, Ms Minister, recognise the Griqua in future budgets as indigenous nation. Do not refer to us as coloured, neither pool us under one amorphous term like "black", which means nothing. We are not black, we are not coloured, we are Griqua, we are a nation.

Please, that is an insult to us to be called either Coloured, which, Mrs De Klerk once said, †"Ons is die oorskietsele." ["We are the leftovers."] This is the ANC, this is a racist term. That is why I ask the hon Speaker is the word "racist" permissible or not, because it was going to be in my speech. Calling me a Coloured is a racist in the extreme. Then saying I am not even African.

I am a coloured black. That's insulting, that is racism.

I also ask that you educate indigenous peoples in your Department, hon Minister, educate indigenous peoples on their rights as enunciated by the United Nations. They came here in 2004 [Inaudible.] stated there what our rights are. I do not have enough time or I will go through it. It is a long list of rights. They demand, they say here in the report:

"South Africa is falling short ..." ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais, your time has expired.

I now see the hon member Bosman.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Good afternoon to our esteemed guests and the fellow citizens of the Western Cape.

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is perhaps the most important Department in the Western Cape. This Department plays a pivotal role in delivering and advancing our key strategic priorities, namely empowering people and ensuring our communities are safe and cohesive spaces.

Through you, hon Speaker, I noted that hon member Kama doubted the

support that this Government gives to DCAS, but judging by the attendance of the Opposition, we really need to ask what is the ANC support for DCAS if they cannot even bother to show up for this debate.

This Department is the glue that keeps the people of the Western Cape together ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... through its support of the Province's ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... sporting and cultural institutions and its many other programmes such as the after-school game changers, including our MOD programmes, cultural sports and recreational activities. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport has contributed to fostering cohesion through the celebration of our history and our culture.

The establishment of a cultural route on the South and West Coast of the province, together with our museums and archives, and other related programmes, has been a significant accomplishment in achieving this goal.
[Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, at a total budget of just under R900 million, a significant

portion which is going towards this, ensuring the work of this Department continues, there is a specific focus on young people in this year's budget. That is because this Department recognises the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report, which highlights youth disillusionment and alienation as an emerging risk. This risk is particularly acute in South Africa with our rising youth unemployment sponsored, brought to us and delivered by the ANC.

An HON MEMBER: Sjóh!

Mr G BOSMAN: This risk in South Africa is the boiling point which fuels youth unemployment. It is therefore that this Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport has allocated more than R60 million towards supporting youth at risk.

Through you, hon Speaker, hon member Kama should at least read pages 102 and 103 of the Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, which outlines all of this Government's expenditure on youth development across the province.

Young people do not belong in a league or in a specific Department, young people and our needs are transversal and therefore we need all departments to respond.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G BOSMAN: To address youth unemployment and the crisis that our young people face, the Department plans to expand youth service opportunities and create bridges that connect young people to opportunities like we saw in the concourse this afternoon, as well as up here, where we saw DCAS supported artists performing.

The Department aims to achieve this by further expanding its youth service programmes and the bridges into Work For Study for Youth Opportunities, with a target of 4 000 new opportunities in the coming year.

The Department will prioritise four key areas of focus, namely youth development and violence prevention in our safety hotspots, the afternoon positive peer activities for young people building on the successful after-school game-changer programmes, creating libraries as community hubs and safe spaces for social cohesion, and creating pathways for young people not in education, employment or training, for youth to actively engage in the economy because we want young people to participate.

I am excited about the R60 million allocation towards empowering youth at risk as this is setting the foundation for the future of employment and opportunities, because that is what we do in the Western Cape. We create opportunities, we do not steal.

I have forwarded to the hon member a list of the corruption allegations that

the new National Minister of Arts and Culture faces.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: A Minister that chooses ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... to steal from young people instead of investing in them.

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

Mr G BOSMAN: It is inspiring to see that the Western Cape Government continues to do more to help the province's youth. [Interjections.] In addition to this, this Department ensures that it continues to provide accessible library services across the province and it makes sure that our provincial museums are open and available to communities, not shells that have been stolen from.

There are many other programmes across this province that support a vibrant cultural sector. Example being, as the Minister highlighted, the R2 million to unlock the creativity of learners as part of the Mzansi Golden Economy Strategy, a strategy that aims to create sustainable jobs and to develop arts, culture and heritage as sectors in our communities. It is designed to develop pedagogical capabilities and skills that arts practitioners can utilise in schools to ensure that young people are given a platform to learn about arts

and culture at schools.

We are proud to announce that the 25 artists that have been appointed to work with classroom teachers to teach arts and culture, will be in three districts across this province: the Cape Winelands, the Central Karoo and the West Coast, because you know, hon Speaker, even where the ANC goes to municipalities in this province and steals from our young people, we still go in and reinforce those investments. [Interjections.]

An additional R7 million has been received to grow the EPWP ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... programme in the 23/24 financial year in the areas of arts, culture, museums and archives, as well as Library Services. [Interjections.]

The focus of the upcoming financial year ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... is to continue to build on the established partnerships within municipalities because through partnerships this Department does a lot with very little. [Interjections.]

These partnerships ensure that the municipalities and the Department are able to collaborate to ensure that sports infrastructure is set up, and we are excited about the investment in these municipalities around the 2023 Rugby World Cup, and we know the Opposition, they are not even going to pay for tickets to the World Cup, they are just going to ask for them.

Hon Speaker, major events will continue to stimulate sports tourism and contribute ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... to the recovery of the events sector. Sports federations will continuously be able to benefit from this Department's support. We saw it with the events that took place in the last three months and we are seeing it with the events taking place at Cape Town Stadium this weekend. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, these allocations are in stark contrast to the decisions made by the ANC National Department. [Interjections.] Some of the many wasteful allocations by the former Minister Mtetwa include a wasteful National Orchestra and ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... R22 million allocated for the infamous 100 metre flag monument.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bosman, please take your seat.

Hon Kama, and I think, I do not know if it is Hon Minister Maynier or or Minister Allen and Simmers, but you guys are drowning out the member on the floor. [Interjections.] Can I please ask that you converse afterwards, or send each other WhatsApps, but you are drowning out the speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon member Bosman, you may continue. Hon members, order!

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

I am sure the Ministers are excited to find out from hon member Kama how much Minister Zizi Kodwa is going to spend on his sunglass allocation instead of on arts and culture development. [Interjections.]

Like I said, hon Speaker, these allocations by DCAS is in stark contrast to the decisions made by the ANC National Department. [Interjections.] We have highlighted the wasteful expenditure on a National Orchestra when we have got fully functional regional orchestras. We have highlighted the wasteful R22 million allocated for a flag. A flag! I would be embarrassed. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: These priorities, they indicate ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN ... how out of touch the ANC National Department is ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... with the needs of the cultural sector. [Interjections.]

The very, very cultural sector that depends on funding from a National Department has seen since, through you, hon Speaker, hon member Kama wants to talk about corruption at NPOs, let us not even think about the corruption at the National Arts Council.

We have got artists waiting for funding to run productions, but they cannot do so because arts administrators are being allowed to steal from our young people and from artists. [Interjections.]

As we come to the end of today's proceedings, hon Speaker, let us be clear, let us be very clear, the DA is committed to investing in the people of the

Western Cape, particularly our youth. While the ANC National Government wastes, steals taxpayers' money on monuments and orchestras, we will continue to prioritise the needs of our communities because we believe in investing in arts, culture, sports and libraries. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: Through you, hon Speaker, the hon members of the Opposition have been on many study tours across this province, whether it is libraries in Bito, libraries in George, libraries in Piketberg, they have seen the investment in reading because we know if you read pages 102 and 103 of the Overview of Provincial Expenditures, you will see ...[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... that more than R159 million has been allocated for youth development in just this one Department.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bosman, can you speak to me. Can you speak to me and not to hon member Kama. [Interjections.]

Hon members!

Mr G BOSMAN: I am just looking at hon member Kama because I really hope, through you, hon Speaker, that he internalises this and takes this to the

ANC conferences so they can really, through you, hon Speaker, spend money where it should be spent. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon Speaker [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, [Interjections.] hon member Bosman, please take your seat.

Hon members, there is a member on the floor. Interjections are allowed, but I mean this running commentary is now becoming disruptive, not only for the hon member on the floor, but also for the hon members in the gallery and those online.

Can I please ask that you minimise your conversations across the floor, but that you allow hon member Bosman an opportunity to conclude his presentation.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Through you I ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Or before I assume that you are concluding, you may continue, hon member Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: I know that the hon members are very excited to see me, but I will be on again this afternoon to speak to the real spokesperson for Cultural Affairs and Sports. [Applause.]

Hon Speaker, I want to repeat this again to the hon members of the Opposition through you. We need to be very clear. When it comes to empowering our youth and celebrating our heritage, the ANC delivers nothing. [Interjections.] The DA delivers everything. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bosman, please take your seat.

Hon member Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Through you, hon Speaker, is the hon member willing to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Can you please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon member, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr G BOSMAN: Certainly, we are very happy to educate. So please go ahead. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, through me to the hon member. [Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Through you, hon Speaker, I want to check from the member how much of this budget is going to support young people who are in the creative arts in our different poor areas.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The SPEAKER: Right, thank you very much. Hon member Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: The answer can be found on page 102, the third paragraph. [Interjections.] I suggest you get this book. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you – order hon members. [Interjections.]

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: ... hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon Speaker, through you. [Interjections.] I would like to also make mention of another very efficient service[intervenes]

The SPEAKER: Calm down, hon members! Settle down.

Mr G BOSMAN: I would like to also mention another very efficient and world class service that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports offers, and that is organising major events.

So if the Opposition needs help organising a conference or a congress, we can certainly assist with that. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, as I conclude ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr G BOSMAN: I would like to say thank you very much to the very capable support of the Committee's procedural officer, Mr C Matthews, for his support and his understanding, and for making sure that hon members of this Committee is apprised of all of the good things that this Department does, because this Committee makes sure that the hon members get all the answers that they need, and it is very disappointing, hon Speaker, that the real spokesperson for Cultural Affairs and Sports in the Opposition did not stand up to date to speak, but we do know that we need to sometimes rotate the deck chairs on the Titanic in order to be relevant.

Hon Speaker, the only thing left to say is that the Democratic Alliance supports this Vote. I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bosman. [Interjections.]

Settle down, hon members, before I allow the Minister to respond.

[Interjections.] Hon members, please settle down.

Hon Minister, over to you. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you for each one of the hon members' contribution.

I just want to say, hon member Kama, for the record, hon member Marais was never a founder member of the DA, in fact he was a member of the ANC with Marthinus. [Interjections.]

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

Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order? [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Yes, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

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

The SPEAKER: Hon members on my right, can you please settle down. [Interjections.]

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

The SPEAKER: There is a hon member on the floor.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... on a point of order.

The – and I normally do not fight with the hon Minister Marais, Anroux Marais, but she is misleading the House. Hon member Marais was never a member of the ANC. [Interjections.] Yes, he was ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... the Premier when the ANC co-governed ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... but he was not a member of the ANC.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, that is a – it is not for me to debate the facts on that.

[Interjections.]

Hon Minister, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you so much. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Settle down, the Minister is on the floor. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I have got a, I am going – coming back to hon member Kama, but I just want to mention to hon member Cassiem, the Commission on Khoisan matters under the National Department of Cooperation Governance and Traditional Affairs, has opened a call for recognition on 30 March 2022, and the call will close on 29 March 2024. So everyone, they are in process with this matter and I do not think she has the right information, but we can give it to you, hon member Cassiem, and then we also have a Culture Commission and the Khoisan are represented on that Commission in our Department.

Thank you, and then I have got nothing to say now for a hon member Marais at this moment, and hon member Kama ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I must agree that we can do with a much bigger budget, but we deliver with focus and intention, and the year-on-year decrease was mainly due to once-off allocations received in the 2022/23 financial year, in addition to the Sport Conditional Grant that decreased by R30 million, and I mentioned that in my budget for the Netball World Cup.

The Department presented a strong case to Provincial Treasury in our MTECH 1 and MTECH 2 engagements, emphasising its critical role in providing protective factors to youth through sport, recreation, arts and culture, and while Department's budget decreased by R24,9 million, new funding to the value of R32,9 million was received, resulting from this MTECH engagement with Provincial Treasury, and we thank Provincial Treasury for that.

And then you, I think we have got some more [Inaudible.] you said the youth seems that the youth programmes were cut, but as hon member Gillion Bosman mentioned, the total annual budget for our youth service programmes is R150 million, of which the Department contributes a third of R50 million,

and we have received increased funding for EPWP and the arts, which will create additional youth opportunities.

And then about the burnt libraries. **Zwelitle** Public Library, the municipality is in the process of identifying space for the building of a new library for the community, and the Nduli Public Library, the municipality will be making use of a container library to continue service to the municipality at this moment, and some developments towards the rebuilding of Suiderstrand Library in the future by the City of Cape Town Municipality, is in the pipeline.

And the internet need access, and I do see you have a very nice – I think I put it somewhere – article, yes, in the *Argus*. So thank you for that, but you said there about the internet access at the public libraries and the number of public libraries is 375, and the number of libraries with internet access is 333, *driehonderd drie en dertig*. 42 do not have internet access, 12 of which are at Correctional Services, which does not allow internet access, and the Department has an implementation plan to get the rest of the libraries connected where infrastructure allows, and plans for the next two years include:

- The Versveld Public Library in Berg River.
- The Vleiplaas Public Library in Swellendam.
- The Wagenmakersvallei Public Library.
- Witzen Valley Public Library in Witzenberg.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, my apologies, please take your seat.

Hon member Marais, is that a point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, I politely ask if the hon Minister will take a question for me? [Interjections.] Because she said she has got no answer for me.

The SPEAKER: Alright. I will pose the question to the hon Minister.

Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question? Hon Marais, the hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, and I know I am taking a little bit long, but I want to answer.

The infrastructure, R850 000 is allocated towards a modern library in Overhex, Breëde Vallei, and also R850 000 to contribute towards a modern library in Wagenmakers. That is the amount for the infrastructure projects that is allocated.

And then this Laerskool Sedgefield. That incident, the matter will be

addressed at our next meeting with the Western Cape Education Department, and it will be on 7 April, and then we can give feedback on that as well to you.

And then the National Department cut the budget in 2022 and it is with almost R12 million, and that affected our school sports as well.

And lastly I must say that the Minister of Youth in the President's Office is 75. So I am just mentioning it. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I just forget to thank everyone, please.

The SPEAKER: I will allow you that opportunity because there is not a time limit to your name. So I will allow you that opportunity.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker.

I want to thank our, especially our sectors that are in the gallery. I did not mention everyone, but thank you, thank you, thank you. You are really dear to our Department and we value your inputs very much, and thanks for coming this morning. I know it is difficult. It is a morning, but thank you so

much for being here.

Then to the members of the Standing Committee, thank you for your oversight. It is always good to engage with you. Sometimes we play politics, but thank you so much for that. [Interjections.]

And then thank you to hon member Gillion Bosman. You know, you are passionate and I value our professional and very collegial relationship, and thank you for everything that you do for this Department and for this Standing Committee, and the fraternities in sport and culture.

Thank you, Tanya, for everything you have done. The HOD and the team, you know that I love you very much, thank you so much.

Then to my own Ministry, thank you for everything that you do, especially ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you for my own Ministry, especially to my two, to Japie and Kurt for criss-crossing the province and keeping me safe and bringing me safe back home every time.

And then I just want to mention our Department is small, when put into the

context of departments who have larger budgets, but I believe that we have the biggest heart. We bring happiness and joy to communities through our work. We are involved in work that makes a positive impact on the lives of those we serve and that is a real blessing. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. Thank you, hon Minister.

Before I disperse of this vote, hon member Cassiem, I did notice your hand and I just felt that it was inappropriate for me to stop the Minister whilst she was thanking individuals [Inaudible.]

Is that a point of an order?

Ms A CASSIEM: Sorry, hon Speaker, I had my hand up before she concluded her speech. I just wanted to check if the Minister is willing to take a question. This was before she concluded.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much, hon member Cassiem.

The Minister, I did not disperse of the Vote, so the Minister has not concluded. I will put the question to the Minister. Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The Minister is not prepared to take a question.

Thank you very much hon members, that concludes the debate on this Vote, I will allow – I am not going to suspend the House. I am going to allow a minute or two for the officials to change and then we will continue with the next Order of the Day.

So the House is not suspended.

Alright, hon members, please settle down. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

Minister, are you ready? Alright, Secretary.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote: Provincial Treasury – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2-2023]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, fellow Cabinet member, hon members.

When I tabled the 23/24 Western Cape Provincial Budget two weeks ago, I set out how this Government will act with the fierce urgency of now to secure a better future for the people of this province.

I also set out that in our mission to do this we face strong headwinds, specifically a constrained fiscal envelope, which means that we need to do far more with far less, and while many of these headwinds are beyond our control, we are more determined than ever to do more for our residents. This will require grit, courage and determination guided by clearly defined and evidence based strategic decisions.

At the very heart of this mission is the Provincial Treasury as a critical and integral driver of good governance, which we achieve by implementing and constantly improving on processes and systems which underpin maximum impact on the ground for every cent of public money spent.

In everything that the Provincial Treasury does I am reminded of what Margaret Mead, a renowned cultural anthropologist, said:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

The Provincial Treasury team exemplifies this very sentiment in all that they do, in providing critical services to 13 provincial departments, 30 municipalities, along with 11 provincial entities, as well as the Provincial Parliament and external suppliers.

As each of these partners continue to face increasing demand for public services within a limited resource envelope, so too does the Provincial

Treasury face rising pressure to provide fiscal and technical support to these partners, and so to support these partners to ensure that we deliver bang for buck and that our residents continue to receive the services they rely on and need to live a life that they value, the Provincial Treasury continues to strengthen strategic, evidence-based public financial management practices.

In pursuit of our objectives, today we table the Main Budget for the Provincial Treasury in the amount of R340,67 million for the 23/24 financial year, to deliver on:

- Integrated Provincial Governance;
- Effective Local Governance;
- Strategic Supply Chain Management; and
- Efficient Infrastructure Investment.

Hon Speaker, a key priority area is on governing for growth in the Western Cape, which requires us to take action to ensure that the people of the province have the best chance at achieving their goals [Inaudible – no sound on audio.] and that the right controls are in place to entrench and continue with this progress, and that we are able to report clearly on progress.

During the 23/24 financial year, the Treasury will focus on unlocking the inherent value of good governance systems across departments, public entities and municipalities, through strengthening integrated service delivery and governance transformation to achieve inclusive growth.

In the coming year, we will move beyond ensuring compliance towards becoming an enabler and a reliable partner driving service delivery improvement across the province.

Through the addition of a service delivery performance element to good governance, the focus will include an integrated approach to optimise processes and to place value for money for the residents of the Western Cape on the forefront of what the Provincial Treasury does.

This will require the Treasury to ensure that it strengthens systems of planning and budgeting and reporting, and invests in the skills needed for the future and in building those required systems.

The Treasury has developed two instruments to shift the arc in terms of responsiveness of the budget process and resource deployment to achieve this.

The first is the Fiscal Futures Project. Given the uncertainties in the fiscal outlook, the energy crisis, global instability and inflation, managing the fiscal framework for the province has become much more complex and more uncertain.

The declining Provincial Equitable Share, the national population that is rapidly urbanising, the effects of COVID-19 and semigration into the

Western Cape, requires us to line up the right resources at the right time behind the right set of investments to unlock growth and poverty reduction.

The Fiscal Futures Project is a very useful tool which allows us to examine critically if we are making the right choices to ensure sustainability and impact over the longer term.

Phase 1 of this project commenced in-house last year and currently Phase 2 is building models of the potential fiscal futures of the Western Cape across various scenarios, and so to continue this vital work to ensure we are on the front-foot in future, we will allocate R1,42 million in the 23/24 financial year and R964,000 in the 24/25 financial year for this project.

Secondly and complementary to the Fiscal Futures work, is the strengthening of our partnership with the World Bank Group, which has worked with us to prepare our first Public Private Partnership Hospital in the Tygerberg Redevelopment Project, through mobilising of private sector financing and is currently working with us on a review of the investment needs of the education sector.

This collaboration will ensure that the province's technical capacity in project preparation and managing the Public Private Partnership process is enhanced.

Another partnership that the Treasury has worked to rapidly scale up and

leverage, is with the National Treasury and Government Technical Advisory Centre (or GTAC), to review both expenditure and programme performance with the aim of constructively identifying areas for improvement in the implementation of strategic priorities.

The 22/23 topics that were conducted with relevant departments are:

- E-Learning in the Education Department;
- Agency and support outsource services for doctors and nursing staff with the Department of Health and Wellness;
- Enhancing access to Government services and information by vulnerable people through the Thusong Service Centres and outreaches with the Department of Local Government; and
- Agricultural Producer Support and Development with the Department of Agriculture.

What makes the GTAC partnership so valuable is that it is rapid, structured, hands-on and well aligned to the Treasury's budget priorities in terms of driving productive and allocative efficiencies.

In the 23/24 financial year R500,000 will be allocated to undertake a further three expenditure reviews.

Hon Speaker, at the coal face of service delivery in the province are our local municipalities. The strategic priority of effective local governance has two

pillars in its approach to strengthening effective local governance in the province, namely sustainability and growth.

Historically the focus has been on vulnerable municipalities and in taking early action to avoid situations of fiscal distress that would require interventions in terms of Chapter 13 of the MFMA, such as what is now underway in Beaufort West.

The Treasury identifies municipalities at risk of potential financial problems through its monthly in-year monitoring reports, and closely monitors them in conjunction with the Department of Local Government and the Department of the Premier. Each of these municipalities has their own context requiring different approaches.

We also know that most municipalities in the province are well-governed and the proof of which is borne out in the most recent municipal audit outcomes, in which 90% received clean or unqualified audits.

These municipalities will receive further support from Treasury in sustaining good governance to achieve more inclusive economic growth so that we can keep taking the right action to deliver better services to residents and a better future.

Treasury will therefore increase its focus on well-governed municipalities, to drive the growth agenda, and so in 23/24, to support municipalities to

improve their financial management capabilities, to develop human capacity and to provide financial aid to improve overall financial governance within municipalities, we will allocate R55,14 million over the MTEF through the Financial Management Capability Grant.

We are proud of the relatively strong financial performance of municipalities in our province and we are committed to investing in further strengthening their financial management capability.

To assist with this goal, the Western Cape Financial Management Capability Grant has allocated R15,8 million in 23/24 to support municipalities to improve their overall financial management and capabilities. This will in turn strengthen their ability to deliver services and to enable growth.

Grant allocations are primarily directed at financial management projects in four broad areas:

- Effective Local Government,
- Efficient Infrastructure Investment,
- Strategic Supply Chain Management, and
- Integrated Provincial Governance.

Specific projects are identified in consultation with municipalities and mostly emanate from needs identified through the Treasury's in-year financial performance monitoring and engagements with municipalities during the

course of the year.

Specific projects that will be supported in 23/24 include:

- The development of long-term financial plans for Saldanha Bay.
- Integrating automated tariff modelling applications within financial systems in Berg River.
- The roll-out of revenue enhancement initiatives in Cederberg and George.
- As well as financial system automation for the Overberg District.

The grant framework allows Provincial Treasury to prioritise projects that support long-term economic growth, that have a higher likelihood of successful implementation and provide value for money and also include co-funding from municipalities.

The PT follows a differentiated approach in supporting municipalities. While allocations are mostly directed towards projects that reduce general financial vulnerability, municipalities in good financial standing are also supported to lead on the development of best practices that can benefit more than one municipality in the future. For example, the allocation towards Saldanha Bay Municipality will support the development of a model which can be shared with and customised by other municipalities free of charge.

Similarly funding is provided to Drakenstein Municipality for the

development of a financial dashboard that will support executive decision-making.

The grant also supports bursaries as part of our effort to build a pipeline of talented young people to work in our municipalities, ensuring that we are already investing in our next generation of finance managers and CFOs.

Hon Speaker, last year I had the distinct pleasure of tabling the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook of 22/23 and the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook of 22/23 in this very House.

The data reveals the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats present in each local and district government, and this is why this information is so important and powerful. It shows us what we need to improve on, what we are doing right and what other opportunities are available to capitalise on, to grow our economies and create more jobs.

This data forms the basis of our data-driven decision-making processes, including municipal planning and budgeting, integrated development plans, as well as local economic development strategies.

This is why the information contained in the PERO and the MERO are so critical and why so much effort is put into compiling them.

To continue to provide the very best and most credible data to inform

decisions, we will allocate R803,000 to the collation of the PERO and R1,3 million to the MERO in the 23/24.

Hon Speaker, the focus area of efficient infrastructure investment is a strategically important area for the province. It is fundamental for growth for jobs agenda with cross-cutting impact on all the strategic priorities of this Government.

The establishment of the new Department of Infrastructure is driving a revolution in infrastructure delivery in the province and the Provincial Treasury will focus on the Infrastructure Delivery Management System pipeline as we move the infrastructure investment approach from policy to a strategy forward to delivery.

Over 23/24 we were allocated R2,95 million to appoint a pool of suitably qualified experts to undertake research and provide advisory services to identify, attract, secure and retain alternative funding support for the roll-out of public sector social and economic infrastructure initiatives in the Western Cape, which include:

- Infrastructure Delivery Management System Pipeline;
- Monitoring and reporting on the provincial infrastructure pipeline;
and
- Project preparation support.

Hon Speaker, supply chain management is a critical lever for Government to procure goods and services, including infrastructure, on the best possible terms to fulfil Government's mandate of delivering a better future for our residents.

It also has a secondary function to promote broader social, economic and environmental outcomes. Public procurement is therefore an important lever to improve the impact of public expenditure.

The Treasury has an established supply chain management reform strategy in the province built on four key pillars, which include:

- Governance,
- Supply chain management technology,
- Strategic procurement, and
- Capacitation and development.

To drive procurement efficiencies and to continue to embed good governance, the Provincial Treasury has rolled out its in-house developed e-Procurement Solution in a phased-in process.

In the 23/24 financial year this key project will be allocated R6,82 million to further drive ease of doing business with the Western Cape Government, and to further improve procurement support assistance to provincial Departments, entities, municipalities and suppliers through an integrated helpdesk, the

Procurement Client Centre, based in Century City, will be allocated R5,73 million in 23/24.

I have had an opportunity to visit this very impressive Procurement Client Centre which is at the forefront of reducing red tape for businesses, especially small businesses who are interested in becoming Western Cape Government suppliers. This is yet another example of great steps taken by the Provincial Treasury to contribute to economic growth and job creation in our province.

Hon Speaker, to continue with our oversight role of the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board, which is mandated to regulate gambling and betting in the Western Cape Province, as well as collect gambling taxes and levies for the fiscus, we will allocate R26,86 million to the Board in 23/24.

This will help ensure that overall this sector can contribute to the economy of the Western Cape in an innovative and, importantly, socially responsible manner.

Finally, hon Speaker, I am very pleased to confirm that the Provincial Treasury is accelerating the adoption of new digital technologies across its core mandates and service delivery processes.

These allocations will focus both on driving efficiency and on expanding the transparency of public financial management.

Ultimately digital transformation will enable the Treasury to maximise the value of the extensive data it currently manages, particularly through the alignment of existing data sets to support decision-making and oversight. This will require not only the development of systems, but also of the skills sets of Treasury officials.

First the Provincial Treasury Data Centre, which is allocated R10 million over the MTEF, will provide the information platform to foster compliant and standardised reporting for management and oversight, using new technologies to enable data cleansing, aggregation, analysis and reporting.

Second the Customer Relationship Management Tool, which is allocated R9 million over the MTEF, will streamline process for all client interactions, modernise the user interfaces and enhance reporting and auditing of systematic procedures.

Third, the Evergreening Legacy Systems initiative, which is allocated R15 million over the MTEF, will drastically improve access to operational reports, will reduce the cost of maintaining many systems and facilitate collaboration with departmental and other stakeholders.

Overall the key outputs of these three initiatives will ensure that employees are equipped with modern enterprise productivity solutions to enable efficient and effective service delivery, streamline electronic communication

with citizens, suppliers and Government stakeholders, and improve the use of data for informed decision-making.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, the Provincial Treasury and the excellent work that they do lies at the very heart of delivering a better future for the residents of the Western Cape.

This responsibility is taken very seriously as is seen in the continued and unwavering commitment to further entrenching good governance in provincial departments, in municipalities and within public entities.

This hard work and dedication is one of the key reasons why the Western Cape is one of the best run provinces in the country, and the few programmes and initiatives I have mentioned today are but a sample of the continuous drive by the Treasury to do even more, to go even further and to deliver the very best services to our citizens, and so, in summary for 23/24:

- Our Administration Programme will receive R67,07 million.
- Our Sustainable Resource Management Programme will receive R139,156 million.
- Our Asset Management Programme will receive R89,576 million.
- Our Financial Governance Programme now receives R44,87 million.

I would like to thank the entire Provincial Treasury team for being the driving force behind the efforts to improve the lives of residents across this

wonderful province and for the really many, many hours they have put into this budget process to make it a success.

I would like to thank this immensely impressive team under the leadership of the very able and astute head of the Provincial Treasury, Mr David Savage, for continuously seeking ways to further improve financial governance so that we can really make a difference in the lives of citizens.

I would also like to thank the Standing Committee under the leadership of the Chairwoman, hon member Murray, for the very important oversight role that they play, and I would like to thank my Ministry team for the enormous dedication and hard work that they put in.

To conclude, hon Speaker, it is only through action and through the fierce urgency of now that we can deliver change and a future full of hope. I thank you. [Applause.]

†Die SPEAKER: Dankie, agb Minister. Ek sien agb lid Mvimbi is die volgende spreker op die sprekerslys.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I see hon Mvimbi is the next speaker on the speakers' list.] Hon member Mvimbi.

Can I just get confirmation? Hon member Mvimbi, we can see you are online, I think you might be muted.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Hon Speaker, can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: Yes, now can you.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Hon Speaker, can – thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, we can hear you.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

I stand here today on behalf of the ANC to object to this budget. First and foremost the ANC would like to address the disparaging treatment that it has received in this House the previous day. Just in this past few weeks the hon member Petrus Marais uttered a racial comment towards the black Africans in this House by calling them foreigners in their own country, but received a less harsh ruling from the hon Speaker, and we believe that it was a very, very lenient action towards a very racist utterance.

This was certainly a derogatory remark and unparliamentary behaviour, something the oldest member of this House should have known, but then again one would not expect anything better from a beneficiary of the apartheid government and a former member of the National Party, as well as the member of the [Inaudible.] Parliament.

What is disappointing to witness is the hon Speaker and the hon Deputy

Speaker's ruling against both these two different cases. Hon member Petrus Marais was suspended for only ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, please ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... the remainder of the proceedings of that day ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama [Inaudible.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... but the hon member Nkondlo has been suspended ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, my apologies ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... from the House ...

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

The DEPUTY WHIP [DA]: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I rise on Rule 44 in terms of irrelevance or repetition, as well as Rule 59A and B, which states that:

"Improper or proper motives and reflect on the integrity and

dignity of members of the House."

Hon Speaker, it has been these past days now obviously and the DA remains, hon Speaker, I think we made our position clear, but it keeps on coming up and it comes down to misleading the House in terms of what the ruling was, and, hon Speaker, this is not a matter of this side of the House supporting the hon member Marais, but we need to abide to the Rules of this House and we and we endorse [Interjections.] – we endorse ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: [Inaudible.] there is no point of order [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: ... the ruling of the hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I am the still in the Chair.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: So therefore I draw your attention to those two Rules, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon, [Interjections.], hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: [Inaudible.] calling out the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, I am speaking to you. [Interjections.] Can you not – you were, you were heckling to me. Hon member Chief Whip, if you want to raise a point of order, get up and raise your point of order. Do not shout across the floor. Hon Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Then call out the MEC also.

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

Hon Speaker, I want to draw your attention to Rule 44 which reads as follows:

"When a member persists in irrelevance or repetition of arguments, the Presiding Officer may call attention to the conduct of the member."

I want to point out that, one, hon member Philander is not a Presiding Officer. Number two, hon member Lulama Mvimbi did – *hey, hey, hey*, [Interjections.] – hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is a member on the floor. Allow the hon member the opportunity to raise her point of view.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Can I address you?

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Can I address you?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Okay, thank you.

I would like you to be consistent in terms of ruling with regards to members who continue to heckle. It would have seemed to me that your inconsistency leaves a lot to be desired. It is not the first time nor the second time, but it is for the 10th time that hon Minister Wenger, being seated there, continues to heckle when I am addressing issues.

I have highlighted [Interjections.] – you see? You see?

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: She is misleading the House.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I will see you now. Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I have raised two issues. The one on persistence, which hon member Mvimbi did not persist in any manner, not unless hon

member Philander is impatient and does not have any reason to listen to speakers when they go through their statements.

Number two, as I have already said that this Rule speaks of a Presiding Officer who may and not on any other member. Now I want you to take note of the abuse of that specific Rule.

Number three, hon Speaker, I would like really what you do on the right hand you do it on the left hand side. In law that is a *mutatis mutandis* principle. It is really difficult to sit in a House where some other people are treated fairly and others are treated with disdain.

Since I have been sitting here I have noted many instances where it is difficult, really difficult for you, hon Speaker, when people are drowning a speaker from that other side, you do not say, "You are drowning your own member," but you find it very nice to tell hon members of the side when they are drowning their own speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon members, there are two things that I want to address.

The one is that if you have an issue with the ruling or the rulings that have been made in this House, there is a process that you follow. Can you please follow that parliamentary process as stipulated in the Rules? I am not going to entertain the rulings that I have already made and that I stand by.

And secondly, this is a political debate. So I have allowed some leeway or leniency on both sides of the House to allow the members when it is their opportunity to present their presentation to the House. I do not take kindly to constantly be referred to being biased and I want to put it on the record, because from my view I am treating everyone as equal members and the same way I do on the right, I do on the left. If you have a problem with any ruling please follow that process.

Hon Minister, is there a different point of order because I have now ruled on those points of orders and I am going to ask that we continue.

Okay, thank you very much. Hon member Mvimbi, my apologies, you may continue.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you. I just want to remind all further speakers that please note that this is the Budget Vote, so please I am going to listen very carefully that we just please stick to the Budget Votes.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon member Petrus Marais was suspended for only the remainder of the [Inaudible.] of the day, but hon member Nkondlo has been suspended for the

House for two consecutive Sittings. The disparaging treatment toward the ANC is very ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, I am going ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... [Inaudible.] and yes, this is a race issue.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, hon member Mvimbi, I have ruled on that exact point that you are representing to the House. The bottom line is if you have an issue with a ruling, or your perception of the ruling, please follow the parliamentary process of that.

Hon member Kama, is that a point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Sorry, hon Speaker, I do not know, because according to me hon member Mvimbi is not challenging your ruling.

You have made the ruling. He is using his time in a political debate to raise whatever political issues that he wants to raise, and you have consistently, when we call even an issue of relevance on the other side, you have consistently said that you refuse to be part of the debate or direct which way the debate must go.

So I think let us allow hon member Mvimbi. I am privileged to know that he is not really going to spend much more time to that, he is moving to other

points. So let us allow him to continue. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Kama.

Without getting into a debate with you about that, the minute the speaker on the floor brings the Speaker into the debate, I have an obligation to put the Chair's view for the record.

So hon member Mvimbi, I am going to listen very carefully, you may continue.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Hon Speaker, you want me now to change my speech?

The SPEAKER: No-no, you can continue ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Because I have prepared a speech and [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Delivery your speech, hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Okay, thanks, thanks, hon Speaker.

The disparaging treatment was the ANC is very palpable and yes, this is a race issue. Hon member Nkondlo, as we speak right now, is missing out on her debate speech, a right that she had been denied. The ANC will not allow such treatment in this House and we will take up this unjust behaviour.

The late Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, I quote:

"If you are neutral in a situation of injustice, we have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

The ANC refuses to stay neutral in such a situation. The DA in this instance is the oppressor and we refuse to be oppressed by this Provincial Government system. The future that the Democratic Alliance is trying to portray is very bleak, it is deplorable and portrays incompetency [Inaudible.] as a government.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mvimbi, please take your seat.

Hon member Mvimbi, there is a point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Hon Speaker, is it parliamentary to refer to hon members on this side of the House as oppressors? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I am going to listen very carefully.

Hon member Mvimbi, can I please caution you that there is, you are into your speech and there has still not been any reference to the budget. Can I please

ask that you stop reflecting on the Presiding Officer and the rulings that were made. I have already addressed that.

Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Deputy Chief Whip.

Hon Speaker, the point of order raised by the hon Chief Whip is frivolous, hon Speaker. I mean, the hon member Mvimbi has not made reference to any specific member in this House. He spoke about the Democratic Alliance in general, like the hon member Bosman spoke about the ANC and we did not object to that.

So I think let us allow that to continue and I am sure hon member Mvimbi has been painting a context. He will get to his point. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon member Mvimbi, can you please continue.

Mr L L MVIMBI: The future that the Democratic Alliance is trying to portray is very bleak, it is deplorable and portrays incompetency in leading as a government. This Provincial Government [Inaudible.]

Hon Speaker, without wasting any time I would like to get back to the business of the day. We have continuously raised concern about the delays

of filling vacancies in this province, yet the Department of Provincial Treasury will justify the increase of Votes Budget by stating that the execution of the core function and responsibility of the Provincial Treasury requires mainly human resources.

To whom is this money going to, because of the vacancy not being filled, but rather we see more and more consultants? We know the increase in the number of bursaries that were offered, but we also note the decrease of payment on training in Programme 1 and 2, administration and sustainable resource management respectively.

Hon Speaker, I would like to repeat the words of hon member Nkondlo uttered last year during the budget adjustment period, I quote:

"The same Provincial Government that [Inaudible.] population growth for increase in Equitable Share, and in this House leads the decision to support the increase of seats in this Parliament based on this group, turns around and not fill vacancies. So the [Inaudible.] Compensation of Employees means less hands on deck under a growing workload. This review has modern day slavery of our public servants and their dedication."

The 29,14% reduction in the total payments on training demonstrates exactly what the hon member Nkondlo has mentioned above. Training in the workplace improves the skills of employees, which yield high job satisfaction

and retention.

A reallocation of R381,000 2022/2023 unspent funds for municipalities intervention to aid in municipalities where conditions exist for provincial intervention, had been shifted to consultancy work again, spending more on consultants instead of mitigating and addressing the lack of skills in the province.

I have also noted, hon Speaker, that the Minister is actually mentioning that there is a monthly in-year monitoring of municipalities and in the process there is also a certain amount of R55,4 million that has been added to this, and the hon Minister further mentioned that there is assistance that is given to Drakenstein Municipality financial dashboard.

[Inaudible.] it is interesting to know that the same Drakenstein Municipality is the municipality that we know that has got big financial problems and we hope that with this intervention they will be able to actually assist that municipality out of this problem, and also investigate the corruption that has been consistently taking place in that municipality, through the attainment of illegal loans by that municipality, but also, hon Speaker, we have also noted the hon Minister mentioning the fact of the Procurement Client Centre, that is actually located at Century City.

Century City, that is very far from most of the small, medium, micro enterprises and again these small micro enterprises will have to get to

Century City at huge cost that they can actually even struggle to actually make means meet, but also, hon Speaker, I have been consistently asking the Treasury whenever they are presenting their budget, as to whether what form of public participation has been made in order to come to the realisation of this budget, and the answer I have always been given is that the consultation is with the municipalities and also with the very same Department that are actually running the administration.

So in this respect, hon Speaker, there seems to be no proper participation. Therefore it is very difficult to even call this budget a people's budget, and it is for this reason that the ANC does not support this budget. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

(HANSARD 29.03.2023 – 02.00 to end of morning session)

Mr L L MVIMBI: So in this respect, hon Speaker, there seem to be no proper participation. Therefore it is very difficult to even call this budget a people's budget, and it is for this reason that the ANC does not support this budget. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

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

I now see hon member Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM: Hon Speaker, let me start by saying that DA Ministers must not take up positions in this province if they are scared to answer questions, like the previous Minister who shied away from commenting on even a simple request for more programmes which will tackle racism in this province, but it is okay, we know that you have a duty to uphold the legacy of your ancestors by ignoring racism, but getting back to the debate.

The Provincial Treasury plays a key strategic role when it comes to resource allocation and other support to all Provincial Government departments, the entities, municipalities in this province, as well as this Legislature. The Department is also tasked with monitoring budget implementation and performance, as well as providing policy direction and to facilitate the management of supply chain and asset management practices.

Whilst the list of its main functions and duties is expansive, it is also important to note that this Department also have a duty to assist individual provincial Ministers with the functions assigned to them by legislation, and the budget allocation to this Vote must enable the Department to execute these functions and more.

Having said that, it is common knowledge that the Western Cape municipalities and Provincial Government Departments are failing when it

comes to rendering services to our people, more so in townships and rural areas. Our people are forced to keep up with inhabitant environments of blocked sewerage, high crime rates, unplaced learnings, high unemployment rate, just to list a few. All of these show that money is not used to where it is supposed to be used, or rather not spent where it is supposed to be spent.

All these happen under the watch of the Department of Treasury, which is tasked with monitoring, budget implementations and performances. Whilst this Department is also tasked with providing socio-economic and policy research to other Provincial Government departments, it does not make sense that this province is sitting with a backlog of over 600 000 people on the housing waiting lists. It then begs the question: where is the socio-economic policy research in this regard? What does it say about finding efficient ways to respond to the housing crisis in this province? And where are these policies when businesses in this province are held ransom by criminals to pay protection fees?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassiem ...[Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM: Who knows, perhaps the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... your time has expired. [Interjections.] I now see the hon ...[Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM: The EFF rejects this budget.

The SPEAKER: ... member Murray.

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Cassiem, your time has expired. Hon member Murray.

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, Provincial Treasury has a clear task. Not easy, but clear. It is to make sure that this Government does not waste the people's money so that services are delivered.

This is the same task performed [Inaudible.] every Provincial Treasury in the country, as well as National Government or the National Treasury, and yet the Western Cape is the only province that cares enough to actually do it.

While we are already receiving unqualified audit findings across the board for every single department in the Government last year, the team at Provincial Treasury is not content with simply doing the bare minimum. I call it the bare minimum not because it is easy to get an unqualified audit finding, but because it is necessary. This is what we are achieving year after year.

No organisation, entity or government can run efficiently without stringent financial systems in place. To sustain this level of excellence, R340 million

in total has been allocated to Provincial Treasury to enable them to continue supporting all Provincial Government Departments, as well as Western Cape municipalities in meeting their financial reporting commitments.

Just ask the ANC staff at Luthuli House how the lack of financial discipline within that party has wreaked havoc on their ability to pay wages.

Last week I had the pleasure of engaging with the German delegation from Baden-Württemberg. They asked me, quite out of the blue, pardon the pun, what is it that makes the Western Cape so regionally strong compared to other provinces? I was able to answer this quite easily. It is because of how seriously we treat our auditing processes.

Hon Speaker, discipline, monitoring, reporting and evaluation are not flashy and attention grabbing words, and yet they form the basis of all the good work that this Government does. It is only through discipline, monitoring, reporting and evaluation that the Western Cape Government has consistently been delivering key services without corruption.

The DA-led Western Cape Government understands, much like South Africans, that the taxpayers' money belongs to the people. It is meant to build schools, clinics and housing, to enhance lives and livelihoods of our residents, promoting dignity, safety and jobs. This is because this Government is guided by caring principles.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for ANC-led governance. [Interjections.] Their lack of commitment to these caring values was demonstrated most recently by the tragic death of 4-year old Langa Iam Viki, whose body was found at the back of a pit toilet in Eastern Cape this month.

In response to this tragedy, the National Department of Basic Education said that it is "picking up a pattern". This is a tragedy. It speaks to service delivery failure of the highest order and it should not be a pattern. The ANC does not care, but the DA-led Western Cape Government does.

Hon Speaker, I would like to take a moment to thank the hardworking officials at Provincial Treasury for their passion in doing the work in the trenches, up to their eyes and reports and data, while still keeping the importance of their work top of mind.

This work ensures that services are delivered by Government and prevents corruption. I see the commitment that each official brings to their work and it is them that ensures that the inner workings of government run smoothly.

The Western Cape, with the structures this team at Provincial Treasury has put in place, will stretch public money much further than any other province. Let me give you an example of the type of innovation that the Provincial Treasury is bringing to the table. Provincial Treasury has committed R9 million over the next three years to develop and implement citizen centric ICT systems, including fourth industrial revolution automated processes to

improve service delivery throughout Provincial Government Departments. The antiquated ICT systems that National Government uses and advocated are simply not good enough.

Provincial Treasury has been making use of dashboarding to ensure that skillsets are in place to keep up with everchanging demands in the tech space, to pull information from various Departments and to provide enhanced analytics on performance and supply chain management right down to the municipal level.

Governments around the world are already harnessing the power of AI through personalised services and automated processes. Consider, hon Speaker, Singapore's "Ask Jenny", a virtual assistant that helps citizens and businesses navigate government services across 70 Government agencies through AI chat and voice. We must make sure that we are not left behind amid for IR.

This DA-led Government understands that both businesses and residents cannot be burdened with delays at a National Government level, which is why they have proceeded to establish their own data wells by migrating from legacy systems.

This collation of Government data, with the help of automated processes, will help this Provincial Government to identify service delivery blockages in real time and take the appropriate action to rectify them. It is important to note

that these migrations are taking place in the strictest accordance with POPIA and it will further support upgrading of legacy systems in supply chain management, basic accounting system and logistical information services.

Hon Speaker, this is a Department that will not accept anything less than excellence, and where they see a gap to be closed in enabling better service delivery to our residents, they do not hesitate to investigate and come up with solutions.

Where systems are out of date or ineffective, this Department takes the initiative to develop better systems. Given the track record of this Provincial Government I cannot wait to see the new technologies being used to guide our governance to an even higher level, our residents deserve nothing less.

To put a very fine point on it, it is only where the DA governs that the value of South African residents' money is taken seriously. Residents work hard for their money and the way that the ANC Governments of all levels have disrespected this hard work through corruption and theft, cannot be allowed, but it is the poor and economically insecure population that should be the most outraged as they are the ones who depend on Government services.

Grants cost money, medication costs money and books for our learners cost money. The less stolen and pocketed by ANC cadres, the more money there is to provide these critical skills and services. It is not a difficult conclusion to reach. Only the DA is investing every piece of new technology and every

single opportunity to improve their level of governance. The Provincial Treasury is the backbone of fiscal excellence that has come to characterise the DA Government and there is simply no comparison elsewhere in the country.

With that said I want to acknowledge the leadership under the HOD and Minister Wenger, who play a vital role in preventing corruption and ensuring service delivery through good auditing practices.

Hon Speaker, the DA supports this budget. [Applause.]

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

I now see the – hon member Kama, is that a point of order? Because the hon member Murray has just taken her seat.

Mr M KAMA: I just wanted to check with you, hon Speaker, is it parliamentary to only use seven minutes when you have 33? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is a frivolous point of order, [Interjections.] please take your – the ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KAMA: Surely that cannot be in the interest of the people? [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kama, that is not a point of order.
[Interjections.]

Hon members, there was a point of order, I ruled that that is not a point of order. The hon member took his seat.

Hon member Sayed, is that another point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, can I propose that the rest of the time be given to hon member Bosman, hon Speaker, [Interjections.] because he misses that portfolio. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I now see – hon member Sayed, that is not a point of order.
[Interjections.]

Can I ask that the hon Minister [Interjections.] – order hon members. Hon Minister, over to you.

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

I will respond to some of the comments that actually related to the budget, the vast majority did not.

Just on the question of cost of employment and vacancies. We are trying for

leaner public service. We do not agree with the ANC's approach of a bloated public service that is inefficient. We are in for a lean and efficient public service, and we also understand that there is no "one size fits all" when it comes to personnel management, which is why each Department makes their own strategic decisions. So it is also interesting then that we have the leanest public service, but we also get the best results.

On municipalities, hon member Mvimbi mentioned specifically Drakenstein. I am not sure exactly what he was referring to when he was talking about illegal loans, but I do know that that municipality borrowed in order to develop infrastructure to support growth and development there and they have made very good progress to return to financial sustainability there.

Then on public participation on the budget. As mentioned in the Standing Committee we start off with the PERO and the MERO, and those are workshopped with municipalities, their stakeholder engagements across the province on those two founding documents, with sessions, including with other public entities like the Children's Commissioner, so that children too can participate in the budget.

We then launched the messages for [Inaudible.] Campaign this year and even had pop-up stores at first Thursdays. So there certainly was a drive to get public to participate in the budget and the budget speech specifically.

To the hon member from the EFF, I thought it would be useful for her to

know that we do in fact get the best audit results in the country in this province. The 2021 General Household Survey by Stats SA, shows that residents in the Western Cape have a better quality of life compared to any other province in South Africa.

99,4% of households have access to piped or tapped water. Less than 4,9% of households reported water interruptions, while the national average is 30%. 94,5% of households have access to improve sanitation. 94,8% of households with access to flush toilets. The Western Cape has the highest number of households that get refuse removal at least once a week. 95% of households are connected to the mains electricity supply. The Western Cape has the highest number of children in preschool and Grade R, and 71% of Western Cape households derives their income from salaries, which is the highest in the country, and it speaks to the relatively high number of people employed in our province compared to others.

And then finally to hon member Murray, thank you very much for your thoughtful inputs on this debate.

I then conclude the debate. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Hon members, that concludes the debate on that Vote. I am going to allow – I do not know if there is any other officials that needs to come or if everyone

is here? Can I continue, hon Minister, you ...

Alright, I will now ask the hon Secretary to read the Third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2-2023].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Secretary. I will give the hon Minister one minute to just – hon Minister, are you ready?

I see the hon Minister, Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. Let me just centre myself. Here we go.

In preparing my address to the House today, I pause to imagine where our country will be in 2035, 12 years from now. If you would allow me I would like to you engage in the same thought experiment.

In the year 2035 what will be happening in our economy? Will we have solved the power crisis? Will we have enough jobs for future generations? Will we be rolling back poverty, crime and hunger? Will there be hope?

If you ask these same questions to many citizens of our country right now, I am sure that the responses you will receive will be negative. In fact for

many thinking too far into the future will create anxiety and stress, because most people rightfully believe that South Africa is going in the wrong direction.

Hon Speaker or Chairperson, now I would like you to imagine a different, better future. A 2035 where our provincial economy is growing at between four and 6% per year, where we are creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs, lifting people out of poverty. Where our businesses, big, small and informal, have the energy, water, infrastructure, skills and technology to grow and succeed. Where a child, no matter where they are born, have the pathway to a better life. [Interjections.]

If you present this alternative, better future to any citizen in our country, I am confident that their anxiety will be replaced by a feeling of hope, the sort of contagious hope that cannot be contained and which instils optimism in the future.

Hon Chairperson, while this is a thought exercise, it really is the choice that faces us all. We have before us two futures, one full of hope and the other full of anxiety and continued decline.

Here in the Western Cape we know exactly which future we will be pursuing, and we are determined, with unbridled passion, to achieve a better future full of hope, through real decisive action, and that is why, under the leadership of this Department, we have formulated a new economic growth strategy for the

Western Cape, the Growth For Jobs Strategy. [Interjections.]

Its vision for the provincial economy is one that achieves breakout economic growth to achieve sufficient employment and opportunity which is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, diverse and thriving, generating confidence, hope and prosperity for all, and to get us to this better future it sets the courageous goal of growing the economy by between four and 6% per year in real terms, and for the provincial GDP to be R1 trillion in 2035.

The strategy also clarifies that how we grow our economy is just as important as the growth itself. In this way the Growth For Job Strategy distinguishes itself from previous approaches by providing a long-term perspective with clear targets framed within defined principles.

Importantly it is centred in an all of Government approach to addressing key binding constraints in the economy by creating an enabling environment for the private sector that rapidly accelerates our economic growth. It puts into action boldly what too often is said is lip service. It is the private sector, which includes the township and informal economy, that creates jobs and it is the role of government to unlock and enable its enormous potential for change.

This strategy understands that if we do not get the foundations for growth right, we will not be able to achieve higher growth rates and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and so it set seven priority focus areas for the

Western Cape Government to unlock and enable growth, with ambitious stretch targets that push for rapid change.

These focus areas are:

- Energy
- Investment
- Exports
- Water
- Infrastructure
- Technology
- Access to opportunity

I look forward to sharing the ambitious stretch targets we have set ourselves as we finalise the strategy imminently, and which will unite our government behind a common goal, to fundamentally change the trajectory of this province for the better.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the DEDAT team under the leadership of our head of Department, Mr Velile Dube, for leading from the front in formulating this bold plan.

While several aspects of the strategy will also be implemented by other Departments, DEDAT will play a central role in coordinating this all of government approach to growth and I thank them for their leadership and

their courage.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And so, hon Speaker, it is a privilege for me to table before you Vote 12's Budget for Growth and Jobs today, with over R1,5 billion allocated over the 2023 MTF. This includes:

- R512,78 million in 23/24.
- R519,81 million in 24/25.
- R528,42 million in 25/26.

Hon Speaker, in the Premier's State of the Province Address last month, he made it clear that while electricity provision is not a Provincial Government mandate, we will not neglect our duty to our citizens during this time of crisis. We will step up and step in to help keep the power on, because you do not need a Minister of Electricity if your head of government leads from the front to get the job done.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And so R1,1 billion has been boldly set aside in the 2023 MTEF to give power back to the people, and DEDAT will have an important role to play as part of this

all of Government plan.

Over the 2023 MTEF the Department has allocated R55,5 million for alternative energy support for small, medium and micro enterprises in the province, to support them in mitigating the devastating effects of loadshedding. This support will be critical to helping businesses, including in township and informal economies, to continue to trade.

A further R24 million over the MTEF has been allocated to the Green Economy Municipal Energy Resilient Strategy to continue to build energy resilience in municipalities across the province. The Green Economy Ecosystem Support Project will receive an allocation of R25,9 million over the MTEF, to stimulate the development of green industries and to facilitate improved resource efficiency and sustainability of businesses in our province, and R60 million has been allocated over this time to the Freeport Saldanha and Wesgro for the development of green hydrogen.

The budget will be allocated towards developing and implementing a Green Hydrogen Strategy and Implementation Plan, which will include technical requirements and infrastructure readiness towards green hydrogen development, establishing a green hydrogen hub in Saldanha Bay and establishing a green hydrogen corridor along the coast to the Northern Cape and potentially into Namibia.

It will also include creating an enabling environment and identifying first

mover advantages to attract investments and international funding into the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, to enable higher levels of economic growth we need much higher levels of investment, both domestic and foreign. The truth is that the National Government makes realising this objective very difficult. From the energy crisis to widespread corruption and looting, to decay of critical infrastructure, the National Government is currently an obstacle and not an aid in attracting investment into South Africa, [Interjections.] and so we must do as much as we can here in the Western Cape to ensure that we roll out the red carpet for investors and land the investment that we need to grow the economy and create jobs.

R36,42 million is accordingly allocated to Wesgro for investment promotion in 23/24, so that we can attract, facilitate and land job creating investments in the Western Cape. I would like to use the opportunity to congratulate the agency for securing R3 billion in new investment declarations between April and December of last year.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, we will also allocate R40,9 million to the Atlanta Special Economic Zone for green technologies for this upcoming financial year. I am also pleased to announce that this entity will start the financial year with the

delivery of civil infrastructure that will enable new investments into the zone.

They are also currently evaluating applications from prospective investors to the value of approximately R7,4 billion, including renewable energy, independent power producers, manufacturers of lithium batteries and solar PV manufacturers, to name a few, and they will continue to focus on skills and enterprise development in the Atlantis community, ensuring that investment benefits residents.

Hon Speaker, and lastly as part of our focus on attracting investment, R9,4 million will be allocated to Freeport Saldanha for project preparation facility on port infrastructure at the Port of Saldanha. Following of pre-feasibility analysis, the entity will embark on a more detailed work project to unlock the development of port infrastructure in the Port of Saldanha and to enable private sector participation and investment in developing the port into the future.

Hon Speaker, despite numerous shocks to the economy, both at home and abroad, there has been a shining success story for the Western Cape economy over the last decade, booming export growth. According to the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook of 2022, between 2012 and 2021 real exports in the Western Cape expanded by an impressive 39,8%, of which agriculture and manufacturing made the most significant positive contributions.

When something is growing this impressively, you unlock and enable that further so that you can leverage its full potential, and so enabling export-led growth is a top priority for the Western Cape Government and for this Vote.

It is for this reason that in 2023/24 we will allocate R32,85 million to Wesgro to enable its trade promotion activities. Between April and December last year these activities allowed for R2,5 billion in trade declarations to be signed.

Wesgro is also doing pioneering work in leveraging technology to get Western Cape products to more places in the world. Their virtual Cape Trade Portal has connected Western Cape exporters with key markets and now has an impressive 670 verified exporters registered and more than 4 000 Western Cape products and services on board.

While trade promotion is a vital component, we know we also need to support local businesses to access the enormous potential that trade creates for growth. We will therefore also allocate R5 million in 23/24 to the Export Competitiveness Enhancement Programme. This programme will support businesses that are export ready, or working towards being export ready, to meet international market requirements, as well as invest in their own capacity to access exciting export opportunities, and we will establish an Ease of Doing Business Project focused on exports, with an allocation of R1 million in 23/24.

This project will map the red tape constraints for the top export commodities in terms of legislation, systems, processes and people, and accordingly generate proposals to address those challenges by advocating for appropriate reforms. The programme will engage regulators across all levels of government to create an enabling export friendly environment in the province.

Hon Speaker, sadly these efforts to boost exports will be undermined if we do not have efficient ports that allow for the quick processing of goods and which attracts shipping lines from across the world. According to our own research, if we achieve a high growth scenario for the Port of Cape Town, or 26% in export growth, we will create 20 000 more direct and indirect jobs, and add an additional 0,6% to the Western Cape Gross Domestic Product by 2026. It is for all intents and purposes a no-brainer and why focusing on improving inefficiencies at the port remains a priority.

We will accordingly strengthen our dedicated Port of Cape Town team within the Department with additional human resources and allocate R1,5 million in 23/24 to support this work. We will also continue to advocate for private sector participation at the port and for it to be added as an Operation Vulindlela priority.

I would like to share one exciting project they are supporting and that is the creation of an online dashboard for the Cape Town container terminal and its operations, that will enable the port value chain to better plan and coordinate.

The landing page will provide a high level overview of marine waterside and landside operations and show vessel time and anchorage and at berth, to track port performance. This demonstrates the power of innovation and transparency to enable private/public sector collaboration towards a shared objective.

Hon Speaker, on the topic of trade I do want to pause to reflect on the very real risk that South African products may lose preferential access to the United States through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

An HON MEMBER: Horrible.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: This would be devastating for the Western Cape economy as the US was our top export market in 2021, with R16,98 billion worth of Western Cape products exported into that country.

The thoughtless and ill-advised decision by the South African Government to engage in war games with the aggressor of the Ukraine conflict threatens thousands of jobs, especially in our rural communities, and should concern all of us here. [Interjections.] It is equally concerning that President Putin might have red carpet rolled out for him ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... if he attends the Brix Summit ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... despite an ICC warrant out for his arrest. [Interjections.] It is not in the national interest ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! I cannot hear the Minister on the floor.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... nor is it in the interest of job creation of any province in South Africa.

The Western Cape Government will advocate hard for preferential access for South Africa under AGOA to continue, and we urge the South African Government to please get their priorities straight ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... and do the same. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, I am sure you will join me in celebrating [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! I cannot hear the Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: I am sure you will join me in celebrating that tourism is back in the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Two-way international passengers through Cape Town International Airport in January this year was 97% of January 2019. In the same month Cape Town recorded the highest number one tourist arrivals from overseas markets among South Africa's three top airports, and our key source markets of the UK, Germany, USA, Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Belgium and Zimbabwe, all have recovery rates exceeding 100%.

This growth is also reflected in our hotel bookings with data from the South African Hotel Review showing that hotel occupancy for the Western Cape in December had a recovery rate of 106% when compared to December 2019.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Like

with exports it is the policy of our government to further unlock and enable the enormous potential of the tourism and hospitality sector in the Western Cape, because more tourism means more jobs in our province.

An HON MEMBER: Ja, it is simple.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: To achieve this goal we will allocate R55,98 million to Wesgro for tourism promotion in the 23/24 financial year. This will include leveraging our successful Cape Town Air Access Collaboration, which secured four new air routes and three new airlines between November 2022 and March 2023 ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Nice!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... and the Cape Town Cruise Partnership, which confirmed 75 cruise ship visits to our ports, carrying more than 195 000 passengers. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Jobs, jobs, jobs.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We will also continue to strengthen our destination brand with world class campaigns in source markets. It is worth celebrating that Wesgro's marketing team took home three Loerie Awards in October for the tourism campaign and

innovation if efforts. [Interjections.]

Strengthening our tourism economy will also require tourism development in the province. I am therefore pleased to announce that we will launch in 23/24 a R5 million tourism challenge fund in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

This fund will provide co-funding to enhance high volume tourism attractions through tourism infrastructure development and/or initiatives of tourism organisations working with tourism enterprises to enable businesses to enhance and expand their tourism offerings in areas with high growth potential. [Interjections.]

We will also focus on a key enabler of the tourism economy identified by the tourism and hospitality sector themselves, skills. [Interjections.] With a R1,5 million allocation in 23/24, we will look to revive provincial tourism skills forum with the aim of coordinating skills development. We will help train 100 frontline workers in customer care and we will recognise and celebrate service excellence through our annual Lilizela Event and competition.

Finally, in line with our legislative mandate, we will allocate R1,15 million in 23/24 for the registration, development and monitoring of the tourist guiding industry in the province. The growth of the sector will be supported through increased investment in skills development, with the aim of

delivering more compelling experiences to both domestic and international visitors. This will improve guides' employability and strengthen their resilience. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is just skills [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, there is one key enabler that stitches through every priority that I have raised so far and that is visas. If we cannot secure the critical skills our economy needs to grow or make it easy for new travellers to visit our beautiful country, we will not be able to secure high levels of economic growth.

While border management and the granting of visas is a national competency, the unsatisfactory management of South Africa's visa regime is negatively impacting our concurrent provincial competencies of trade, tourism and industrial promotion ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... and so advocating for job creating visa reform will become a priority of this Department.

I was absolutely shocked to learn through a parliamentary reply by the

Minister of Home Affairs in the National Council of Provinces, that of the 13 887 eVisa applications that have been received, only 6 769, or 48%, have been processed. [Interjections.] Less than half were processed and what is worse, only 440 ...[intervenes], only 3% were actually granted. [Interjections.] 3%. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We are still waiting [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... for more than one year [Interjections.] ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... we are still waiting for more than one year after the President announced in his 2022 State of the Nation Address that South Africa would introduce a digital nomad visa. [Interjections.] One year later.

A recent study conducted by our Department found that most respondents thought the process of requiring a business visa or employing a foreign

person, was very poor when compared to other countries. Our system is broken ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... and so to begin our advocacy [Interjections.] for job creating visa reform in South Africa, we will allocate R1 million in 23/24 so that we can help get it fixed.

An HON MEMBER: Sjóh, well done! [Interjections.] Doing National Government's work again. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, please settle down.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, as the Minister ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister is on the floor. [Interjections.] You are drowning out the speakers, and I am speaking to both sides of the House. [Interjections.]

Can you please allow the Minister an opportunity. [Interjections.] Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, as the Minister in this portfolio, I have the great honour to meet

with small and micro businesses' owners across the province. These courageous entrepreneurs remind me every time of the quote by Walt Disney who said:

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: They embody precisely what we mean when we talk about the need for action and the fierce urgency of now, because they demonstrate it every single day.

Too often though the foundations that they need to succeed are lacking from funding to electricity, infrastructure, or having to confront endless red tape. [Inaudible.] even more so in our township and informal economies, where additional factors such as crime impedes potential to grow and succeed. It is for this reason that supporting SMMEs remains an important focus for this Department in 23/24, and indeed over the MTEF.

In addition to the alternative energy support for SMMEs, which I have already spoken about, I am pleased to announce that the SMME Booster Fund will be continuing in 2023 with an R8.18 million allocation, and R4,61 million has also been allocated for the continuation of the 22/23

Booster Fund projects for the year ahead.

An HON MEMBER: Well done!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: This fund is a demand-led partnership-driven collaborative model of enhancing the SMME ecosystem and delivering impactful interventions to selected and targeted categories of SMMEs and entrepreneurs, including businesses that are youth-owned, women-owned and owned by people living with disabilities.

[Interjections.]

I can also reveal that the Department will be collaborating with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on a small and medium enterprises acceleration programme that targets growth orienteered SMMEs, and which includes incubation and acceleration support, as well as access to finance and market contributions. The Department's contribution to this project is R1 million, and R3,5 million has been allocated for a feasibility study to understand the potential for a Venture Capital Credit Enhancement Fund in the Western Cape, that could provide critical early support for potentially scalable businesses, especially in the tech sector. If we can support these companies to survive and thrive, we can drastically increase investment and create jobs in our tech capital of Africa.

Another key enabler identified in our Growth For Job Strategy is technology and innovation. While we innovate in everything we do and embrace

technology in our work, we also need to help businesses, especially small businesses, to do the same. It is for this reason we will launch a Business Tech and Innovation Support Programme with a budget of R3,5 million in the 23/24 financial year.

We will target a hundred SMMEs through a voucher scheme to encourage digital transformation and innovation, such as through eCommerce, digital marketing, search engine optimisation and website enhancements, among others.

Where similar schemes have been undertaken internationally, it has resulted in impressive growth in the supported businesses and we are looking to replicate the success in this Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, successful entrepreneur and founder of the Virgin Group, Sir Richard Branson, humorously said on his experience in business:

"That red tape will often get in your way. It is one of the reasons I often carry scissors."

In the Western Cape it is our Government that carries the scissors and we are determined to cut even more barriers to growth, especially for SMMEs in the province. To assist with this objective we have allocated R13,31 million for the Red Tape Reduction Unit in 23/24, with R43,51 million over the MTEF. [Interjections.]

The focus of this team will ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Settle down, hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... not only be on dealing with case by case incidents of red tape, but also on systematically identifying initiatives that could make it easier to do business across the entire province. A particular focus will be on helping remove regulatory barriers for the informal economy.

In line with this approach R1,05 million has been allocated in 23/24 to undertake communication, advocacy, training, capacity building and culture change initiatives that seek to build capacity and enhance the performance of municipalities and Provincial Government Departments in this area.

Hon Speaker, every month I eagerly await the Stats SA report on selected buildings statistics from the private sector, as reported by Local Government institutions. For last year it has told a very exciting story in the Western Cape and which demonstrates huge potential for job creation down the line. According to the study between January and December last year, the Western Cape passed building plans was R37 billion, more than any other province in South Africa, including Gauteng. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Good job! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: The Western Cape also accounted for a third, A third of all building plans passed in 2022, as well as 40% of all buildings completed in South Africa last year were in our province, and the value of building plans passed in the Western Cape ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... wait-wait-wait for it, wait for it [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... wait for it [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: The value of building plans passed in the Western Cape in 2022, totalled more than the plans passed in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape Free State, North West, Mpumalanga and Limpopo combined. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

In the [Interjections.] face of this, evidenced ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... potential to speed up the conversion of building plans into building sites, and therefore more jobs, the Western Cape Government will allocate R3 million towards the municipal Ease of Doing Business and Building Permits Reform Programme. [Interjections.]

This programme will ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... be a collaborative approach involving selected local municipalities, DEDAT, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and aims to increase the capacity of municipalities to timeously process and decide on development and building plan applications.

Our objective is to unlock and incentivise the changes needed at Local Government level to make it easier to pass building permits in the Western Cape so that we have more construction jobs in this province.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Speaker, getting the fundamentals for economic growth right will help ensure faster economic growth and more jobs in the Western Cape and South Africa. However, we must always take cognisance of the painful legacy of our past and how it continues to deny so many people access to opportunities.

That is why our new Growth for Jobs Strategy adopts a strong spatial lens so that the benefits of growth are felt by all, including in township [Interjections.] and rural communities. It is also why creating pathways to opportunity is its own distinct focus area for this government. [Interjections.]

In addition to focussed infrastructure development and improved mobility, the focus of our two new sister Departments, one of the most powerful ways to improve access is through skills development. Our Department understands this and has allocated R99,19 million towards our skills priority in the 23/24 financial year.

R66,5 million is allocated to our Experiential Learning and Employment Programme in the Business Process Outsourcing Sector, providing accredited training and internships to 4 000 unemployed youth, as well as providing 3 000 full-time jobs post internships. Through this BPO allocation, we aim to attract R3,5 billion in foreign revenue into the province, which we estimate will have a net effect on GDP of more than R10 billion.

On the back of the enormous success of this initiative, which leverages

funding for impact, we will also seek to expand it into more areas. This includes the clothing and textile sector, which currently imports more than R22 billion. To this end R5,8 million will be allocated for this new focus area.

Our Artisan Development Programme also receive R7 million in 23/24, and aims to support growth and employment opportunities in technical, artisanal and logistical related occupations through skills development and experiential learning initiatives, and our Work and Skills Programme will aim to support job creation in export-related sectors, including, but not limited to, manufacturing, through skills development and experiential learning initiatives. R4,63 million is allocated for this programme.

Lastly, we will continue with our highly effective Premier's Council on skills, which works together with the private sector and other partners to identify areas for new skills development that will enable growth and job creation in the economy.

Hon Speaker, I think it is worth emphasising that these experiential learning programmes have proven highly successful in ensuring that youth can benefit and find further employment. In fact approximately 80% of the youth in these programmes will be offered further employment at the very host companies in which they are located.

I also want to congratulate the team for appreciating the tight fiscal envelope

that we face today and for finding ways to leverage external funding. For every rand we spend in skills development and employment creation, our partners contribute up to an additional R3.

Hon Speaker, finally, as part of our legislative mandate, we will strengthen our focus on consumer protection with R11,66 million allocated for this priority in 23/24. It includes R600 000 for the provision of a toll free consumer contact centre for citizens of the Western Cape, so that every person can contact the office of the consumer protector if they have a complaint, including Whackhead Simpson.

R500 000 for enhanced awareness amongst vulnerable citizens on issues such as financial planning, budgeting, over indebtedness, to name a few, and R400 000 which is allocated for providing citizens with specific information about general consumer protection legislation.

Hon Speaker, the quarterly Labour Force Survey results for Quarter 4 of 2022 were cause for celebration in the Western Cape. Employment increased by 330 000 jobs year-on-year, and 167 000 quarter-on-quarter. This means that this province was responsible for 99% of all the job gains in South Africa during the last quarter. [Interjections.] I am confident that every member in this House wants this to be replicated every quarter, every year in every province.

An HON MEMBER: Ja. Yes-yes!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We want this to be the norm because we want South Africa to succeed and have a future full of hope, but change does not happen on its own, it requires vision and it requires action towards that vision.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Our focus on Growth For Jobs is the Western Cape's bold step towards realising [Interjections.] this better future. It is the action we are taking now for that future. [Interjections.] We know that the Western Cape and South Africa is capable of, if we enable the private sector success, we know that we can have a future full of hope. It should not just be our vision, these goals should not be ours alone. They are yours too. They are for business big and small, civil society, entrepreneurs and every citizen in our province.

I am reminded of President Nelson Mandela's wise words [Interjections.] which continued to hold so much truth today when he said:

"It seems impossible until it is done."

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

"It seems impossible [Interjections.] ..." ...

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, I am not – I want to allow you an opportunity, but I am not going to do so until the House has settled down because everyone had an opportunity and I am going to provide it to you too. [Interjections.]

Hon members on my left and right, please allow the Minister an opportunity to do continue her speech.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

"It seems impossible until it is done."

Hon Speaker, now let us get it done, so that a prosperous 2035 is not the thought experiment I started with today, but a new real era of hope, opportunity and freedom. I thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Thank you!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

I now see the hon member Mvimbi online.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Can you hear me, hon ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I can hear you, hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Can I please remind hon members that if you are not speaking and you are under on the hybrid system, to not switch on your camera or microphone unless you raise a point of order.

I now see hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

It seems as though the Growth For Job Strategy was introduced as a cover up that will get funds shifted from the compensation ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Sorry-sorry-sorry [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Order! Can I please ask that hon member Mvimbi's is stopped. [Interjections.]

Hon members in the House, hon members in the House, there is a member on

the virtual platform which I am struggling to hear.

Hon member Mvimbi, can you hear us?

Mr L L MVIMBI: [No audible response]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon member Mvimbi ... hon member Mvimbi, you are on mute. Can you please unmute yourself. [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Okay. Can you hear me now, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes, now I can hear you. Thank you, hon member Mvimbi, you may continue.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon speaker.

The introduction of the Growth For Jobs is another ruse that the DA uses to entice naive voters in the month leading to the next national elections. With much pomp and no outcomes at all.

Premier Alan Winde made an audacious declaration in his 2022 State of The Provincial Address, that he will ensure jobs for every household, and it is only now that a Growth For Jobs Strategy was announced in response, and up to now none of those jobs have been provided.

As a result this DA executives' pronouncement is not carefully constructed, nor is they based on scientific data, but are rather emotional in order to satisfy DA constituency and DA voters.

This [Inaudible.] budget continues to fail to address key issues that affect the citizen of this province. For this reason, hon Speaker, the ANC does not support this budget. One thing that the ANC constantly confront the DA-led Provincial Government is the township economy as well as the informal economy. The only mention of these two economies is support that is not substantiated at all. No budget is allocated, nor is any information on the support given. The stance of the Provincial Government is crystal clear, that they are against informal economy and they are also against township economy.

A reduction of 98,62% in the skills development and innovation is another issue. It has become this Provincial Government trend to reduce this budget across Department. The DA's claim of job creation are not supported by any data as the Provincial Economic Review Outlook of 2022 and the Municipal Economic Review Outlook of 2022 both contradicts the logic utilised in these provided documents.

Data-led policymaking and decision-making require much more from this Government to not claim easy victories and say any lie. The Growth For Jobs Strategy has not yet yielded any result. Instead, more and more consultant work is being prioritised and funds that were initially allocated for

compensation of employees get shifted to consultancy work, and it seems as though the Growth For Jobs Strategy was introduced as a cover-up that will get funds shifted from compensation of employees to consultancies. This means that this Department do not have in-house capacity and they will continue to use consultants as such.

The Provincial Economic Review and Outlook of last year has suggested stopping the job crisis to becoming a social crisis, and we advise that this Department pilot [Inaudible.] The Growth For Jobs Strategy to address this crisis.

The ANC remains concerned about the structural issues of the Western Cape economy. We call for enabling support for small, medium and micro enterprises in the form of financing, especially black and female-owned enterprises, and we have seen the Pick n Pay project that is supported by this Provincial Government is failing in every respect in the township.

This Department is created to ensure economic development and unlock the potential of this province's economy for all, not a few, and should rise to the occasion of making sure that everybody participated in the economy in this spirit of inclusive growth.

This evidence-led Government that is loudly quiet about the informal economy, township and small town towns' economy, the ANC quite frankly will never be quiet on this shunned economies. The Western Cape

Government continues to fail to address the informal sector even though the PERO once again proved that this sector is continuing to show growth, provided jobs during and after COVID-19.

A lesson to learn from this sector is operating within a flexible environment with less red tape and hoping that the Red Tape Reduction Unit will document this lesson and share with municipalities who use law enforcement to hinder trade of the sector, because we have seen it has become a norm that this law enforcement seems to be always used to actually frustrate and inhibit growth in the informal sector, especially in the townships.

It is time that the DA faces reality and start supporting the informal economy for economic growth of this province and for the economic growth of these communities. With this DA Administration it is that the devil is in the details. They are very big on announcement, but very little on result and mischievous on real impact of their policy choices that are exclusionary, that are elitist and that most of the time racialised.

Hon Speaker, the ANC will not support this Budget Vote. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Mvimbi. Hon Klaas.

An HON MEMBER: Without a fight. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members, there is a member on the floor. On my right, can you please allow the hon member. The hon members on my right.

There is an hon member on the floor that is about to ...[Interjections.]

Hon Minister Meyer, is that a point of order? Hon Minister, please – hon member Klaas ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: sit down!

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, please take your seat.

Mr M KLAAS: I did not speak, he must sit down.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, please take your seat, there is a point of order.

Mr M KLAAS: I did not speak. How can [Inaudible.] point of order ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order, can you please take your seat.

Mr M KLAAS: What order are you doing, Chief? Sit down! Sit down!
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, there is a point of order and according to the Rules you must sit down when there is – when I ask you ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: [Inaudible.] because [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: We are going to hear what the point of order is.
[Interjections.] Sit down and you will hear the point of order. [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Yes, hon Speaker.

I would like to know if the hon member would like to take a question.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I am going to pose the question because the hon member was acknowledged. Hon members! I am going to allow, I am going to pose the question to the hon member because I have recognised the member so he was on the floor. [Interjections.]

Hon member Klaar, as you prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: Yes, yes.

The SPEAKER: You are prepared to take a question, so please take your seat.
[Applause.]

Hon Minister, the member is prepared to take a question. So please pose the question through me to the hon member. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, there is a conceptual difference between a shutdown and a ... Mr [Interjections.] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Minister.

What is the point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Chairperson, on a point of order. You allowed a question, not a statement. What the doctor is doing, is he is making a political [Interjections.] statement.

The SPEAKER: Hon, hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Let him ask his question. [Interjections.]
He is now eating into the time of hon member Klaas ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon, hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... which is unfair.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister please take your seat.

Hon member Sayed, when you raise a point of order can I please ask that this shouting and screaming and this aggression, can you please just raise your point of order. I mean we speak to each other with respect so that the decorum of the House can be maintained. I got your point of order and I will rule on that.

Hon Minister, can you please pose the question?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I will pose the question very simple.

The SPEAKER: Is that ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Does the hon member ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

Is that a new point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: A point of order on you, hon Speaker.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You cannot raise a point of order on ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: You – Chair-Chair-Chair, no.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: This is a political environment. When we speak in a robust manner it does not mean that we are being rude or that we are not being polite. We are not here to be nice to one another. We are raising issues robustly so that oversight can be done appropriately.
[Interjections.]

So one is not being aggressive, one is just raising issues with the necessary energy that is needed. I just want to clarify that, thank ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Energy, energy [Interjections.] – energy [Interjections.] and shouting and screaming and disrespect are completely different things. So can you [Interjections.] – absolutely. We might be, we come from different backgrounds and for that reason we must respect everyone. [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, can you please, through me ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: My time is gone. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Please pose the question. Please pose the [Interjections.] ... please pose the question through me to the hon members. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members on my right, please ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... my question is simple, to the hon member Klaas from the EFF. Did they plan a shutdown or a breakdown on 20 March, since their shutdown broke down? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, that is the question. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: I will answer you in writing. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Klaas. [Interjections.] You may continue. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: Ja, hon Speaker, here we are dealing with a Minister who has no clue whatsoever on what she is doing. [Interjections.] She began her budget speech with a quote from Premier along the lines of Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: We are in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: He will be delivering a clear different to resident and not plans or platitudes. However, later on when she touched on the topic Growth for Jobs, she begin speaking about some imaginary Oscar from [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, that is the end of your time allocated. [Interjections.] Time, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Please take your seat. [Interjections.] Please take your seat. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: I told you about my [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, that is unfortunately the Rules and I am applying the Rules. [Interjections.]

I now see – hon members, please settle down! I now see hon member Murray. Hon Murray. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, is it not hon member August? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Murray, please continue, I have recognised you.

Ms C MURRAY: Sorry, hon Speaker, is it not hon member August?

The SPEAKER: No-no, no, hon member Murray, the speakers list ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: ... have been changed.

Mr M KLAAS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: So you are next.

What is your point of order, hon member Klaas? Please take your seat, hon member Murray. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: My question ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No-no, you must first ask me, you must ask me ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: My point of order ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Oh. [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: ...is that you know very well this country or Western Cape – let me finish. [Interjections.] Wait.

The SPEAKER: Is that a – hon member Klaas, is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: It is a point of order. If a Rule ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Which Rule are you referring to?

Mr M KLAAS: Yes. [Interjections.] Chapter 7 [Interjections.] ... Rule 39:

"A member may not converse aloud during debate." [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Fighter!

Mr M KLAAS: No, what I am trying to say is that ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, can you please raise your point of order, what is your point of order? We need to conclude the debate.

An HON MEMBER: Fighter! Fight them fighter!

Mr M KLAAS: You let them interject me, so when they are interjecting it is not easy for me to continue to speak. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, okay. I got your point of order.

Hon members, on that point of order can you please note that you cannot drown out the speaker on the floor. Please do not continuously debate across the floor. Please note that interjections are allowed, but you cannot drown out the speaker.

So, hon member Murray, with that being said, I now recognise you.

[Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, can I confirm that the point of order did not cut into my time?

The SPEAKER: No, hon member Murray, you have your full allocate time, please continue. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you very much. Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

Mr M KLAAS: But my time was cut, why? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Why? [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, and most importantly to the residents of the Western Cape.

Before I start I would like to wish those residents in the Western Cape who are observing Ramadan, Ramadan mubarak. I was very moved when hon member Brinkhuis, who is also a member of the Standing Committee, spoke in Arabic in the House, and to him and to those who observed the beautiful Muslim faith, the members of this House and residents of this province, I

would like to share something from my own mother's tongue [Inaudible.]

What this means is that there is strength in unity, a theme I feel which is consistent in the budget. We need to be united in our approach to responding to challenges and act with urgency.

Hon Speaker, as we rise to debate this budget, I would like to place the focus on where the province and our country currently are. As a province we have the lowest expanded unemployment rate in the country with 29,5%. Our labour absorption rate at 52,6% is almost 8 percentage points lower than the next best province, Gauteng. That means that the Western Cape is where residents have more hope of finding a job than any other place in the country. [Interjections.]

Our summer tourism season saw visitors flood to our province. Hotel occupancy in our province in December surpassed pre-pandemic levels by 6%. While statistics from ACSA show that Cape Town International Airport recorded over 200 000 International two-way passengers for December 2022. [Interjections.] The Western Cape is reclaiming its place as a must see visit destination and we are ready to claim every job that comes with that title.

Compare this, hon Speaker, to the performance of our country nationally under the ANC's leadership. [Interjections.] South Africa is beset by unemployment especially among the youth. South Africa's employment to population ratio or absorption rate at 39,4% is comparable to a war-torn

country known as Afghanistan. That means that people in a war-torn country are about as economically engaged as our own residents. It is no wonder that there are so many discouraged unemployed young people in our country.

The cost of living is pricing our residents out of the necessities with food inflation reaching 13,6% year-on-year as of February. Nationally residents, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, are struggling to make ends meet and sometimes cannot afford to put food on the table as even with the jobs they cannot keep up with skyrocketing prices.

Our people and businesses have had to take extraordinary measures to adapt to the 15-year nightmare that is loadshedding. South Africa is not progressing at the rate that our people so desperately need and by all rights should demand. As anyone who does not skip the yearly eye exam can see, things are not going particularly well in this country.

What is more is that in the 29 years of ANC rule nothing has been done to improve our country, and I can say that having been around for 28 of those. [Interjections.]

Provincially we see proactive measures being taken to address these issues and build a future for our residents. We see this particularly in the work of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, which is responsible for programmes that are all geared towards stimulating economic growth and enabling the private sector to create the jobs people so desperately need.

Whether it be through supporting SMMEs, through the Booster Fund, clearing out unnecessary bureaucracy through the Red Tape Reduction Unit, assisting in the improvement of the Port of Cape Town, or even providing skills development to our youth, everything this Department does contributes to economic development in our province.

Hon Speaker, [Inaudible.] and this budget is no exception, both in Government and for the vast majority of our residents. That is why DEDAT has gone to extraordinary lengths to create a strategy that will serve to create break-out economic growth, delinking the economic fate of this province from the sluggish one of the National Republic of South Africa.

Jobs comes from economic growth. This is a fact and it is indisputable that even my colleagues across the aisle cannot deny this. Although some of them would prefer a government to be a main driver of economic activity, this is a mistake. It is the role of government to create an enabling environment where business can flourish. [Interjections.] That is the main philosophy that underpins the growth for jobs strategy, the role of government in this strategy and it is guided by the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Hon member Murray, please take your seat.

I first see the Leader of the Opposition and then the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition.

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

Hon Speaker, it is clear that a member is not supposed to read their speech, and I think that the hon member is reading her speech. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I am not going to rule on that because the hon member may refer to her speech.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: But I think she is reading it.

The SPEAKER: Which is a custom in this House for all members. So we must just be – and in the interest of all hon members I am not going to rule on that. So the hon member can continue in that fashion. [Interjections.]

Hon Premier, please do not engage the Chair if you are not on the floor. Hon Deputy Chief.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, is the member willing to take a question? Thank you. [Interjections.] Hon member Klaas ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, the hon Deputy Chief Whip, I will pose the request to the member. Hon member, are you prepared to take a question?

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, I will happily have a coffee [Inaudible.] I do not want to speak with him. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. So the hon member is not prepared to take a question.

Hon member Murray, you may continue in the fashion that you were presenting your speech. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Growth For Jobs is the main philosophy which underpins the DA's approach to creating jobs ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Murray, please take your seat.

Hon member Klaas, is that a point of order?

Mr M KLAAS: No, it is not a point of order. [Interjections.] I would like [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Klaas, is that a point of order?

Mr M KLAAS: No.

The SPEAKER: If it is not a point of order then why are you rising?

Mr M KLAAS: I want just to ask her did you want me to ask a question?

The SPEAKER: Okay, I will post that request. Hon member Klaas, please take your seat.

Hon member Murray, there is a request from hon member Klaas, if you are prepared to take a question?

Ms C MURRAY: Hon member Klaas, I do not want to take a question, but again I will happily have a coffee with him after. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. The hon member is not prepared to take a question. [Interjections.]

Hon member Murray, please continue. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Jobs come from economic growth, this is a fact and it is indisputable, and even my colleagues across the aisle cannot deny this. Although some of them would prefer Government to be a main driver of economic activity, this is a mistake. It is the role of Government to create an enabling environment where businesses can flourish.

This is the main philosophy which underpins the Growth For Jobs Strategy. [Interjections.] The role of Government in this strategy is to set the rules of the game ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order! We are nearing the end of this debate for this Vote, can I please ask that you allow the hon member the opportunity. [Interjections.] On both sides of the House. [Interjections.] On both sides of the House. [Interjections.]

Hon member Murray, my apologies for the interruption, please continue. [Interjections.]

Ms C MURRAY: Thank you, hon Speaker, and act as an enabling force to speed up economic development through horizontal enablement of all aspects of the economy, ramping up jobs, investment, as well as GDP growth.

This includes advocating for international investment into the province and exploring new trade partnerships for our exporters. This is why the Department is spending nearly R70 million on trade and investment [Inaudible.] in this financial year.

This will be managed through Wesgro, who I am pleased to note will also be lobbying on the important issues of renewal of AGOA, which the ANC of course put in jeopardy, and the implementation of the much needed remote working visas, where they have again made many promises and failed to deliver. The interventions envisioned by the Department will focus on addressing issues that affect economic activity across the board for both formal businesses and informal sector. This includes creating a safe environment where businesses can ensure that they do their work and are not

hampered by things like municipal bylaws.

It is also important to make sure that infrastructure that acts as a multiplier of economic activity is world-class. By focusing on the bottlenecks that are hampering growth and addressing them rather than trying to pick winners in different industries, a wider impact can be made for each intervention. Take the Port of Cape Town as an example. The problems facing the port are well-known with the World Bank reporting that it was ranked at 347 out of 351 global ports in terms of performance in 2021.

By committing resources to address problems at the port, a wide array of economic activity is stimulated for both our exporters and our domestic businesses waiting for critical inputs. I commend the Minister and the Department on their ongoing initiatives to date to improve port efficiencies and will be calling them to the Standing Committee to provide more detail. More efficiency at the port will directly lead to more jobs across the economy and this is the crux of the Growth For Jobs.

Every Government intervention in the economy must be enabling and have a wide impact as possible to create the much needed resources and ensure that there is no waste. The Department is also committing more than R58 million to management, improvement and maintenance of infrastructure, including transfers to Atlantis Special Economic Zone and Freeport Saldanha IDZ.

Two of the other major areas within **G4J** are water and energy resilience,

with R33 million allocated to the Green Economy Sub-Programme. Among other interventions this Department is planning to support 400 businesses and becoming more resource resilient in this financial year.

Without water and without power, production grinds to a halt, and as such it is the utmost importance that our businesses, whether large or small, have the necessary support to survive and even thrive despite Eskom's implosion. My colleagues have already highlighted in great detail what lengths are being taken by this Government to promote energy resilience and even independence.

[Inaudible.] to NERSA's approved tariff hike of 10%, which will make it even more expensive to pay for electricity that we do not even receive from the ANC-led National Government. [Interjections.] The DA-led Western Cape is committed to addressing problems at hand rather than simply allowing our businesses to fail and close their doors, leaving their staff without livelihoods. The DA does not sit back and wait, we act.

I would like to end by posing a question to the people of South Africa. Can you honestly look at the ANC's track record in any level of government and say that they are putting you first? In Portuguese we use the expression, which also has its roots in Arabic, it says [Inaudible.]. What this implies is that it is not the time for talk, but it is the time for action.

Next year's election is almost upon us and it would be remiss of me not to

take the opportunity to appeal to the people of South Africa to vote for a party that does not steal, is not corrupt and actually respects you and spends the budget allocated for you. Only the DA has been proven to have those qualities and it is time to remove the rot and elect a government that actually cares about you. Speak to anyone in the Western Cape and they will tell you about the DA difference. [Interjections.]

This is demonstrated by the important work of the Department which has prioritised residents and business alike, by being proactive and making residents of this province and their economic well-being their number one priority. This is essentially the Jobs and Investment Department. It is what they are here for. It is what they deliver better than anyone else in the country. Just look at the stats. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, the DA supports this budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

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

Thank you, hon members. I now see hon Minister, Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon members who participated in the debate.

Starting with hon member Mvimbi's remarks. [Interjections.] He curiously

said that the G4J is being funded by COE underspent. We are spending R39,82 billion over the MTEF across Government on Growth for Jobs, and R1,5 billion in this ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... Department alone. [Interjections.] So it is absolutely impossible ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... for that statement to be correct. [Interjections.]

He also said that Growth for Jobs Strategy has not yielded any results. It has not been finalised yet. So in spite of that, you know, the principles have been adopted and I say we are not doing too badly considering that the Western Cape is where the most amount of jobs in South Africa are being created, and were in fact created in the last quarter.

He spoke of the need to support SMMEs and I fully agree, and that is part of the reason why we know that the foundations that are needed to, for especially businesses in the informal and township economies and SMMEs, that many of those foundations are lacking and we know this is felt more

acutely in township and informal economies, and so that is why supporting SMMEs remains an extremely important focus of this Department in the next financial year.

So, for example, we have the SMME Booster Fund, which continues in 2023, with an allocation of R8,81 million, plus R4,61 million for the continuation of those projects from the current financial year. The Fund is demand-led, partnership-driven by collaborative model of enhancing the SMME ecosystem and delivering impactful interventions to selected and targeted categories of SMMEs and entrepreneurs, including businesses that are youth-owned, women-owned and owned by people living with disabilities.

We have also allocated R13,31 million for Red Tape Reduction in the 23/24 financial year, and the focus of this team is not only on dealing with a case-by-case incidents of red tape, but also systematically identifying initiatives that will make it easier to do business across the province, and a particular focus will be on helping remove regulatory barriers in the informal economy, and in line with this approach R1,05 million has been allocated in the 23/24 financial year to undertake communication, advocacy, training capacity, building culture change initiatives that seek to build capacity and enhance the performance of municipalities and Provincial Government Departments in this area specifically, but also through horizontal enablement to help all economies in our province to grow.

Hon member Klaas, unfortunately you did not manage to get to the crux of

the speech, so I do not have much to respond to there. [Interjections.]

Hon member Murray, I would like to thank you for your words of support for the budget and in particular the Growth For Jobs project and understanding the importance of breakout economic growth and why it is so important.

I just wanted to quote President Cyril Ramaphosa who said:

"We know that the Government does not create jobs, businesses create jobs."

Which seems that the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC and the ANC President seem to have some ideological differences in respect to the private sector, but what is clear is that the ANC's way has meant a decline. By contrast the DA's way means prosperity. [Interjections.] Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you very much, hon Minister.

Hon members, that concludes the debate on that Vote. I am going to suspend the House for lunch and we will return back at 14:15 for the Fourth Order of the Day. 14:15, quarter past two.

[House is suspended]

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Okay, good afternoon hon members, once

again. It has just gone 14:15. I am now going to ask the Secretary to read the Fourth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 5: Education – Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I now see the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: We will spend a massive R29,55-billion on Education this year in the Western Cape. Which is an increase of R1,38-billion compared to last year, making the Education budget the biggest budget of any Department in the Provincial Government. This is a clear indication of the value that we place on education, and of our commitment to delivering quality education for every learner, in every classroom, in every school in the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: Hear!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Hon Speaker, to deliver quality education we need to reverse learning losses, we need to rapidly expand access to education, and we need to improve support to learners with special needs.

Hon Speaker, we will spend R399-million this year on an ambitious and indeed, unprecedented plan to reverse learning losses in the Western Cape.

We recently released the 2022 Western Cape systemic test results, which show that our recovery interventions are having an impact. But while there are some positive indications in the results, they also reveal that the learning outcomes of our children are cause for serious concern.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating effect on the performance of our learners when they were already struggling to pass in some subjects before the pandemic. And if the learning losses are this severe in our province, they will be as severe or even more severe in other provinces. We simply cannot afford to say that a child is receiving quality education if more than half of our Grade 3s, 6, and 9s, learners cannot achieve the basic pass score for Mathematics and Reading. The fact is that learning losses is the critical problem that we must solve in our education system today.

We will therefore be launching an unprecedented #BackOnTrack programme, targeted specifically to learners, to teachers and to parents in schools where our systemic test results indicate that the need is greatest. The programme is designed to build on the existing interventions we have undertaken, which have already been implemented and which are already demonstrating good results, especially in the Foundation Phase.

Most importantly, the programme will cover all phases and all stakeholders, in a massive collective effort to get our children #BackOnTrack. We plan to provide added academic support to 18 000 learners in Grades 4, Grade 7, Grade 8, Grade 10 and in Grade 12 this year alone.

For example, we plan to implement a specific catch-up programme in Languages and in Mathematics in Grades 4, 7 and 8 for 10 000 learners in 200 schools, closing the content gaps from previous grades. And we plan to implement a specific Mathematics intervention for 4 000 Grade 10 learners at 140 schools, based on the Grade 9 Mathematics performance in last year's systemic tests.

The Grade 10 intervention will include addressing content gaps from previous grades, structured tutoring, residential #BackOnTrack camps, and providing each of these learners with a package of resources they need to succeed. We plan to provide additional specific professional development and support to 6 260 teachers in Grades 1, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 12 this year.

For example, 2 000 Grade 4, 7 and 8 teachers will participate in an intensive programme, where they will be taken out of class every ten days to receive dedicated professional development and support. And we plan to target training and support to 28 000 parents of learners in Grades 4, 7, 8 and 10 so that they can help their children get #BackOnTrack. This will involve parent programmes in Reading and in Mathematics at 200 schools, providing parents with ideas and skills so that they can better support their children's learning.

Over the coming weeks, we will unpack the full three-year set of #BackOnTrack programme interventions for each school phase. Hon Speaker, we have to take action to reverse learning losses. And so, to get the job

done, we will spend R399-million this year on this ambitious and indeed, unprecedented #BackOnTrack programme in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, we will spend R2,9-billion this year on rapidly expanding access to education in the Western Cape. We cannot say that a child is receiving quality education, if there are too many learners in a class, if there are too few teachers in a school, and if there are too few schools in our province. And that was why we implemented our Rapid School Build programme, to deliver additional schools and classrooms across our province faster than ever before, in time for the 2023 school year.

We aim to deliver no less than 21 new and replacement schools for occupation by the start of the 2024 school year, which is three times the number of schools we built last year. [Applause.] 15 of those schools are brand new schools, while the remaining 6 replacement schools will replace inappropriate materials. We are also going to add an additional 289 classrooms to existing schools, over-and-above the new school builds to deal with admissions pressure. And we will be undertaking upgrades and modernisations at 28 schools, which is separate and in addition to our normal, scheduled and ongoing maintenance at schools across the province.

Of course, hon Speaker, the plan is not without risks, and we have always been open and honest about the risks: challenges with finding suitable land; potential community disruptions; shortages of materials and loadshedding. And yes, this is an ambitious plan and yes, there are many risks. But that is

not a reason not to try. Hon Speaker, we have to take action to rapidly expand access to education. And so, to get the job done, we will be spending R2,9-billion this year on our Rapid School Build programme here in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, we will spend an additional R135-million this year to improve support to learners with special needs in the Western Cape. It is often said that the measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. And so, we will spend an additional R68-million this year, specifically to improve our support for learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder. [Applause.]

As part of our Rapid School Build programme, we will be constructing 2 new schools for learners with special needs, and an additional 28 classrooms at existing special schools or full-service schools, which will be able to cater for learners with ASD with high support needs, and will be able to provide outreach services to public ordinary schools to support learners with ASD with low to moderate support needs. We will employ additional teachers, we will employ classroom assistants and we will employ therapists needed for these additional schools and classrooms, and we will address the challenges in the identification and indeed, the support of learners with ASD.

We will also spend an additional R67-million this year on improving the resources available to learners with Profound Intellectual Disabilities. We are currently in consultation with the relevant stakeholders to finalise the plan for the use of this funding, so that we provide the necessary support to

some of our most vulnerable children here in the Western Cape. Hon Speaker, we have to take action to support learners with special needs and so, to get the job done, we will spend an additional R135-million this year alone, to improve support to learners with ASD and profound intellectual disabilities in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, we also need to find ways to accelerate our efforts to develop the skills of our economy and to create pathways from education to work in the Western Cape. And so, to get the job done, we will spend R5-million this year improving the implementation of career and work-readiness training as part of the Life Orientation curriculum, to provide career development support and expose learners to the world of work and workplaces. And we will be spending R531-million on the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative in our schools, which will ensure that up to 20 500 young people will gain paid work experience in our schools this year, giving them a leg up in moving into permanent employment or further studies, hopefully in the teaching profession.

Hon Speaker, we also need to find ways to make our schools safer. To get the job done, we plan to spend R76,1-million this year on securing our schools, and promoting the safety of our learners at school. We committed to constructing secure fencing at 30 schools every year for five years. We will in fact, reach the target of 150 schools over five years a full year ahead of schedule, completing the fencing at this final 30 schools in this financial year. [Applause.]

We are also expanding the number of School Resource Officers in our schools, which are law enforcement officers stationed at our schools to tackle crime and safety. This year, we will fund an additional 18 School Resource Officers, bringing the total number of officers deployed in our schools to 46. And next year, we will add 18 and the year after that, another 18, for a total of 82 School Resource Officers in our schools. And of course, we will continue to invest in access control, holiday security, emergency security, youth development, and crime prevention activities in our schools.

Hon Speaker, we also need a collective effort to make our schools more energy resilient. To get the job done, we will spend R40-million this year alone to promote energy efficiency, generation, and storage, in our schools. Our LED lighting project, in conjunction with the University of Stellenbosch, has already seen high energy usage lights at 50 schools replaced with energy-efficient LED lighting. The new lighting helps these schools to save around 30% on their electricity costs while reducing the demand on the grid. This year, we will replace the lighting at a further 25 schools, so that they too, can reduce their electricity bills and improve their energy efficiency.

But we want to go further than just saving electricity, and expand the potential for our schools to generate electricity. We have already received applications from 50 schools for permission to install their own solar PV systems and will continue to support schools to take these steps to secure their energy supply. This year, our Department will undertake installation of

solar PV systems at 10 schools, generating up to 60 kilowatts peak depending on the size of the school and installation. These installations of course, reduce the schools' reliance on the electrical grid, while creating a valuable opportunity for them to sell their excess power to the grid.

Finally, we will undertake a test case full installation of solar PV, battery backup and LED lighting at one school, to determine whether this kind of package installation is sufficient to provide the electricity a school needs for its core functions, including its administration systems and computer labs, and lighting in key areas.

Hon Speaker, we all know that the education system is under severe pressure, and we need to work together with the private sector to deliver quality education in our province. So, we are building on the successes of our collaboration schools programme, and looking into new partnership models to deliver education to poor communities. But we also want to make the Western Cape the most attractive destination for education investment in South Africa.

So, to get the job done, we will spend R5-million this year for Wesgro to develop an investment facilitation capability specifically for education sector, to make it easier to invest in new schools and to invest in ed-tech. We want to send a clear signal that we are open for business, and that we want to build strong partnerships with the private sector so that we can increase and mobilise private sector investment in education in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, we are pushing the boundaries with this year's interventions to improve education in the Western Cape. But we must also look to the longer-term, and to the structural changes that we need to make to improve learning outcomes for the children of our province. To get the job done, we have asked the World Bank to undertake an Education Sector Analysis, which will support us to set long-term priorities to improve education outcomes here in the Western Cape because the central goal of everything we do must be delivering better learning outcomes for our children.

So, I would like to, in closing, thank the staff of the Western Cape Education Department, under the leadership of our Superintendent-General, Mr Brent Walters, for their outstanding commitment to getting the job done, and I look forward to us building on the hard work we have done and will do in the coming year.

Hon Speaker, we have to take action to reverse learning losses, to rapidly expand access to education, to improve support to learners with special needs, to create pathways to work, to make our schools safer, and to make our schools more energy resilient. And this Budget – this Budget is going to get the job done. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, Minister Maynier. I now see hon Sayed. Can I just before I – do you need the? Alright, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker and thank you very much to the hon Minister for his input. Allow me also at the very onset to welcome our guests in the gallery, Mr Linda Peto, Fatima Isaacs and Sibongile Lokolo who are in the audience. These are activists in the education sector. They have often attended our Committees and they have been giving inputs in the Committee, inputs that have actually informed the work that we do and the manner in which we hold the Department accountable.

Let me also say to the Department and let me also echo the thanks of the hon Minister to the officials in the Department for being on call at times when we do raise issue and trying their best to resolve those issues. And I say this notwithstanding the fact that we are robust and highly critical when we do raise issues, but we do that in order for the Department to improve on the work that it is doing.

Hon Speaker, the African National Congress welcomes the 4,91% Education Budget increase. Education remains a priority, an apex priority of the African National Congress and this is why our National Government has increased both the conditional grants, as well as the Equitable Share for the WCED, thereby taking the Department's total received to over R29-billion. The ANC is guided by President Nelson Mandela's vision and President Nelson Mandela says, and I quote:

“It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a

doctor; that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine; that the child of a farmworker can become the President of a great nation.”

But sadly, true to their neo-liberal open society ideological posture President Nelson Mandela’s vision is sadly undermined by the Democratic Alliance, the same Democratic Alliance who dishonestly appropriates President Mandela in this House. It is the DA who opposes the Basic Education Law Amendment Bill which is meant to give departments such as the WCED, more power to actually intervene when we find school governing bodies messing up; when we find school governing bodies having control over who enters the schools or not in terms of learners; having restrictive measures which discriminate against the child of the peasant, against the child from a poor community to become a doctor, as we saw what was happening in Oudtshoorn, for example.

But that is just the start. The DA refuses to use education to address the structural inequality ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms C MURRAY: Hon Speaker, will the hon member take a question?

An HON MEMBER: No!

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will pose the request. Hon Sayed, are you prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, no. I am amongst those who should be asking questions. Hon Murray ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...must questions ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: The honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...to hon members of the Executive.

The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question. You may continue, hon Sayed. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Instead, the DA's modus operandi ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...in the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...in the education sector maintains and perpetuates widespread historical inequalities and this is informed by the right-wing ideological posture which they have made blatantly clear in this House over the past few weeks and days. We saw how they handled the Marais matter ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): But also, they have partnered ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...with the party of Peter Marais. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): With the Freedom Front Plus in the Opposition and with the ACDP in the Opposition to their progressive Basic Education Law Amendment Bill, which is meant to make education much more inclusive; which is meant to ensure that the Language Policy is also broadened. No, they want to keep our people out of certain schools, and they partner with the right-wing in doing so.

The R29-billion budget will sadly not be used to provide education for the learners of Zimasa Primary School or Langa High School, which I recently visited and we witnessed massive overcrowding of classrooms. But notwithstanding that, we still have hope that in the Committee we will push and we will make certain gains for some improvement to happen. To hide its incompetence and failures, the dishonest Alliance has resorted to spreading misinformation in the public domain about our oversight of the Executive in this House. Earlier this week, hon Baartman ran to the media ...[Interjections.] ran to the media to spread certain misinformation. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Quote:

“The ANC says ‘no’ to building new classrooms and clean running water.”

These are untruths. [Interjections.] With the purpose of misleading the public ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...and shielding the DA’s failure to deal

with the unplaced learner crisis. In response to the DA's dishonesty, hon Speaker, I wish to place on record and remind hon members of the ANC's Member Statement tabled in this House on 9 March 2023, in which I personally, on behalf of the African National Congress, welcomed the reallocation of R115-million of the Education Infrastructure Grant to the Western Cape. And I criticised ANC-led governments in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga. We do not play games here. [Interjections.] We are highly critical even of our own, unlike those on that side of the House [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...who want to be Deputy MECs and defend their MECs. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members on my right hand side, interjections are allowed, but please do not drown out the speaker. [Interjections.] Hon Sayed, you can continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. We welcome the reallocation to the Province because there continues to be serious challenges of unplaced learners which we even foresee for 2024, and overcrowded classrooms. That is why we welcomed it. We had, however, hoped that the R115-million in addition to the R830-million increment in the WCED's Infrastructure Budget for the 2022/2023

financial year, will not be focused on the building of temporary structures purely. This is what we are vehemently opposed to. We are not opposed, and I reiterate, to the actual budget allocation.

The ANC will never be opposed to building new classrooms in the province. We will never be opposed to clean and running water in the province. What we are opposed to is when a school in Mitchells Plain – and hon Mackenzie, and I want to thank him, knows it very well; he has actually worked with communities to assist in that regard – where a school in Mitchells Plain such as Rocklands High, for example, such as Portland High, has to consistently SGB, members of the community have to consistently bring to the Department's attention failing infrastructure that needs to be attended to. Dangerous issues there and it is not attended to. And you have got Infrastructure Budget not being directed in that regard. That is what we are going to be opposing. We are not opposing the fact that money has been allocated in general, to a particular project. Colleagues who do not suffer from selective amnesia will remember that it is the ANC in this House who has always criticised the DA Government's underspending of budgets and surrendering of funds to the Provincial Revenue Fund, such as the R350-million that was surrendered in the year of the Local Government elections, as well as the over R500-million that was uncommitted and underspent in the previous year.

Hon Speaker, I had to give this background not only to clarify the misinformation spread by the DA, but it is also to expose the fact that the

underinvestment on school infrastructure by the DA during the tenure of the previous two Hon MECs of Education, has resulted in the crisis of overcrowded classrooms and unplaced learners that we experience to this day. While I hear the hon MEC speaking about the collaboration schools as a means through which to have public private partnerships, we need to be very careful. Also a legacy of hon MEC Schäfer and which the DA is continuing is where in the collaboration schools, the private partners are allowed to have overreach in the school governing bodies, silencing the voices of communities and of parents in these particular SGBs. We need to be careful and the Department needs to look at that very closely.

As of the last week of February this year, nearly 500 and possibly more Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners were still unplaced in schools. On the same date, nearly 2 000 learners between Grades 2, 7, and 9 to 12 who had requested transfers to other schools, were yet to be transferred. This clearly exposes that there was an unplaced learner crisis. In fact, it is still a crisis even if learners are now placed because learners that have been placed have to catch up. We heard hon MEC Maynier speaking about catchup plans, but the budget does not speak to a catchup plan for learners who have been placed late in our schools.

Hon Speaker, the DA will rather retain class privileges for a few, than broaden quality education for the poor and working-class majority because at the root cause of unplaced learner crisis, overcrowded classrooms, is a decade-long underinvestment in education infrastructure. But also very

importantly and we have made this call, is the failure on the part of the Democratic Alliance-led Department to get former Model-C schools to increase their classroom sizes. It does not make sense for certain public schools to be allowed to only have 20 to 25 learners per class, while others such as Calitzdorp High which we visited as a Committee, as a Social Cluster are forced to have over 70 learners in one classroom. And hon member Bosman was there with us, so he knows full well. He must not ask which classroom. [Interjections.]

The WCED's Annual Performance Plan shows that in 2022, 9 479 classes in the province had over 40 learners in class, while over 436 000 were crammed in classes that have over 40 learners. It is highly unacceptable, and this is the legacy of the DA Government in the Western Cape which a new, pro-poor government which takes office next year, will need to deal with [Interjections.] decisively.

Hon Speaker, whilst we welcome the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon members, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Watch this space.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, I am trying to protect you, so please do not add

to the interjections. [Laughter.] Hon member, please settle down. Hon Sayed, you can continue. ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: We will keep watching that [Inaudible.].

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, speak to me.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Okay. [Interjections.] Hon Speaker, whilst we welcome the budget increase for the employment of more educators, sadly this is not accompanied by any commitment on the part of hon MEC Maynier to address the imbalance learner/teacher ratio in schools. I specifically raised this question in the Committee. He and his officials were unable to respond to the issue. They could not give a commitment that the ratio will go back to what it is supposed to be. They could not make that particular commitment.

It is more concerning however, that in its Performance Plan accompanying the budget, hon MEC Maynier's Department does not address salary backlogs for certain educators. At the beginning of March 2023, an email was sent to the WCED and I was copied in that particular email, sharing stories of 25 Reception Year teachers who have not been paid since the beginning of this year. The situation is still the same. They have still not been paid, despite the WCED in October last year, meeting with them and saying that they will capture their details in the system. This seems to be happening all the time. Capture details in the system and do nothing about it. It is not in the spirit of

getting things done, as hon MEC Maynier says. Due to the DA's failure in this budget to adequately address pressing challenges such as the above and many others, we cannot support this particular Budget Vote.

School safety, hon Speaker, I am glad that the hon MEC Maynier spoke to it and yes, we welcome the hon Premier's commitment and the implementation around the school fences. But let me also add, it is because of the pressure that the African National Congress has put in this particular House. [Interjections.] In the first SOPA debate of this Administration, we made the call for fences. So, it also illustrates that do not try to curb robust opposition, allow it to flow because then, you will also be able to implement what we are speaking about and to improve the lives of learners.

But the ANC is concerned because in two committees now, in two consecutive years when the Department came to present on the budget, it has alluded to the fact that this project may be discontinued next year. We want reassurance from the hon MEC and the hon Premier that it will not be discontinued.

Hon Speaker, another ANC victory is the Department's commitment to continue with the pop-up banners in shopping malls and other community centres in order to assist struggling parents with admission applications for their children. Before we made the call, this was not the case, but we want this and the budget does not speak to this really. We want this to be a permanent project of the Department, not an ad hoc crisis management

project. We need this project to have its own dedicated staff and a full budget. And currently, many civil society formations, including branches of the African National Congress and its Youth League, have embarked on campaigns to assist parents with these online applications. And we commend these patriots, but we want the programme to be permanent. We will assist. PCOs will assist, councillors will assist, but the programme must be permanent.

We are inundated, sadly hon Speaker, with complaints from many parents about technical glitches in the online portal of the Department. Some parents are saying that schools they want to apply to are not showing on the system. Trafalgar, for example, was not showing for some parents. Schotsche Kloof Primary School not showing when parents apply. These are just some examples in my constituency. Several parents are stating also that despite completing the applications, they still do not receive feedback showing which schools they have applied to and many other challenges, such as the system freezing on them. And this is not the first time that this has happened, hon Speaker. ...[Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...we experienced ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired. Please take your seat.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.
What we are saying is ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...that in order for the situation
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat [Interjections.] Thank you very much,
hon Sayed. I now see the hon Cassiem. Hon Sayed? [Applause.] Hon
Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, the EFF cannot accept this budget as
the reality is that not each and every learner in this province will benefit
from this budget like the hon Minister makes it to be. It can never be with
the amount allocated, knowing the severe conditions of this province when it
comes to education. The EFF does welcome the efforts being made by this
Department when it comes to education and our communities need it, but
unfortunately, we must reject it as this budget does not speak or do justice to
all, especially in communities where African and Coloured residents live.

The mission of the Western Cape Education Department is to ensure that
every child has quality learning opportunities and that of an environment that
is welcoming, but in reality, this does not reflect and speak to the majority of
schools and communities across the province, especially once again, in

Coloured and African communities.

We welcome the fact that this Department allocated funds to build extra schools in the province, as well as additional classrooms at existing schools, but this does not make up for the hundreds of children from farming areas, informal settlements and other desolate areas across this province who are still unplaced and who have to hike, walk long distances and cross rivers just to get an education. As the reality is that many schools across the different regions reside within the residential areas far from where these children live and it is obvious that the budget allocated for this, will not include planning for all communities. To add, many children are still unplaced, but this DA refused to acknowledge that it is their fault saying these children hail from other provinces, hence there being a waiting list.

The EFF also notes the amount being spent on maintenance at schools across the province, but this maintenance programme continues to exclude many other schools across this province which are in extremely bad conditions. Many schools in black communities do not reflect on the list of schools set for maintenance in this budget.

Hon Speaker, the EFF has concerns that not much is being done to tackle and prevent the influence of gangsterism and drugs on the Cape Flats. Innocent children are being drawn or recruited on schoolgrounds to join gangs and drugs continue to be sold openly on schoolgrounds. The budget for Safe Schools is very low, it raised concerns as to which schools will actually

benefit from it and what exactly will you be covering with that amount allocated. And more so, the budget for Safe Schools does not speak to all regions.

Hon Speaker, just as condoms are provided for free at school, sanitary pads for girls must also be prioritised and given for free at schools. And then let me remind you again on the prioritising of programmes that deal with tackling racism and xenophobia because here, once again, the budget does not speak to it. For these reasons, among others, hon Speaker, the EFF rejects this Budget. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I now see hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports this budget. The ACDP wants to give a thumbs-up to the hon Minister and the Department for an excellent budget. It is really to reverse learning losses. When we talk about the interventions, when it comes to learning losses, that is a push in the right direction. When it comes to the additional schools and additional new classrooms, that is a push in the right direction. We will always keep the Department accountable for quality education because that is their mission and that is what they want to see.

But we must say that at the moment, we still do not [Distortion.] in all the schools, and the ACDP is calling on the Department and the hon Minister that

every child in every classroom, as they say, must have quality education. Hon Minister, it is also, you spoke about the School Resource Officers and the fencing, and that is welcomed, but as the previous speaker said, we still have crime, drugs and all of those things happening at our schools. Our learners cannot excel if they are not safe.

But hon Minister and the Department, well done. It is a push in the right direction and we definitely support this budget, even when it comes to the inclusion of our parents helping our learners to achieve more. I am not going to comment on the dying ANC with their ridiculous allegation and cheap politics. I think this is the right budget, it is a correct budget, helping taking our province forward. Thank you, hon Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: You will always be welcome ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. [Applause.] I now see the hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker and fellow South Africans. [Interjections.] Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I am ecstatic to note that with the allocation of R29,5-billion, the Education Budget is officially the

biggest budget in the Western Cape Province. It is now the budget to beat. This is because the Department's task is a massive one. They maintain 1 526 public schools educating 1,1-million learners across this province, not excluding approximately the 68 000 Grade R learners and approximately 20 000 learners in public special needs education schools. Further ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): It is not a point of order; it is a question.

The SPEAKER: Okay, I am going to pose the request to the hon member, so please take your seat and if the hon member agrees, then I will ask you to pose your question. Hon Baartman, are you prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): There, given I am in my introduction, I have 33 minutes. I might be dealing with the answer in my speech. So, I would like to get through that before I might take a question.

The SPEAKER: Okay, the hon member is not prepared to take a question. Hon member, please continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. This does not include the 68 000 Grade R learners and approximately 20 000 learners in

public special needs education schools. Further, over the last five years as it can to be seen in the APP, the Western Cape received 112 156 learners from other provinces. This puts a clear strain on the resources of the Western Cape Education Department and of the 20 165 first time learner enrolments from outside the Western Cape that enrolled with the Western Cape Education Department in 2022 alone, 16 077 were learners from the Eastern Cape Province. So, I am happy to see that when the Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape Provinces do not spend the National Education Infrastructure money that they are getting, that the National Department redirects this money to provinces like Gauteng and the Western Cape. And in this regard, I do not take kindly to being told that I am spreading misinformation. I am going to read from the ATC of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as published, which is a House document. The ATC 32 of Friday, 24 March 2023 on page 68, it says:

“Committee reports

Report of the Standing Committee on Education on Vote 5:
Education...”

I am quoting, hon Speaker:

“...in the Schedule to the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2022/2023 Financial Year) [B 1–2023], dated [Interjections.] 17 March 2023, as follows:

The Standing Committee on Education, having deliberated on the

subject of” ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA):

“...Vote 5: Education in the schedule to the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2022/23 Financial Year) [B 1–2023], referred to the Committee in terms of Standing Rule 188, reports that it supports the Vote.”

Hon Speaker, I am not done:

“In accordance with Standing Rule 90, the African National Congress expressed its minority view to not support the Vote.”

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat. Hon Deputy Chief Whip [Applause.] is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, it is a point of order. The hon member continues to mislead the House.

The SPEAKER: Why honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Because she is quoting information that

is fine ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...but what I spoke about was the fact that she says ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...that we do not support the building of classrooms.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We confirm that we did not support the Vote. What does that have ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...to do with her going on to mislead.

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Sayed!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Stop with the theatrics!

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Maybe then she will be made the Chief Whip!

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Sayed!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Unfortunately, this will not make her the Chief Whip. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, I allowed you an opportunity to raise your [Interjections.] Hon members! I have allowed you an opportunity to raise your point of order. [Interjections.] Raising your point of order does not give you the opportunity to justify your point of order. [Interjections.] Honourable. Honourable [Interjections.] Okay. Hon members, please settle down. [Interjections.] Hon Sayed, you had an opportunity. It is now hon Baartman's opportunity. [Interjections.] Hon Baartman, you may continue. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I just want to say that if I had to make a Member Statement today [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...that I support or not support something, it does not mean that I supported or not supported a particular Vote. You must report whether you support or not support a particular Vote. I am not going to go into the second Report of Local Government because we are not dealing with Local Government now. But in the second Report of the Local Government Vote:

“Vote 14: Local Government in the Schedule to the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill.” [Interjections.]

The R89-million of Local Government, the ANC recorded:

“Expressed its minority view that it does not support the Vote.”
[Interjections.]

And people do not need to believe me, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] They can go and read page 68 of the ATC 32 that was published on Friday, [Interjections.] 24 March 2023, not by me, by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. [Interjections.] They do not need to believe me, they can go and read for themselves.

The SPEAKER: Order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Further, hon Speaker, I just want to say that it was indicated that apparently, the Western Cape Education Department did not spend all of their money in Education infrastructure, which is not true. The Education Department last year, spent 100% of its Education Infrastructure Budget. So, I just want that to be noted on record [Applause.] and I happen to also have made a Member Statement previously in the House about that. [Interjections.]

So, but as a Province ...[Interjections.] the financial year is not over. As a Province, we do not shy away from difficult tasks and while it is not a particular matter that is usually dealt with in Education, I would like to speak quickly about the Provincial Equitable Share Formula, which is calculated according to a formula by National Treasury.

In terms of this particular formula, obviously 48% of the formula in different provinces is dealing with Education statistics. [Interjections.] So, when you see the Provincial Equitable Share Formula increase ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...it was not because the National Treasury changed the formula, it was because they inserted new data on the following: the mid-year population estimates 2022 age cohorts 5 to 17. That was some new data. It was not a change of a formula. It was 2022 preliminary data on

LURITS School enrolment for Grade Rs to Grade 12. It was also not a change in the formula, it was new data. And despite the Budget Committee having asked again and again and again for special needs education to be included into the formula, it has still not been reviewed in this regard.

So, I am not going to. You do not need to believe me that the ANC objected against the R150-million. It is in the ATC. You can even go and check the Minutes of the House of the Additional Adjustment Budget, but people do not need to believe me. They can go and read for themselves because here in the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape, leaders are readers. [Interjections.]

In 2022, hon Speaker, a total of 920 634 learners enrolled for the National Senior Certificate examinations in South Africa. The largest class to date to sit for the Grade 12 NSC examination. Since its inception in 2008, the Western Cape has managed to increase its National Senior Certificate Matric pass rate if even further to pre-pandemic levels, achieving an 81,4% pass rate in 2022, which is a steady improvement from the previous year, especially given that we had COVID-19 for almost two years.

So, we welcome hon Minister Maynier's announcement of the unprecedented R399-million to address learning losses, which will include the Academics Report of 18 000 learners and specifically, the Mathematics intervention that the hon Minister announced for 4 000 Grade 10 learners.

Hon Speaker, one of my favourite philosophers is actually Dr Seuss and Dr

Seuss actually said:

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you will go.”

And it is so important thus that we address the COVID-19 learning losses and I hope that the hon members will also take the words of one of my favourite philosophers into account when they go through the overview and the full Budget and the Infrastructure Budget which was tabled in this House by hon Minister Wenger, the hon Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities. This budget sees the Education Department move forward. It paints a portrait of a Department that takes its challenges in its stride. It is a Department that takes action. And this is just the start.

The 2023/2024 financial year will see the Western Cape Government boost Education spending by an unprecedented R1,47-billion, resulting in a budget that features massive infrastructure investments and exciting new teacher training initiatives. And the Committee has heard oversight briefing on this also previously, that over 1 000 posts are coming in this regard.

The budget includes a nearly R3-billion investment into infrastructure which will be used to build new classrooms and enhance existing ones. Hon Speaker, I note that the EFF mentioned about the maintenance of schools and that maintenance is not happening, but there is actually a maintenance roster and the maintenance roster is per year. Now, I do not know which particular

school it is because the hon member did not mention it, but perhaps if either to the hon Minister, they could send the school's information or even through the Committee, we could actually check where on the years and in the maintenance roster the school lies. And if the school requires heavy maintenance, we must have a conversation with the Hon Minister and the Department as to where on the roster they lie particularly.

The Department, hon Speaker, will continue the highly successful Rapid Build Programme with R350-million to be spent on this initiative. To date, the Rapid Build Programme has already built more than 740 classrooms in just a few short months and the continuation of this programme demonstrates the Western Cape Government's clear commitment to ensuring that every single learner receives quality education regardless of circumstances. And hon Speaker, I just want it to be noted that this Department last year indicated that they will go and negotiate with the construction industry to build through the December holidays. And if anyone has ever wanted to build anything through the Christmas or the festive season's holiday, you will know that the construction industry closes at a certain time. Not only did they build through the holidays, the construction industry assisted the Education Department on even building on Saturdays and Sundays. And it is because of that that the Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool was built within 65 days. It is unheard of. [Applause.] It is unheard of.

†Geagte Speaker, ek wil u graag vertel van die Staande Komitee van Onderwys se oorsigbesoek na Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool. As gevolg van die

gesamentlike poging van amptenare, kontrakteurs, belanghebbendes, kon Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool in uitbreiding van die Hoërskool, meer Graad 8- en 9 leerders akkommodeer. Van die klaskamers was binne 75 dae gebou en binne haar begroting van R40-miljoen en vir ongeveer 405 ekstra leerders te akkommodeer. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ons was daar. Die skoolhoof was daar. Die skool *Governing Body* was daar. Hulle het dit verwelkom. Toe ons hulle gevra het van die ongeplaaste leerders het hulle vir ons nou gesê dat hulle het nou bygedra dat daar nog geen ongeplaaste leerders in Atlantis is nie.

[Hon Speaker, I would like to tell you about the Standing Committee on Education's oversight visit to Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool. As a result of the joint effort of officials, contractors, interested parties, the Saxonsea Junior Hoërskool in expansion of the High School, could accommodate more Grade 8 and 9 learners. Some of the classrooms were built within 75 days and within her budget of R40-million and accommodate about 405 extra learners. [Interjections.] We were there. The principal was there. The school's Governing Body was there. They welcomed it. When we asked them about the unplaced learners they told us that they have contributed that there were still no unplaced learners in Atlantis.]

And I just want to say that the statistics on unplaced learners that were quoted was from February. But I clearly remember from the 17 March Budget Committee Meeting that the hon Minister indicated that on that day, the unplaced learners were 91. [Interjections.] Now, hon Speaker, we have 1.1-million learners in the Western Cape. In February we had 98% placed learners and on 17 March, on that Budget Committee date, we had 91 unplaced learners out of 1.1-million. So, 99% of learners on that day were

placed.

And I would like to encourage the hon members. If you know of someone who is unplaced, please let the Department know. [Interjections.] Let the Department know so that we can place that learner because learners in this province have a right to be placed. They have a right to quality education, but we cannot place someone who does not let the Department or any of the officials know. [Interjections.] Let us know.

We keep a register even in the Committee where we get the information from people, and we send it to the Department so that we can follow up on each and every complaint or query that we get. And our Procedural Officer is amazing with following up on queries that we send to the hon Minister and to the Department of Education. And I thank her, I am actually thanking her later as well, but I want to thank her now in this regard as well.

In terms of the technical matters online, we have received technical complaints and queries about the online system and we have sent them through to the Department. I am not sure if the hon members from the Opposition have sent them to the Department or to the hon Minister, but every single one I sent in personally, has been dealt with. [Interjections.] Every single one. And I make sure that the Procedural Officer knows about it so that it goes onto the roster, so that we can know whether or not the Department and the hon Minister are following up on the respective complaints and queries.

Hon Speaker, it goes without saying that I am incredibly excited to see this particular Rapid Build initiative and that we are going to continue with building schools. And I am pleased at the announcement that 21 new and replacement schools, and the additional 289 classrooms are to be built. The Department unifies clearly behind the common goal of getting every single child, even those who have applied late, into a classroom, into education.

In addition to building new schools and classrooms, the Department also works to improve conditions within schools. And I welcome this hon Minister's announcement of the R68-million to improve support for learners with autism spectrum disorders, as well as the construction of two new schools for special needs learners, an additional 28 classrooms for learners with special needs. As a learner whose doctor wanted to take her out of school and I refused, it is a matter that is a little bit close to my heart.

In 2023/2024 it will see the Department spend R65-million on school feeding schemes to ensure that the province's school children are well fed and ready to learn. This represents a key aspect within the Western Cape Government's mission to lift our people out of poverty through education. We are feeding more than 50% of learners in this province, in education. More than 50%. We have 1,1-million learners in this province, hon Speaker, we are feeding more than 50%. They receive breakfast, they receive lunch.

DANA 2

It is geared toward Quintile 4 and 5 schools because that is the criteria that we received from National in terms of the National Schools Nutrition Programme, but the Western Cape Department has also put its own money in terms of feeding and nutrition so that we are able to feed children even in schools that are not Quintile 4 and 5 because the Quintiles do not always make provision for everyone who needs to be fed, everyone who is vulnerable in the respective school.

That has been our concern that our ability to feed our learners may be jeopardised due to even the increase in food and petrol prices, hon Speaker, that we are getting a certain amount of money, but does it deal with the fact that the food prices are increases? The hon Minister of Agriculture is sitting in front me. He will know that the food prices have increased. The petrol prices have increased. So, the cost input that we have to pay for in the National School Nutrition Programme have increased and I will get to the respective funding in that regard soon.

As a Province, you have us adding R61-million – our own money – to supplement the National School Nutrition Programme from our own Provincial Revenue Funds. And in order to further supplement it last year, the WCED also facilitated the establishment of 571 food gardens in schools and appointed 146 gardeners to be able to ensure that they are sustained. Because it also does not help if you have a school garden, but you do not actually have someone to look after it or you do not assist in making sure that the school is able to look after it. You cannot teach a hungry child. And this

Department in Education continues to pull out all the stops to ensure that every learner can focus entirely on their education, rather than the way they are going to source their next meal from. [Interjections.]

R54-million will be spent on School Resource Officers over the MTEF period to assist with safety in schools, but hon Speaker, I just need to raise something. [Interjections.] I am very proud that the Education Department is going to add ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...18 School Resource Officers plus another 18, plus another 18 bring in over 80 School Resource Officers. But I actually want to tell you something. We should not have to put more than R50-million into our Budget to make sure that learners are safe when we have Section 205 of the National Constitution dealing with the Police Service. [Interjections.] And I want to quote the Constitution Section 205 (3) as to what the South African Police Service ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...is supposed to do. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC):

“The objects of the Police Service...”

Hon Minister, I hope you are listening to me as well [Interjections.]:

“...are to prevent, combat and investigate crime.”

[Interjections.] I want to repeat hon Speaker:

“The objects of the Police Service.”

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): In the National Constitution:
[Interjections.]

“...are to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law.”

The SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is an hon member on the hybrid system. Hon Mvimbi, is that a point of order?

Mr L L MVIMBI: Yes, hon Speaker. Can the hon member take a question?

The SPEAKER: Let me just pose the request to the hon member. Hon member, are you prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Unless the hon member is asking whether he can do coffee with me ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: No, are you ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...I am not prepared to take a question.

The SPEAKER: Are you going to take, prepared? [Interjections.] Hon members! Are you prepared to take a question, yes or no? That is are you prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Not at this time.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Mvimbi ...[Interjection.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: The hon member is not prepared to take a question.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I am not sure if everyone on

the virtual platform heard me reading out Section 205 (3). ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, please take your seat. There is another point of order, I would imagine. Hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, the hon Premier is disturbing the hon Baartman. [Interjections.] She is not able to speak; that is heckling across the floor. Can you just bring some order ...[Interjections.] please? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Can I ask the hon members on both my right- and left-hand side. There is an hon member on the floor. Please do not drown out the speaker. Allow the speaker an opportunity to make her presentation. Everyone that was part of this debate had that opportunity, so hon Baartman, I will protect you and ensure that you have the same privilege to speak.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am not sure if everyone heard me read our Section 205 (3) because the Deputy Chief Whip from the Opposition indicated that people could not necessarily hear me. So, I am just going to repeat this Section dealing with the powers of the Police Service in South Africa.

“The objects of the Police Service are to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, [hon Minister] to protect” ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, speak to me.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA):

“...and secure the inhabitants...”

Through you, hon Speaker, to the hon Premier. [Interjections.]

“...to protect and to secure the inhabitants of the Republic and their property, and to uphold and enforce the law.”

That is the object of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: But they have not read it [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Leaders are readers, hon Speaker. Further, in order to deal with the impact of loadshedding on education, the Department will spend R40-million on energy efficient LED lighting which will lower energy bills in schools. And hon Speaker, I just want to actually say that in the Cloetesville Primary School there was a collaboration between Stellenbosch University, the WCED and the GreenX startup, but that was a

pilot. [Interjections.] It was a collaboration. And when they implemented their solar PV, they are able now to reduce their electricity bill by almost R20 000 a year. It is a 7,5 kilowatt system, if I am not mistaken, and it reduces up to 13 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. [Interjections.]

And in addition to this, hon Speaker, schools are now being identified for consideration for solar PV technologies which will mitigate loadshedding. In this particular year, ten schools – we have heard from the hon Minister now today – and the installation of these systems will generate up to 60 kilowatts, depending on the size of the school and the size of the installation.

I know, hon Speaker, that we often hear a lot from the Opposition as to how many kilowatts and megawatts go into the grid. So, I just want to remind the hon members that now when I say 60 kilowatts, in this particular programme in this particular Department, I now know how many kilowatts and megawatts will go into the grid from this particular one. And that way, throughout the departments, throughout the Western Cape Government we must ask okay, how many from the Department of Infrastructure with a solar PV ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member! Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...they are putting up on the buildings because those kilowatts do not just disappear, hon Speaker. They do not just go up in the air, they go into the grid. Whether it is now the municipal grid

or the Eskom grid, but it helps to mitigate loadshedding. And in this regard the Western Cape Education Department is committed to doing everything it can to help make the Western Cape become the first loadshedding-free province in South Africa.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, while we are adding more than a billion rand from our own Provincial Revenue Fund to bolster the Education Vote – I am going to repeat this. [Interjections.] We are spending more than R1-billion from our own Provincial Revenue Fund to bolster the Education Vote. The National Conditional Grants that Opposition members are speaking about are expected to decrease in totality in 2023, by R26,7-million in this Vote or 1,33% from the previous MTEF estimates.

So, I actually want to go through the Conditional Grants quickly, hon Speaker. We are receiving eight Conditional Grant funding amounts and so, for those people who are maybe watching online from home, there is a difference between Equitable Share and Conditional Grants. Equitable Share we have our formula, they send money and the Western Cape Province has to decide what it has to do with its money. Conditional Grants you can only use what your respective National Department has given the respective money for.

So, the Grants that we are getting is the Education Infrastructure Grant, the

Maths, Science and Technology Grant, the Early Childhood Development Grant, the HIV and Aids Grant, the Learners of Profound Disabilities Grant, National School Nutrition Programme Grant, Social Sector EPWP Incentive Grant and Expanded Public Works Programme Integrated Grant. Of these eight, †so hier gaan ons met getalle-gebrek. Ons gaan nou getalle. [so here we go with lack of numbers. We are now going numbers.]

So, of these eight, we are seeing a reduction of an under-inflation increase in six of them. Now, I am not sure if all of the hon members who are permanent on Education also sit on Budget. I always welcome extra members on Budget because in Budget we are on a mission, hon Speaker, to make finance fun again. We are having fun-filled finance festivities in the Budget Committee. So, it is important that we understand the difference between real and nominal increases. The differences between when the budget increases [Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): [Inaudible.]...

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...and underinflation increases. So, I would like to go through the respective amounts. In this particular Vote, the Education Infrastructure Grant, I can find it on page 177 of the Budget Book. Again, hon Speaker, you do not need to believe me. This Budget Book was tabled in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, so you can go to page 177. So, let us go. [Interjections.] In 4.5: 5% decrease in the Education Infrastructure Grant from the previous MTEF. Maths, Science and

Technology Grant: 19,37% decrease from the previous estimate. Learners with Profound Intellectual Disabilities Grant: 16,66% decrease from the previous MTEF estimate. In the HIV and Aids Grant, we are receiving a 1,4% increase in terms of percentages and in the Early Childhood Development Grant we are receiving a 4,39% increase. In the Social Sector EPWP Incentive Grant we are receiving 2,44% increase, but hon Speaker, I am not sure if other people know, but these are all below the current inflation percentage which in reality, presents a budget cut.

If someone tells you that inflation is 6% or 10% or 12% or 16%, but they only increase your budget or your salary by 2% or 4%, then actually what is happening is you are making less money. That is how money works in the country. That is how money works everywhere, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, the ANC seems to believe that the taxes that we collect in this country are theirs. They seem to believe it is their money. It is not their money, hon Speaker, it is the people's money. It is the people of South Africa's money and the people's money of South Africa must be spent on the people. And like my hon colleague, the Chairperson Isaac Sileku said a few days ago in respect of relationships, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): It is not a point of order. It is just people who are

disturbing me. I am listening ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, I ...[Interjection.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): ...I am listening very well. [Interjections.] They are busing interjecting.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Please, sit down.

The SPEAKER: I will, I will ...[Laughter.] I will – hon Klaas, I will listen very carefully to see if your rights are being hampered on. But can I again, once more appeal to the hon members that please, there are hon members that want to listen to the response by the hon member on the floor. So, please allow the hon members to continue to do so.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I want to speak about something my hon colleague Chairperson Sileku actually said this past week and he spoke about what do you do when you are in an emotionally abusive relationship and when you have to now leave this boyfriend and when you have to leave this girlfriend. And I want to say, hon Speaker, we must leave the toxic relationships we are in and it is not easy. It is not easy to leave the toxic relationships we are in. And in this sense, what I do want to tell the residents of the Western Cape, hon Speaker, is maybe they will choose us and

maybe they do not, but it is not going to matter if we choose ourselves. We, as the people of the Western Cape, must choose to become loadshedding-free. We, as the people of the Western Cape, must choose to live in a safer province.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): We, the people of the Western Cape, must choose to band together to make sure that there is quality education for every learner in every classroom in every single school in our province. If we or if you are a resident, if you are an MPO, NGO, you are a mom, you are a dad. It does not matter who you are. We must come together so that we, ourselves, can make it happen because it is not their money, hon Speaker. It is the people's money of South Africa and we are not going to find it in couches.

Hon Speaker, I have no doubt that there will be usual nay-sayers who criticise this Budget and it is true that there will never be the resources to fund every initiative we would like. But this budget moves us forward in a very real and meaningful way, and crucially, in a way that National Government has long since given up on. And John F Kennedy actually said – shame, he is not as powerful in my heart as my favourite philosopher, Dr Seuss, but I do love some of his quotes – and he said:

“There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far

less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."

Our Government at the national level has sunk into malaise of inaction and apathy, hon Speaker, comfortable in their mansions and blue light convoys. Make no mistake: they will be rudely awakened next year. And our people cannot wait until then. While people have become numb in South Africa, due to the inefficiency and corruption of National Government, we can see this through the trillion rand lost due to corruption in the Zondo Commission. I even hear members of the National Executive who were implicated in the Zondo Commission Reports being mentioned in this House and we must follow their lead: we will not. We will not! We will not follow the lead of people who are being alleged of corruption in the Zondo Commission Report.

And the National Government, people of the Western Cape expect more from the Provincial Government because they should and they deserve it. We deserve better, hon Speaker, from what we are getting in terms of national money. **Ons verdien beter. We deserve better.** This budget in the Western Cape in the Education Department represents the next steps in bringing services to our people, bridging the gaps between the haves and the have nots, and building a brighter future for our province, and after next year's election, hon Speaker, our country as well. The DA supports this budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. I now see the hon Minister, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking the hon Deidre Baartman for her comprehensive and indeed, energetic input into this debate. I can only conclude that in the light of what she said, she probably had green eggs and ham for lunch. [Applause.] [Laughter.]

Now, hon Speaker, allow me to then respond to some of the inputs by hon members, beginning with my friend, the hon Khalid Sayed. Now, hon Speaker, you will be aware in past debates that I have raised concerns about the hon members diligence and application and his ability to do his homework. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: There we go. ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, hon Speaker, the hon member says that education is an apex parity and that conditional grants are increasing. But just a cursory glance at the Blue Book, our 2023 estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure tell, as the hon Deidre Baartman has alluded to, a different story. In fact, Conditional Grants decrease overall by 1,33%.

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

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Yes, it is a point of order.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): The point of order in Chapter 7 ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It is Chapter 69.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, please speak to me.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): You – okay. Number 42:

“Order must be maintained by the Presiding Officer.”

So here, there is no order you maintain. Why? [Laughter.] He was directly talking to hon Baartman. He must not talk directly to hon Baartman. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, I will remind the hon Minister. Hon Minister, when you address the hon Baartman, can you please address the hon Baartman through the Chair? [Interjections.] Thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I have to say that the hon Klaas certainly wins the prize when it comes to the Rules of the

most improved student. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Attention in class!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, if we could get back to the hon Khalid Sayed's claims: Conditional Grants are going down or going up. But in fact, Conditional Grants decreased overall by 1,33%. The Infrastructure Grant, hon Speaker, decreases by 4,55% and most shamefully – most shamefully the Grant for Learners with Profound Intellectual Disabilities decreases by 16, 66%.

† 'n AGBARE LID: Skande!

[An HON MEMBER: Digrace!]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, hon Speaker, what are the implications of that? What are the implications of that? The implications are that the Provincial Government and the Provincial Treasury have to lean in which, to their credit, they did in this financial year. And we now will be contributing much more than National Government, for example, to the National School Nutrition Programme Grant. We will be contributing this financial year, R61,4-million and we will be contributing R67-million to the Learners, of course, with Profound Intellectual Difficulties.

Hon Speaker, the hon member claims that when it comes to admissions, there is a crisis. Now, we are under significant pressure, but there is no crisis. We

have placed 99,6% of our Grade 1s and Grade 8s, who were on-time applications, and 98,98% of our Grade 1 and Grade 8s who applied late. And we now have less than 45 learners requiring a placement and these are extremely late applications and applications where we are struggling to contact parents. But I can give the hon member the assurance that we will work hard, and we committed to placing every single learner in the Western Cape.

On admissions 2024, yes, there have been some niggles with the system, but the system is a vast improvement on last year. We have experienced no downtime and indeed, we have now processed over 83 000 unique applications for the 2024 school year.

Hon Speaker, that then brings me to the hon Cassiem from the EFF. Now, it is always difficult for me to take a lecture from the EFF on the lack of ability of children to get to school. When indeed, it is the EFF just recently, that threatened to shut down the schools as part of their national shutdown. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is not a laughing matter.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now of course, the most recent shutdown of schools was embarrassing, embarrassingly arranged on a school holiday. [Laughter.] On a school holiday [Interjections.] declared a year before.

An HON MEMBER: Well done!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, hon Speaker, what conclusion must we draw? We can only conclude that when it comes to Julius Malema and the high command of the EFF, which the hon member serves, that they are struggling to read school timetables. [Laughter.] And I also suggest that the high command have experienced significant learning losses [Laughter.] and could possibly benefit from a place on our Back To School, #BackOnTrack Programme here in the Western Cape. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, I am going to allow you an opportunity if you have a point of order because this is now the fifth question in the same debate. So, is it a point of order, hon Klaas?

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): It is a point of question. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: There is no such thing as a point of question.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Any other ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: I am going to ask the hon Minister – I am not going to ask the hon Minister if he wants to take a question because the hon Minister is now responding. So, you could have had an opportunity in the debate to pose those questions. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Get him a Question Paper. [Interjections.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): But he posed this point while he was on the podium.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister Meyer, you also had a point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, it is a point of privilege.

The SPEAKER: What is your ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: During this debate today ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: ...point of privilege?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ...and this is in direct relation to the hon Minister of Education in response to the hon member Klaas. During the debate earlier today, I asked exactly the same question that emanated from a pretext of hon Minister Maynier and the answer that I got from the hon member Klaas was that he was going to put it to me in writing. The question that I now have for him: when will it happen? Which date?

The SPEAKER: No, no, hon Minister Meyer. No, that is not a point of order or a point of privilege and I am actually going to not allow any further

questions being posed to the hon Minister or requested to be posed to the hon Minister in this debate. Hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker, which brings me to the hon Ferlon Christians. Let me thank him for supporting the Vote and for the thumbs-up and his recognition of the incredibly hard work and dedication of the Western Cape Education Department.

Then in closing, hon Speaker, I would like to circle back to the hon Khalid Sayed's original point. Now, he made mention of his guests, the educational activists, and I am sure – I am sure that they have been shocked, profoundly shocked by what they have heard today. That their champion, their champion, the hon Khalid Sayed, opposed – opposed an additional allocation of R115-million [Interjections.] R115-million for infrastructure which would expand access to schools, allow us to build schools and allow us to extend opportunities to young people in the Western Cape.

An HON MEMBER: ...blunder! How could you ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, let us focus, hon Speaker on this shambles because and let me take you through it. The National Government supports an additional allocation of R115-million for infrastructure in the Western Cape. Hon Khalid Sayed and Committee, opposes the additional allocation of R115-million for infrastructure. [Interjections.] Now, it gets interesting.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I am not going to allow any questions. Is that a point of order? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, this is a point of order. The hon Minister is misleading the House. I did not and the Committee was in this venue, and I even said it in my speech.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I did not oppose the additional allocation of R115-million. [Interjections.] I opposed the budget, not the allocation of the money because there are aspects in the budget ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...that I did not agree with.

The SPEAKER: Alright.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): And I do not want to explain myself again. But I am sure the public can see.

The SPEAKER: Okay, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The public can see that ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...the DA is indeed ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...the dishonest alliance. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed. [Interjections.] Hon Sayed, when you [Interjections.] Hon Sayed, you rose on a point of order saying that the hon Minister is misleading the House.

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: The hon Minister – I cannot adjudicate on the facts either from your side or from the hon Minister's side. So, what I will do is I will come back to the House and I will look at Committee reports and I will look at all the facts in front of me, and I will officially rule. But for now, the hon Minister will continue. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You do not understand, it is getting hot in here.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. [Interjections.] Now, hon

Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, now please now settle down. The hon Minister is on the floor. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now, hon Speaker, the hon member is obviously very sensitive about this matter. I understand it. It is very embarrassing but it is really embarrassing with education activists as your guests. I am sure ...[Laughter.] I am very empathetic ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Because you are not ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I am empathetic. I am very empathetic to the hon member. [Interjections.] But if, indeed, he is claiming that I do not understand his actions, he is correct. How does he explain the ATC ...[Interjections.]

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...on 24 March 2003 (*sic*) which in respect of Vote 5 on the Additional Adjustments Appropriation Budget says this:

“The African National Congress expressed its minority view not to support the Vote.”

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Now but, hon Speaker, you will obviously ...[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: You will obviously look into this matter.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I will look into the matter. Hon Minister, can you speak to me?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: But ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: No, Hon Minister, can you can you speak ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Alright, yes. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...to the Chair. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. [Interjections.] Now, I ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members on my lefthand side. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I said, hon Speaker, I said, hon speak it was at the moment that the hon Khalid Sayed opposed the additional allocation of R115-million. It is at that point that it gets interesting because in the Budget Debate, the hon Nomi Nkondlo, possibly a little bit more diligent, a little bit more mature, stood up and supported the additional allocation of R115-million for infrastructure, only for her own hon members then to vote against the same Vote.

Now, what does this tell us? It is a symbol of the division within the ANC between the Province and National Government. It is a symbol of the decay of the ANC and it is a symbol of the ultimate death of the ANC here in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister, Minister Maynier. That concludes the ...[Interjection.] Is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Yes, sorry, hon Speaker. I actually want to rise on a privilege and if I may address you.

An HON MEMBER: Oh!

The SPEAKER: Yes, you may address me.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: I am just a bit concerned that the hon member brought something that was not brought by a substantive motion. I

am worried that every time somebody says something in a debate you will have to go to an ATC, which is not fair on you. So, the hon member must bring a substantive motion if he feels he was not – the hon member was not speaking the truth. But with a normal point of order, we have got 100 ATCs. We cannot have the hon Speaker going through all the ATCs every time he disagrees with something. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have ruled on the matter and I will come back to the House after I have looked at the facts. [Interjections.] I will. Thank you very much, hon Maynier for the debate. That concludes the debate on that Vote. We will now move onto the next. The Secretary will then read the next Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 6: Health – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2023].

The SPEAKER: [Interjections.] Thank you very much, hon Minister, before I recognise you, I am going to give a minute or two in case there are members of the Department.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I think they were here earlier, so I am not aware whether they are still here now or they are online.

The SPEAKER: Alright, are you happy to continue?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: *Ja*.

The SPEAKER: Alright, hon Minister, Minister Mbombo. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet Ministers, the hon Leader of the Opposition, the hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Departmental officials – some of them are online, guests and, most importantly, the residents of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, today, I have the honour to table the 2023/2024 Budget of the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, which amounts to R28,8-billion, which equates to an overall reduction of about R280,9-million or a decrease of 0,97% from the 2022/2023 financial year budget.

I just want to thank the communities that represented the Metro when we were tabling this budget, unto them, so that they could be able to share their views. We took their views into consideration, specifically around the reduction of the budget this year.

While there have been notable reductions in both our Provincial Equitable Share (PES) allocation and the total conditional grants awarded to us by the National Government, we are grateful for the substantial allocation of R1,078-billion from the Provincial Revenue Fund. In total, hon Speaker, this is a 421.87% increase from the 2022/2023 that is coming from the provincial

envelope. As a Department, we are fortunate to have a caring Provincial Government that understands the needs of health and wellness.

It has been more than 35 months since we first identified COVID-19 in our province. Even though it has been a long journey since March 2020, I can confidently say that we are in complete control of this pandemic. COVID-19 now belongs in our history books as all COVID-19 interventions are now officially incorporated into the Department's baseline services. But of course, we are on the lookout for resurgence but we have to focus on other illnesses, for example TB, where we have committed R28-million for this year.

As we progress further into 2023, we are now faced with a different reality. One that is now overshadowed by domestic and international turmoil. While South Africa has more immediate concerns and it is something I will outline later, hon Speaker, one cannot forgo the constrained supply chain issues that originated from COVID-19 and, more recently, the Ukrainian conflict.

This, however, is not first time as some of you know. Ukraine has been a focal point of the world. Almost 150 years ago, the Crimean War brought multiple countries into the fold and plunged innocent civilians' lives into disarray. However, it also gave rise to a person who would go on to transform patient care and form the foundations of modern nursing. Among the soldiers, she was labelled the 'Lady with the Lamp', but the world knows her as Florence Nightingale.

Hon Speaker, with South Africa's public healthcare system in crisis, we have been the ones who have stood firm, innovated, and provided the basis for good governance. We are the ones holding the lamp for not only residents of the Western Cape, but also for all South Africans.

In my 8th Budget Speech, hon Speaker, I presented the concept of Vulimpilo and reflected on the achievements in the system for the seven years preceding it. This is where I introduced the name change of the Department and is a direct consequence of our vision found in the Healthcare 2030 Plan. As before, I will begin my 9th Budget Speech by firstly reflecting on the delivery of my promises for the current financial year and the active shift from that of health to health and wellness.

Hon Speaker, the Department is wholly committed to its plans for a comprehensive service redesign. Since last year, we have had a variety of Indabas with public and private stakeholders which will allow us to form foundations for greater partnerships moving forward. The Department, this week – actually, for the past two days including today – are also engaged with another health Indaba.

Between 2020 and 2023, the Department employed a total of 2 342 individuals to assist with the service demands of COVID-19. Out of these professionals, more than 1 000 will be remaining in our employ because I have to emphasise this, hon Speaker, because we keep on being accused of

letting people go, all the people go. Of those who will be leaving us: 829 have left on their own accord; 471 have completed their contractual appointments; and 694 have been served with termination notices. Despite the pandemic funding ending and the current budget shortfall we are facing, our Department has essentially been able to integrate its COVID-19 workforce into our Equitable Share baseline.

We are also proud to announce that we have allocated R127,6-million to expand our transitional care capacity, specifically in relation to our Brackengate and Sonstraal Hospitals, which used to be the COVID-19 hospitals. This will go a long way in alleviating the pressure in our acute hospital platform, specifically for the Khayelitsha District Hospital, the Mitchells Plain Hospital, and other like Paarl.

Hon Speaker, on the built environment: health infrastructure remains our top priority as it is our main vehicle of service delivery. Over the next three years, the Department will invest about R2,5-billion on maintenance and infrastructure and this is also about a 10% increase for this year alone. In addition to that, hon Speaker, the R30-million that we are committing to uplift the face of our health facilities, is also crucial.

Yesterday, while my colleague, hon Minister Simmers, has highlighted a number of projects in Health in his speech yesterday, I would also like to reiterate what we have successfully completed since April last year: the Villiersdorp Clinic; the refurbishment of the Gansbaai Clinic; the new day

clinic in Laingsburg – thank you, hon Mackenzie for breaking up our delays per clinic; the Sandy Point Satellite Clinic; two EMS stations in Murraysburg and De Doorns; the Avian Park Clinic; through dedicated fundraising, the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital opened a new EC centre; the Bergsig Ward in Nelspoort; the Gouda Clinic; the Steenberg Cove Satellite Clinic; the first phase of Victoria Hospital’s Emergency Centre – I can add many, many and I also just want to add Ladismith Clinic is also upcoming. Of course, hon Speaker, I have to mention it before the hon members actually ask the questions.

In relation to the construction of the Klipfontein Regional Hospital, we are making steady progress as the tender was awarded September last year for multidisciplinary professional service providers. Additionally, hon Speaker, a town planner has been appointed to begin with the land application processes pertaining to the rezoning and erven consolidation. Currently, the appointment of sub-consultants and other specialists are underway.

The public-private partnership at the Tygerberg Hospital has gathered speed with its developments. A feasibility study which commenced a few years ago, has completed and the consultation with all relevant stakeholders which happened last year, also have been approved through National Treasury.

Hon Speaker, in total there are about 285 projects in our pipeline which will further capacitate our services as a Department. While we thank the Department of Infrastructure for being the implementing agent all of these

years, we are excited for the opportunities that await us with the removal of Chapter 16B of Provincial Treasury Instructions. In doing, the delivery and maintenance of infrastructure, some will now be our responsibility. We, as Health, will no longer be just a client and bystander. By being the custodians and implementers of our points of service, we will be able to be a very active partner in delivering the infrastructure more efficiently and on time.

Hon Speaker, the violence prevention unit: if you recall last year, we also made that announcement. The Safety Plan has been debated many times in this House and despite our different views on policy, we all agree that a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is essential to reducing violence in our communities. As the Department of Health and Wellness, we understand our role in this regard and are committed to doing our part.

What we have already done, hon Speaker, a violence prevention unit, a DPSA macro structure, has been approved. This means now that we will be able to go ahead. R6,2-million has been allocated to increase the capacity of this unit. Area based teams have been established in the hotspot areas in partnership with other departments. I think my colleague from the Police Oversight will talk more around that. A public facing dashboard has been developed in order to give communities, law enforcement agencies, the NPOs and everyone, the data indicating the burden of trauma in localised geographic areas.

Sometime in the future, the hon Premier and also all others who are

transversally participating in this will be able to make such an announcement in the media.

Hon Speaker, on mental health. I mentioned mental health last year where I committed an additional R30-million in order to bolster our mental health services and we have seen positive results, but this is not enough. To truly make more headway, we truly need a whole-of-system response, a whole-of-society response and we have been doing just that.

For example, we have a Mental Health Steering Committee of all relevant HODs. It is no longer a Health Department matter. All other departments are involved. In Klipfontein and Witzenberg, for example, we are busy with a mapping exercise to map all mental health services, especially in regard to the issues of older persons mental health. Our psychogeriatric interventions, which is the mental health of the seniors, have proven successful at Alexandra and Stikland Psychiatric Hospitals where we are currently piloting.

This year alone for mental health, we are committing R72,4-million which has been allocated for both the Metro and also, the rural areas.

Hon Speaker, last year I committed R20-million additional funding for the surgical backlogs. Where we are now, we have seen a considerable increase in the backlog of elective surgical procedures. In June last year, we actually had about a total of 77 000 procedures. Due to dedicated management and

staff, our hospitals have made great progress in reducing those backlogs of 77 000 and now we are sitting with around about 21 000 which is a 70% reduction in regard to the waiting procedures.

This has also been aided by our Da Vinci surgical robots at Groote Schuur and Tygerberg Hospitals. Since their procurement at the end of February, 260 surgeries have already taken place. This robotics allows for quicker recovery periods and thus alleviates bed occupancies where they are being used. We look forward to even greater progress being made in this regard.

Hon Speaker, we always talk about what is happening with the City of Cape Town clinics. In 2022, with the City of Cape Town, we made the decision to provincialize joint facilities that were operating in the Metro in order to rationalise the clinic network, which will reduce the financial burden and thereby improve service efficiency. This resulted in the handover of the nine plus one, which makes ten facilities. This was crucial in the realisation of the Provincial Department's Healthcare 2030 plan.

Now hon Speaker, this year I am excited to announce the provincialisation of two further facilities in the Atlantis are, which will be in around July. Saxon Sea and Protea Park Clinics will be incorporated into Provincial Health Services and this is not only about the patients in those clinics, but will also improve burden and service pressures that are currently being experienced at Wesfleur Hospital. We actually need to thank the communities for being the voices that lead where no-one gets left behind.

Hon Speaker, climate change and everything related to 2023/2024. With us as a department having delivered on our goals and promises, it is important that we lay the groundwork and contextualise the climate we will be weathering in the year ahead.

In total, we have 34 000 permanent employees and thousands more in contract staff working across our 571 service points, which is inclusive of clinics, hospitals, EMS stations and so forth. That is a lot to fund, let alone to efficiently govern the only Government department that is available for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Considering these facts, we need to contextualise the external factors which are becoming increasingly prevalent.

Stats SA shows that with the Western Cape, immigration is intensifying. As a Province, we understand this. We are the home of hope for all South Africans. The Western Cape's population is currently around 7,2-million, in which 75% use public health services, and it is expected to increase by another 800 000 people before the end of the decade. Even though we welcome with open arms anyone who wishes to call the Western Cape their home, the fact that our resource allocations from National lag behind. This is actually of concern because money does not follow the people.

Now, this brings me to the issues of priorities related to the social determinants of health because we will not be able to do it all by ourselves.

As we all know, the wellbeing of any person is not solely dependent on the services of its health system. Actually, only 20% of the drivers of health are clinical and require clinical care, with the rest being based off individual behaviour, one's physical environment and socio-economic environment. This means, hon Speaker, that what we see mostly as health problems are actually the result of socio-economic, political, social and commercial ills. And therefore, hon Speaker, this is why we are saying that health is everybody's business. Everyone should have all their hands on deck in order to be able to save our health system.

Speaker, as you can see, the health system in our country is being pulled from both ends and means that the work we do has gotten even more complex. Health is the first point of contact for many of our residents and where many of their conditions are a result of inputs that could have been addressed through other means. Despite the above, the Department of Health and Wellness has had to deal with another constraints impacting its service delivery. That is, hon Speaker, loadshedding. Actually, they are blackouts.

Our facilities and healthcare professionals need a constant and stable supply of energy in order to do their work efficiently. The electronic equipment used on a daily basis cannot be switched on and off like a light switch, and runs the risk of being damaged over time. Lives quite literally depend on them.

But hon Speaker, between April 2022 and February this year, we have spent

more than R100-million on fuel supplies for our facilities. While this number might not seem that significant given the size of our budget, this is money that could have been used to hire more professionals to treat our patients, to procure more essential supplies or even to improve infrastructure. Loadshedding simply steals from our residents. Loadshedding steals from our patients.

However, we are not going to sit around and expect the situation to go away by itself. As we speak, hon Speaker, we are rolling out inverters to 120 of our Primary Care facilities, surging ahead with our energy saving targets and we are installing solar panels onto the roofs of about 15 of our hospitals. Thanks to City and Eskom, we were able to exempt an additional five facilities from loadshedding like Karl Bremer, Mitchells Plain, New Somerset, Victoria and George Hospitals. We hope in the future that a further 14 facilities will be added to the mix. In total, the budget request for these projects is about R136-million for this year alone. There is no new money, hon Speaker. It means that we have to rob Peter to pay Paul and rob Paul to pay Pauline in order for us to be able to bring our services. [Interjections.]

Now, the main thing, hon Speaker ...[Laughter.] We are coming to the main thing now, hon Speaker, the Budget. As we know, we have heard when I made a response to the Appropriation Budget that there is no more COVID-19 money that we used to have in the previous years. The Provincial Equitable Share Formula Review has enabled a policy shift where the Western Cape and Gauteng – the two that are urbanised – have ended up having a reduction in

the PES and also, on the Conditional Grants.

Also, hon Speaker, the insult further is an issue of the real inflation that has been significantly higher than normal in terms of how this budget is based. The reality, hon Speaker, is about that fiscal cliff that we have been warning about, is now actually here and real. And when you look at it, there are no prospects of thinking that there will be some kind of solution anywhere. We are on the fiscal cliff and the case is that the issue of the health sector is where things now should be focused on.

For the 2023/2024 financial year Budget which I am presenting, the R28,8-billion is going to be appropriated and structured according to the eight Budget Programmes of which we have managed to divide them according to this which was the leaflet that we provided to the communities. So, the Auntie Sarahs have already got this and they also have all the understanding in terms of what we are dealing with. So, these eight programmes into which the budget is divided, is as they are accordingly, hon Speaker. This is a budget of resilience despite the odds which face it.

So, hon members and residents of the Western Cape: I hereby table the 2023/2024 Budget for the Department of Health and Wellness. Let us all support this so that we can push forward with quality healthcare services. I thank you. [Applause.]

[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon MEC. I recognise the ANC, hon Windvogel. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Do you want the box? Okay.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: [Interjections.] Thank you. Thank you, hon members. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Windvogel, thank you.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): †Is die Premier klaar? [Is the Premier finished?]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: My time is running there. [Laughter.] Thank you, hon Chairperson or? You are the Chairperson today. Hon Temporary Chairperson, hon Premier, hon Leader of the Opposition, hon members. Allow me to first thank the hon Minister for advertising the National Government motto: leaving no-one behind. [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

The PREMIER: They got it from us!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Speaker, thank you, you are back, hon Speaker.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Speaker, as we open today's Budget Debate for the Western Cape Government Health and Wellness, allow me to remember that it was this week in 2020, shortly after midnight of Friday, 27 March, when President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the 21-day Lockdown period. This is a period in our history that we all do not want to remember as we were faced by the invisible enemy called COVID-19, that caused unspeakable damage on people's lives and livelihoods.

Hon Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that we would have never survived it if it was not for the selfless sacrifice of the healthcare heroes and heroines, who put their lives on the line so that you and I could survive to tell the sad story of COVID-19. Hon Speaker, this week marks exactly three years to the day that the first hard lockdown was announced. The saddest story to remember for me at least, is the fact that the DA Government has not spent a single cent of its budget to honour the healthcare heroes, both the living and those that departed.

In the previous financial year, the HOD committed to look into the possibility of using the budget to build a Wall of Remembrance in honour of those healthcare heroes and other frontline workers that lost their lives in the battle against COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, the budget makes no provision to honour these healthcare heroes. It is clear the DA Government does not appreciate the sacrifice made by these workers and their families. Instead of honouring these healthcare

heroes, the DA Government is rather retrenching them. When it was not fashionable to work in the Hospital of Hope that was established in the province to deal with COVID-19, 2 342 workers, including doctors and nurses, raised their hands and volunteered to help by allowing themselves to be deployed to these hospitals. Of this number, over 800 have already been retrenched. Some have been reemployed in other positions within the public healthcare, but the contracts of the remaining 471 healthcare heroes working at Brackengate and Sonstraal Hospitals, will be terminated this coming Friday. What a sad moment.

This will go down in history as the greatest story of betrayal. This is a budget of betrayal. If this is how the DA is prepared to even betray the most loyal and dedicated public servants, then to what length will it betray the people of the province, especially the poor? The only way to bring an end to this betrayal by the DA in the province is to vote them out of power come 2024 general elections. The winds of change are blowing in the province. This, we saw recently in Barrydale, Swellendam. ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms C MURRAY: No, hon Speaker. I wanted to know if the hon member would take a question.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Murray. Hon member, are you

prepared to take a question, hon Windvogel?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: No. No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Murray, the hon member is not prepared to take a question. You may continue.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Speaker, the wind of change is blowing in the province. This we saw recently in Barrydale, Swellendam, when the people of Ward 2 saw through the DA's dishonesty and unmasked it for what it is and kicked the party out of Ward 2 because they are tired of betrayal.

Hon Speaker, the healthcare workers, the patients who spent long hours queueing outside clinics for help, as well as the patients who sleep on the floors and in chairs in our hospitals for a day before they receive assistance, must follow suit and reject the DA. The ANC is concerned with the reduction to the budget of this Department as this will negatively impact on service delivery and further weaken the public healthcare. The Department's budget has been reduced from R29-billion in the 2022/2023 financial year the revised estimate to R28-billion in 2023/2024, a reduction of R280-million.

The cuts effected mainly Programme 1: Administration; Programme 1: District Health Services; and Programme 5: Central Hospital Services.

The Budget allocations for Compensation of Employees, the Goods and

Services, New Infrastructure, Assets, as well as Non-Infrastructure Expenditure are all decreased. On Programme 2, the Budget allocation for HIV and Aids Programme, Nutrition, as well as District Hospitals are all reduced. This is highly unacceptable, and the ANC cannot support this budget. More concerning to us is the decreased budget for District Hospitals, which is reduced by over R300-million. This will have a devastating impact on hospitals like Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain, which are already struggling and overburdened with increased service pressure which leads to patients sleeping on the floors for days.

When we went to do an oversight visit in these two hospitals last year which was pushed for by the ANC in the House in order to see the poor state of public healthcare in the province, we were told in no uncertain terms that the challenge at these hospitals were self-orchestrated by the DA Government. In addition to this, the hospitals were given extra unfunded mandates and forced to take up more functions of regional hospitals, even though they did not receive additional funding and resources for these.

This is another textbook example of betrayal. The ANC reiterates its call for either Khayelitsha or Mitchells Plain District Hospitals to be converted into a regional hospital where it will receive additional resources and sufficient high-care beds which the hon MEC and HOD do acknowledge as a serious need in these hospitals. The ANC rejects this budget because it has failed to respond to the requests for additional funding to address bed and staff shortages of KDH and Mitchells Plain District Hospitals. The amount of

R150-million was requested by KDH in the presence of the hon MEC who in response to that request said that KDH is a black sheep and will not receive any special treatment and through this Budget, she has cut funding to district hospitals by over R300-million.

Hon Speaker, challenges in Khayelitsha, in Mitchells Plain and the entire Klipfontein region worsened when this DA Government took a decision to betray the people by closing down the GJ Jooste Hospital and lied to them, selling them empty promises of rebuilding it in the following few years. When the Klipfontein regional Hospital will be rebuilt and commissioned, remains a mystery. The targeted date keeps on moving. At first, it was a few years, then moved to 2019, then it was 2032 and now it has been moved to 2033.

For over 10 years since the DA closed GJ Jooste, no concrete steps have been taken to rebuild it. The Department has failed to provide a convincing response to why it cannot designate one of these hospitals a regional hospital, especially given that the Klipfontein Regional Hospital will only be commissioned in 2033. This is a clear case of incompetency and complacency. The DA must stop lying to the people of Manenberg and surrounding areas who do not know that there is no GJ Jooste. The people call the Heideveld Hospital the new GJ Jooste because of dishonest alliance misinformation.

Hon Speaker, the ANC has over the years, put in a strong fight for a better

and improved emergency transport service, especially in the rural communities where patients continue to wait for over two days for ambulances to get to hospitals in Cape Town. We note and welcome the slight increase on the budget for emergency medical services, even though this will not translate to additional ambulances in the Province. There is a clear shortage of ambulances and EMS personnel. It is not true that long response times are caused by a tax on EMS personnel. The shortages also contribute to people waiting for hours for ambulances. So, while we welcome the increase, we are calling for more funds to be allocated to purchase more ambulances.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the commitment made by the HOD to improve the EMS service in the rural regions. The HOD announced that plans are to partner with the Department of Mobility to bring in solutions similar to the Blue Dot and Red Dot initiative, to transport patients from rural regions. We hope the taxi industry, which like the Sonstraal and Brackengate employees and places the lives of the workers [Inaudible.] by transporting healthcare workers and patients around the province, will be rewarded for the sacrifices made.

In closing, hon Speaker, the additional allocation for the establishment of the transitional care facilities in Brackengate and Sonstraal Hospitals is welcomed. More of such stepdown facilities are needed in the province to also support hospitals like the KDH and Mitchells Plain, and other District Hospitals. Despite over R189-million being allocated for this during the

current financial year for the Sonstraal and Brackengate Hospitals, the DA is moving ahead with its plan to terminate the contracts of 471 healthcare workers at these hospitals.

While we welcome the reprieve of a two-month extension for the workers at Brackengate, our demands are clear that these workers should be absorbed permanently. The departmental people management delegations in terms of the Public Service Act 1994 makes provision for this and allows the hon MEC to fill the vacancies without advertising them. The DA must stop betraying the people and our healthcare heroes.

In closing, it was expected that the dishonest alliance would want to blame the National Government for the Budget decrease, while we noted the nearly R217-million reduction in the Conditional Grant Allocation, but this is a nominal reduction in the total budget of R29-million. Also, there is nothing stopping the hon Premier from making the Budget of this Department from where he is getting his billions from. [Laughter.] We support the hon MEC and the HOD efforts at Eskom and the City of Cape Town, to exempt more hospitals from loadshedding. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): We ...[Interjections.] We support the hon MEC and HOD's efforts to get Eskom and the City of Cape Town to exempt more hospitals from loadshedding. They must try to get all health facilities

exempted. [Interjections.]

We call for all hospitals to be provided with alternative power sources.

An HON MEMBER: What causes loadshedding?

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): The hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): ...of the Western Cape caused the loadshedding.

I thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon member Windvogel, are you done?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I am saying I am done.

The SPEAKER: Okay, can you just then ...[Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): There was a request from the hon Minister that I must not be long today. She is on her way to a conference. [Laughter.] So, I complied. I am just complying. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon members. Order, hon members. I trust that that was end of [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] [Laughter.] Settle down, hon members. Thank you very much, hon Windvogel. I now see hon Klaas. [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Asalam. The Western Cape Health ...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Would hon Klaas please take your seat.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): ...facilities ...[Interjection.] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Klaas, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Klaas. No, no, no.

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Areas such as Atlantis residents ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Klaas! [Interjections.] Hon Klaas, I have been calling you to order three, four times already. I stopped your microphone, or I blocked your microphone because there was a point of order. So, I want to – the point of order, the hon Minister then sat down – so, I wanted to tell you that you must please start over so that it can be on the record, so that we can start your time from the three minutes. [Interjections.]

Mr T M KLAAS (EFF): Okay. Western Cape Health facilities are not run as they should, under this DA-led Government and as a result, it is our people

who suffer the consequences. In areas such as Atlantis, residents wake up as early as 5 AM in order to stand in long queues at Wesfleur Hospital, for them to receive primary healthcare. The only two clinics that are available in the area are run by the City of Cape Town and they offer limited general healthcare, forcing everyone to now turn to the small hospital that is available in the area.

Community activist groups, such as the Atlantis Health Organisation, previously made calls to the hon Health MEC to take over the Saxonsea and Protea Park clinics and upgrade them to offer expanded healthcare in order to ease the pressure to the hospital, which will then cut the long queues.

Insourcing: the EFF have always called for the insourcing of staff in various health facilities in the province, but our calls have often fallen on deaf ears. Now, after benefitting from the work of nurses, cleaners and doctors at intermediate healthcare facilities, such as Brackengate during the height of COVID-19, this Government has now decided that they will not renew their staff contracts but will instead, replace them with new people.

During COVID-19, these workers were praised as heroes and heroines. Now, post the pandemic the same Department is sneaking behind their backs in order to replace them with other people doing the same work. The DA-led Provincial Government does not care about indigent patients in our health facilities, and it certainly also does not care about workers who do their best to offer assistance to the provincial health system. Hon Speaker, we will not

support this Vote.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Klaas. I now see hon Pretorius.

Mr G PRETORIUS (DA): Thank you. Good afternoon, hon Speaker, good afternoon hon Premier, hon members of the Cabinet, hon members of the House, the members in the audience and members online.

Hon Speaker, in welcoming the hon MEC for Health's introductory remarks, I wonder what else I have to say. I am going to try my best. As the hon MEC so appropriately said, health is everybody's business. Without communities that are kept health and well, we can do nothing. There can be no education, no community safety, no economic recovery, nothing. Health is the baseline that underpins absolutely everything.

Perhaps it is for that reason that the Health Department's priorities which often succeed in making real improvements to the lives of citizens, sometimes attract so very little attention. Our Department labours quietly in the background, often unrecognised for their consistently superior standard of care they provide. We know of instances in which patients who live in other provinces have crossed over into our province in order to receive a higher standard of care.

Hon Speaker, this Government does not begrudge this extra burden. The noble prizewinning surgeon, Joseph Murray once said, and I quote:

“To be a physician is to love people and like taking care of them.”

That, hon Speaker, is the ethos of the Department of Health. In the last year, the Department played its part in the continued rollout of the largest vaccination programme this century has ever seen, while simultaneously reintroducing regular health services and clearing non-essential surgery backlogs that had developed during the pandemic. They placed a renewed focus on mental health with the construction of new psychiatric units and worked on innovative solutions to the harms so sadly caused by alcohol and drugs, issues which are prevalent in our communities.

They also put in place, hon Speaker, interventions against diseases other than COVID-19. Just in the last few months, at the end of the 2022/2023 financial year, the Department launch an aggressive campaign to control an outbreak of measles in the Western Cape. Hon Speaker, let us take a moment to reflect and appreciate the fact that this Department has taken the necessary steps to avert what could have become an epidemic that affected not just a few people, but the entirety of our province. Health is everyone’s business, indeed.

Hon Speaker, all of this has taken place in a severely constrained environment. I fear that the economic situation will only continue to get worse. Our country’s economic growth has been slowed almost to a standstill by the impact of the African National Congress’ rolling blackouts. Decades

of corruption have eroded the confidence of investors that once stimulated our economy. The simple reality is that the National Government has driving our economy into the ground. Our currency does not have the purchasing power that it once did. Inflation is eating into our revenue streams and there is simply less funding to go around.

This year will see National Government withdraw several key grants amounting to millions of rands: the Comprehensive HIV Aids Component cut by R21,482-million; the National Tertiary Services Grant cut by R69,05-million; and the District Health Programme Grant, hon Speaker, which enables a massive part of this Province's response to TB and HIV, but by a staggering R219-million.

Frankly, hon Speaker, given these circumstances I commend the Provincial Treasury and the Department of Health for managing to limit any decrease in funding to less than 1% and maintaining the Department's status as the second largest Budget allocation in this budget. The Department's budget of R28,8-billion will ensure that despite substantial cuts in funding from national and the service delivery challenges we face, the Department will continue to provide its high-quality services to the populace.

Former World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim, coined the phrase:

“Signs of delivery.”

He defined it as the growing knowledge base about how governments can successfully deliver. It goes without saying that the process of delivery is important to politics. To continuously make empty promises is not only dishonest and a betrayal of the trust of our citizens but is also a threat to our democracy.

In South Africa, our citizens have become cynical due to a lack of service. Today, I have been quite honest about the challenges this Department face. I hope those citizens of our province listening to this debate will know that I am being equally honest when I tell them: this Department will not let you down. In fulfilling its constitutional mandate to progressively realise the right to healthcare, the Department is committed to ensuring high-quality care to all people of the province in spite of budget cuts. Funding for our Emergency Medical Service has been increased and this will be used to shorten response times and ensure that those who need urgent medical services get them as soon as possible.

The Department will also spend more than R1,1-billion on mental health this year. This not only represents a renewed focus on an issue that has been ignored for too long, but also an allocation that goes straight to the heart of the Western Cape's long-running problems with drugs and alcohol. This will go hand in hand with the renewed R28,5-million allocation to violence prevention to deal with the effects of crime and social ills in our province.

But perhaps more importantly than any of these attention-grabbing initiatives

is the fact that all of them will take place against the backdrop of the Department's regular, but no less vital services which will continue to be provided at the same level as they always have.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, a wise man once said: politics is like learning to roller-skate. You partly go where you want to go, and you partly go where the damn things take you. An even wiser person, who happens to be my wife, [Laughter.] once also said ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You are a wise man.

Mr G PRETORIUS: ...while she was attempting to teach me the pleasures of cooking: if you can read a recipe and follow the method, you can cook. We will not go into that now. Well, hon Speaker, at the risk of mixing metaphors, the Health Department has the recipe, it has the method, and it knows where it wants the roller-skates to go. This budget represents the preservation of the gains this Department has made, as well as the exciting new initiatives which will enhance the capacity of the Health Department to prioritise deliver. Hon Speaker, there is no doubt that the impact of the contribution by officials on Health is massive. With their drive, their energy and their commitment, the bar has been set high. The challenge remains to improve further, to do better. Hon Speaker, it is a pleasure to support this Budget Vote on behalf of the DA. Health is everyone's business and with this in mind, I invite the hon members of the Opposition to do the same. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Pretorius. I now see the hon Minister, hon Minister Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you. Thank you very much, to hon member Windvogel. Thank you very much for allowing me to convince you to have a short anyana. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: [Inaudible.]...

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Yes, of course. We have agreed. [Laughter.] We agreed. So, therefore, I will not dwell much, but I just want to say thank you for supporting the Budget and also, thank you that you indicated that you would go for us to the National because the R1,5-billion indeed, for the cuts, is really. We cannot do much about.

And also, to hon member Klaas, also thank you that you will fight for us with the R1,5-billion on the cards that we are getting from the National because the Province has given us R1,078-billion in order to make it up. But there is nothing we can do, I did mention it.

And then lastly, I think you have already heard the speech that all what you have raised, I already responded. I think probably next time, one must learn how to edit, like with Atlantis I did. I mentioned all of those. Thank you very much.

To hon member Pretorius, thank you for supporting this Budget and also, thank you for the kind words from all of you for acknowledging our staff. I want to thank Dr Cloete and his team, top management, the coalface from the potter to a professor, for everyone who has been able to be there for us, no matter what. Thanks to the clinic committees, hospital boards as the representatives of the communities. The Mayors and also the councillors in the district have a platform for assisting all of those. So, I just want to thank everyone. Thank you again, hon member Windvogel, for shortening your speech. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Mbombo. Hon members, that concludes the debate on this Vote. I am now going to ask the Secretary to read the Sixth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 4: Community Safety – Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, before you begin and before I acknowledge you to speak, do you expect anyone from the Department, or can we continue?

I can, however [Inaudible.] Department of action has already commenced.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, I see. [Interjections.]

You can continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues, hon members and guests in the gallery. It is a former professional NBA superstar, Elvin Hayes who said: blame is the coward's way out. If you know anything about sport, you will be aware that most of the players are quite tall. They are quite tall. Some are absent here that are also quite tall in our Legislature, but it could mean that if you are a shorter person, such as myself and perhaps hon member Kama, hon Speaker, it is always very difficult in order to make an impact in that particular sport.

But in the NBA's history, Muggsy Bogues might have something to say about that because he was merely 1,6 metres. He was the shortest player in the history of the NBA. But never did he ever stand back for a challenge on the court. Instead, he faced the giants head on and in 1987 he was voted as the Rookie of the Year. He could have been a coward and said that this is too much for him. He could have been able to make tons of excuses but overcame. He stood tall and we know that is needed in our current predicament because regardless of our stature, regardless of our oversight role that we have here in our Province, we have seen how we are able to take further steps and punch way, way above our weight.

But hon members across the floor are a stark reminder of what Elvin Hayes has said. It is often blaming and I do know that I have a speech that I will

submit to the hon Speaker for the record, but I will literally want to put it down and make comments. And that with these comments I sincerely want the Opposition to understand that this is my first budget that I am tabling, my first of many. [Interjections.]

And as I make that commitment, I am saying that I am continually wanting to engage. I am continually wanting to learn and grow. It was member Beerwinkel. Sadly, no hon member on the Opposition benches that are present here physically, except hon member Lekker, served with member Beerwinkel. It was member Beerwinkel that helped and assisted me with budget preparations when I was a new member during the Fifth Term.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I have seen the value of hon members of the Opposition being able to help and guide. [Interjections.] I have seen on this side the input, hon Premier, through you, hon Speaker. Thank you so much. The amount of experience and dedication has been able to help me, to help me table a budget that will ultimately ensure that the words that hon member Khalid said earlier, that we still have hope. Hon member Khalid quoted: we still have hope. And I took that knowing that the Opposition has hope in the Western Cape Government, has hope in the Western Cape Government knowing that we have done so much.

So, hon Speaker, we are tabling a budget of R754 160 000 for the 2023/2024 financial year. Hon Speaker, that particular budget and what we have been doing in the LEAP programme is extremely interesting and it is so interesting that we want to continue those particular successes that we have seen in LEAP. I also want to say thank you to the Opposition because they have often asked that LEAP should even be deployed outside of the City of Cape Town because they have seen the successes of what LEAP represents. [Interjections.] So, I want to say thank you to them as well.

I also want to say thank you to hon member Rachel Windvogel [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
...to hon member Rachel Windvogel that said earlier on, and I quote hon member Rachel Windvogel that said that:

“Listening is a skill.”

So, I sincerely trust that the Opposition will take to heart the sentiment of hon member Windvogel.

So, R350-million is allocated to the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan and as a reminder: LEAP is an initiative of the Western Cape Government and is

run in partnership with the City of Cape Town. LEAP stems from the Western Cape Safety Plan, which is a comprehensive plan to ensure greater safety across our province. A plan that is particularly focussed on reducing murder by 50% by 2029. If you have enquired from the National Government now what their plan is, they would have indicated that there is a Cabinet resolution that was adopted by the National Cabinet, where they have adopted an Integrated Violence and Prevention and Crime Strategy. That particular Crime Strategy that was adopted by our National Government and our alignment to the Western Cape's Safety Plan fits in because we have seen National Government can learn from our Provincial Government.

An HON MEMBER: Really?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
The same way as they have taken steps to ensure that our Court Watching Brief is landing in other provinces. We commend the National Government that they have adopted that particular strategy.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, sir!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
But this will ensure that the continued boots on the ground to assist and strengthen the hands of SAPS is sustained, as we cannot allow our residents to continue to live in fear. The largest LEAP deployment, which is based on data, evidence and where the need is greatest, is Delft, followed by Mfuleni,

Kraaifontein, Nyanga and Khayelitsha (Site B). And since its inception, hon Speaker, these officers have ensured that 327 firearms have been removed from our streets. This is significant considering that our commitment is to ensure that our communities are safer.

Further to this, we have set R10-million aside for the introduction of LEAP stations. This is ground-breaking news and I want to thank the hon Premier of the Western Cape for his innovative leadership here in our Province because we need to ensure that residents have a space where they can now engage our officers, should they feel uncomfortable to go to the South African Police Service.

When we consider rural safety, I am deeply passionate about rural safety and wanting to ensure that there is no particular area outside of the City of Cape Town that ever would be considered as the stepchild. †Ek is Afrikaans eerste taal. So, daar gaan geen gemeenskap wees wat ooit gaan voel dat hulle die stiefkind van die Wes-Kaap is nie. [I'm Afrikaans first language. So there will not be a community that will ever feel that they the stepchild of the Western Cape.]

So, what we will do is that we currently have two K-9 units based in Swartland and in the Overstrand Municipal areas and these units do amazing work to operate not only in the boundaries of the Overstrand and of the Swartland Municipalities, but across that entire district. And hon Speaker, that is a direct result because the South African Police Service have seen a

37% reduction in their K-9 units.

We have the National Commissioner on record five times – five times since the year 2017 to 2021 on record stating five times that the South African Police Service is unable to fulfil their mandate. [Interjections.] I do not need to re-echo and restate the sentiments of hon member Deirdre Baartman who adequately stated that SAPS and their particular mandate is to prevent, combat and investigate crime to protect the inhabitants of South Africa and their property, and to enforce the law. And we know, SAPS itself is saying that they are unable to enforce their mandate.

We have stepped up. R350-million for the continuation of LEAP because we have seen our SAPS officers on the ground are yearning for the extra capacity. We are also very clear, hon Speaker, that we want to see an enhanced Law Enforcement approach in our province.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
When I speak about an enhanced Law Enforcement approach, it includes the South African Police Service because it must be data led and evidence based. The operations must be earmarked to prevent crime, but also we should have an evidence-based approach to ensure that we can ultimately learn and grow, and dismantle crime within our Province. And that is what we will continue to do.

For the Rural Safety units, R19,6 million has been allocated for that further support. So, there are no cowards here. No cowards here. We will continue to step up. Our rural safety efforts do not end there, as we currently have two rural safety units also based in Swartland and in the Overstrand Municipalities. The Swartland unit has already been activated, while the Overstrand unit will come online within the next few days. I want to encourage the hon members of this House, particularly the Committee members, to join us at the launch next week. I will ensure that invitations are sent accordingly.

And just like our K-9 Units, these units will also operate strictly throughout our entire district, and we have allocated there R9,5-million. Just last week I had the privilege of handing over the graduation certificates to 39 Peace Officers who are from the Witzenberg, Berg River as well as the Stellenbosch Municipalities. A further R2,5-million assistance goes towards our Peace Officers and Traffic Wardens with regards to rural safety.

As we remain in our rural parts of this province, today I can state that to support our districts in their crime fighting efforts, an amount of R6-million has been duly budgeted for. This is the Western Cape Safety Plan which is a whole-of-Government approach. It is an approach which now has been adopted by our National Cabinet. Our National Cabinet adopted it. Probably, hon Speaker, I am going to have to repeat this a number of times so that it is just on the record. [Interjections.] There is a policy, hon Speaker, that has

been adopted ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

...and that is an Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. I was the only member of the Executive Committee in the NCOP. No other MEC took the time in order to engage in the NCOP during the tabling of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy, adopted by our National Cabinet. [Interjections.] A direct approach to our Western Cape Safety Plan. But hon Speaker, through you, the residents of the Western Cape are well aware that the Western Cape has always been leading. We have always been leading and we will continue to lead in that regard.

When we consider police oversight, I want to make the following extremely clear, and I have said this before: Judge Zondo basically said oversight in our country does not work. Oversight in our country has failed; that is why we have State capture. He literally said that Parliament has failed and that is why we have corruption at a national level, et cetera. In this particular role, the hon Premier has tasked me to ensure that there is an enhanced approach towards police oversight.

And I want the Committee, hon Speaker, and I want this House to hold me accountable on that particular outcome as well because I want to see how our oversight actually leads to better service delivery. We are not cowards; we

want to responsibility because our tagline itself says that safety is everyone's responsibility and we are stepping up in that regard. But in the same passion I want to say that the Committee equally must help us in that regard to hold us duly accountable.

On the Chrysalis Programme, I will not go into much detail. I have already stated my bias in that particular regard, as we have consistently seen the good work that they are doing and we will continue to budget R25,2-million to that particular programme. Remaining with our young people and youth empowerment, R28,4-million has been allocated as part of our Expanded Public Works Programme. This is inclusive of a R4-million Conditional Grant and a R2,5 million allocation for Tourism Safety, which just as the LEAP stations is a brand new and ground-breaking allocation.

What I also want to state at this particular time is that when we look at our partnerships, R7-million will be allocated between our CPFs and our Neighbourhood Watches. We are doing such a lot of initiatives and interventions here that it is gradually being adopted by other provinces. [Interjections.] We have seen the Court Watching Brief, as I have said and I know, hon Speaker, that hon member Kama is no longer a permanent member on this particular ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He is a member. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Is

...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
He is no longer a permanent member. [Interjections.] The very person
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
The very person speaking now said listening is a skill ...[Laughter.] and I am
just saying ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Applause.]

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
...‘permanent member’.

An HON MEMBER: He is still a member. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, speak to me.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Listening ...[Interjections.] Listening is a skill. [Interjections.] Listening is a

skill.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: As I wrap up, seeing that we are all about action: the Western Cape Liquor Authority. I am so delighted that we have continued to see growth in that particular space because it is an important entity in the regulation of liquor throughout our province. The important role they play within the liquor sector, particularly to reduce the harms associated with the abuse of liquor cannot be highlighted enough. Year-on-year this entity continues to be highly effective in the regulation of the retail of liquor throughout the Province.

We have seen that the Third Quarter Crime Stats for the 2022/2023 financial year has shown that the abuse of liquor, whether at a liquor outlet or where it was abused can directly be linked to various crimes. Where liquor was involved – I sincerely hope that no hon member here is currently under that particular influence, based on the interjections – there were 530 cases of grievous bodily harm and assault cases were recorded, 292 rape cases were recorded, while there were 34 attempted murders [Interjections.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, it is. Hon Speaker, I would like you to rule on a statement that has just been made by the hon MEC.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I can repeat the statement for you.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you are not on the floor. Hon Chief Whip, [Laughter.] please speak to me.

An HON MEMBER: It does not mean he is ...[Inaudible.].

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): †Jy is baie lastig, weet jy? [Gelag.] [You are a nuisanc, you know?] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, can you address me?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, the hon MEC says – he speaks about the influence of alcohol and then he says: based on the interjections, I can see you are still under the influence. Now, I would like you to rule on that statement that he just ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you are not on the floor. There is an hon member on the floor. Can I please ask that you allow the hon member on the floor to raise the point of order. [Interjections.] Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, your House is ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): And keep quiet if you ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, please speak to me.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...or step out. †Jy maak my naar. [Gelag.] [You're making me nauseous.] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Chief Whip, can you ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, I would like you to rule on that, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: ...thank you very much. I heard the comment made by the hon Minister. In fact, he did not say that. He asked or he made a statement saying he hopes that. ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I sincerely.

The SPEAKER: He sincerely hopes that. I heard that.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Inaudible.]... making aspersions.

The SPEAKER: No, hon member. My interpretation of that is that it was a rhetorical question, and it was not aimed at any particular hon member of the House and therefore, that is not a point of order. [Interjections.] Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
So, I sincerely hope so, hon Speaker. To now further strengthen the work the Western Cape Liquor Authority is doing, R56-million has been allocated. This is inclusive of R8,3-million, which was provided for the permanent appointment of 19 additional junior Liquor Inspectors to increase law enforcement capacity across our particular province.

In everything that we do, hon Speaker, our aim is to give effect to the Safety Plan, as we want to ensure greater safety throughout our Province. Our priorities are clear, hence funding has been directed to Programme 3: Provincial Policing function. Funding is prioritised towards Neighbourhood Watch accreditation and projects, EPWP, LEAP, LEAP Stations, Tourism Safety, K-9 unit resourcing and Rural Safety Units within district municipalities.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our senior management who are all in the box today, from the HOD, Adv Pillay, to all our Chief Directors, as well as our Directors. Your work is not going unnoticed. We all have to remember that we have a very long way to go and for that particular reason, we have to continue pushing ahead. We want to ensure that we create safer communities. [Interjections.]

Our Department is led by extremely capable people. [Interjections.] I also have dedicated officials and ministerial staff members that have helped me. I have said this often and more than enough that no one department can do it alone. I need help; we all need help because it is a whole-of-government approach. It is an approach where we have in our Government co-accountability measures to ensure that we all play our roles and I sincerely trust that for this particular financial year, hon Speaker, that this Parliament will continue to help. Come with solid submissions, come with plans so that we can ultimately move forward. Because I literally do not have time for cowards, as I said in my speech. †Baie dankie. [Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Applause.] I now see hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I want to be practical today. When I came here, I told myself, hon Speaker, that what is the use of us trying to score cheap political points while we are far-fetched from realities.

Hon Speaker, let me go to Mitchells Plain quickly, constituency of our hon Minister of Mobility. Mitchells Plain, as we currently speak, between the Primary School Beacon View and the High School there is an open field where dead bodies are found every second day and that territory is owned by the 8s. [Interjections.] Reality: communities are scared to move in Mitchells Plain. Those are the realities that are facing us and that is where we are supposed to be speaking today.

Over the past weekend a woman was shot dead, a young woman of 37-years old in Philippi, because of extortion. And I know that when I raise it in the Committee, when I speak of extortion, I even know the response before the hon Minister responds. He will tell me that it is the duty of the National Government to deal with extortion. It is not within the ambit of the Province. But I am asking myself what our role is as a Provincial Government? While we are here, extortion is here. It is with us. Are we going to shift and look away because it is not our responsibility, as we normally do?

Hon Speaker, today I am choosing not to speak about rural safety because for some of us, when we hear the big plans for rural safety and the budgets that are allocated versus what is given to the Metro, it is a shock. It is a very big shock because when we go home, we stay in these communities. We live with these gangs when we go home. We are suffering the consequences of what is happening. It is not hearsay that we are saying. We speak of what we know. So, hon Speaker, I am not going to entertain rural safety today. I

am just going to park it for another day or maybe have coffee with the hon Minister and deliberate more on that so that when we speak Budget, we speak on real matters that are affecting our communities.

Hon Speaker, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety has been allocated just over R745-million for this financial year. The Budget for the Department has been decreased by over R30-million from the revised estimate of R775,8-million in the 2022/2023 financial year. The Department in the Budget Book explained that the net decrease is mainly in relation to the reduction in the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) funding with R50-million, from R400-million in 2022/2023 to R350-million in 2023/2024.

Hon Speaker, I just want to know whether it could be that because we requested LEAP officers to go to rural regions, this has now decreased or what could be the reason for that because last time I checked, it was a huge interest on the agenda of the Western Cape Government.

The Police Crime stats for the Third Quarter of the 2022/2023, those are the three months between October and December 2022, showed that the community reported serious crimes increased by 11,2% to over 80 000 reported cases. The Western Cape's contribution to the crime nationally is 18,9%, the second highest in the country behind Gauteng. The murder rate increased by 13,4% to 1 198 murders and the province has eight police stations in the top 30 murder stations nationally. Sexual offences increased

by 13%, while rape increased by over 16%. In these three months, over 1 500 women and children fell victim to rape in the province.

I will speak later about GBV, hon Speaker, where we get to understand that even rape is not taken seriously. We do not budget in this Department for GBV because it gets referred to another Department for some reason, while we are the first responders when it comes to crime.

It is in this regard that the budget cuts of this Department are shocking and unacceptable. In the face of rising serious crimes, including murder, rape and sexual offences, the DA Government has responded by reducing the budget and the ANC cannot support a budget that is cutting expenditure on programmes to prevent crime, such as LEAP.

Hon Speaker, it is sometimes claimed in this House that the ANC never supported the Safety Plan in the beginning. These are dishonest and deliberate falsehood, hon Speaker. It is the ANC that always called for this Provincial Government to invest resources on programmes to prevent crime. For many years before 2019, the DA believed that Section 206 prevented it from investing resources on crime prevention interventions. Millions were rather wasted on holiday programmes for youth in schools. I hear them as they are making a noise now. It is the same as what they are doing to GBV. Ten years later, when they fund GBV they will forget that the ANC made a noise about it.

Hon Premier Winde and hon member Plato bare knowledge of what I am saying. The ANC reminded them all the time about the ANC's successful programme of the Bambanani Against Crime initiative and other successful programmes that help reduce crime in the province. Thank you for responding, hon Premier, so that I can see the hon Premier knows. So, there is no way that you would be opposed [Laughter.] to hon Premier Winde finally acting on our demands. How can we oppose the hon Premier?

With regards to the Safety Plan, here are the things that we are opposed to. Take note. Firstly, we are opposed to the R50-million reduction in the budget for the LEAP programme. Secondly, we are opposed to the fact that the Budget for the programme only focuses on boots on the ground and ignores the need to address causative factors of crime. This, we have made repeatedly in the House and yet, it is still ignored. The point is emphasised in the Department's own Provincial Policing Needs and Priorities report. I will return to this point shortly as well, hon Speaker.

Thirdly, hon Speaker, we do not agree with the preferential treatment of the City of Cape Town, which gets the largest share of the Department's Budget despite the clear need of the deployment of LEAP officers in municipalities outside the Metro. I have raised it in my opening. Lastly hon Speaker, we do not agree on all the millions ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): ...that are given to JP Smith and he uses them as he pleases, with no form of accountability to the Committee. The Committee will know I am raising this numerous times in our meetings. We have been calling for improved oversight mechanism over the expenditure of this budget. We want JP Smith to appear before the Committee on a quarterly and annual basis to report on the performance of the LEAP programme. These are the reasons for our rejection of LEAP, but these should never be misconstrued as rejection of the LEAP programme.

What we are vehemently opposed to, however, are the frivolous calls for the devolution of policing functions to the provinces. This is pure politicking by the DA as it knows that it cannot handle such an important function as policing. This is exposed by the number of responsibilities it has failed on, as reported in the BMPs.

The latest available B and P report correctly noted the increase of violent crimes and murders in the province with a 6,8% increase in murders in the province in 2021/2022. The BMP noted the increase in GBV cases, including that 5,3% of all murders were related to domestic violence in 2020/2021. It noted that substance abuse and drugs are key drivers of crime and violence, and that since 2013/2014 the Western Cape has been ranked as the province with the highest proportion of drug-related crimes. These are responsibilities of the provincial government, hon Speaker, which the budget has failed to respond to.

The BMP clearly exposes the DA failures in combatting crimes, especially gangsterism and other violent crimes. There is clear disjuncture in the recommendations of the BMP and what the Provincial Government is doing to fight crime. Besides the deployment of the LEAP officers, the Provincial Government has relegated its role to being a distant spectator and an unchecked critic.

Despite the rise in GBV and femicide, this budget has failed to respond adequately, as expected, hon Speaker. We will be told about the whole-of-Government and society approaches. This is the DA's excuse for its failures to address pressing challenges in society. The HOD stated clearly in the meeting that the Department has no direct mandate to combat GBV, which is a challenge. Today, we will be challenged on what we are raising. Ten years later, it will be policy.

When the Safety Plan was started, we were told about the Safety Cabinet wherein all MECs were allocated tasks to address crime. Hon Speaker, the hon MEC Bredell and hon MEC Simmers are the worst performing in this regard. [Laughter.] They are the worst performing in this regard ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): ...for their failure to ensure upgrading of informal settlements, improving accessibility of lighting. That reduces crime. They

cannot link the two. They are followed by the hon MEC Marais and Fernandez to their failure to address social ills and preventing youth from being recruited into crime and gangs. The substance use disorder has been identified as a key driver of crime by BNPs and these two mothers have failed us dismally in addressing this. [Interjections.]

What about GBV and femicide? There is no GBV policy in the Government and there is not even an updated sexual harassment policy in this province. The DA has failed dismally to ensure community safety in the province.

Hon Speaker, the ANC reiterates its call for LEAP officers to be deployed to rural communities. We do not understand why the decrease now as it has been confirmed that areas outside the Metro contribute 47% to crime, while the City contributes 53%. Why then are all resources put into the Metro? The DA Government is hiding behind budget constraints for its failure to equitably distribute the LEAP officers.

Hon Speaker, we welcome the progress made in building the Makhaza Police Station this week, in which the station was built and it was unveiled. We commend the SAPS and all the stakeholders that have assisted in making this possible. That is the way we want to see Government moving.

In the Budget Book, the Department committed to strengthen its community-based strategy and aims to build capability and partnerships with local communities through continued support the Neighbourhood Watch structures,

District Community Safety Forums and Community Police Forums. Hon Speaker, for the first time, hon MEC Allen confirmed that the CPFs are targeted, weakened and underfunded for political reasons. He said this during deliberations in the Committee. He confirmed what we already know and what we have been saying for years.

The disparities in the funding allocation for Neighbourhood Watches and the CPF make it clear that the DA made its mission to collapse the CPFs. How is it acceptable that in 2021 only 49 CPFs were funded to the tune of R373 000? In 2021/2022 only 99 CPFs were funded and received R495 000. In 2022/2023, only 73 CPFs were funded, and they received R600 000.

Hon Speaker, another disparity in the funding of CPFs is how a station in Simons Town could receive over R20 000 for its programme, while a CPF at Emfuleni only receives R5 000. It does not make sense and it was a deliberate move by the DA to weaken the CPFs. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, the ANC does not support the budget. It has failed to respond to the need for increased deployment of LEAP officers. Crime hotspots like Manenberg where a five year old Devonte was shot in the head in gang crossfire does not have LEAP officers. In the areas which these LEAP officers are deployed, they are usually overstretched and overworked. The ANC wants the hon Premier to go back to the deployment of 3 000 LEAP officers, as he promised in 2019. ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: What did I [Inaudible.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): It is only concerning that these officers [Interjections.] are not employed permanently.

The SPEAKER: Order. Order, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Blame game. [Interjections.]

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Once again, the hon Premier is still thinking he is on a campaign. You are the Premier. It is also concerning that these officers are not employed permanently. This is why the officers in which we invested heavily in training, are now being pushed to join JP Smith and other law enforcement agencies. What a waste of money. We must look at increasing funding for recruitment and training because we have lost a number of trained officers.

Hon Speaker, we reject the budget because it sets in motion the DA's political agenda to devolve policing powers. Having failed to recruit and deploy its own detectives, the DA in this budget has now made available R10-million to establish LEAP police stations. This is outside the Department's mandate and scope of work while LEAP officers are recused. It

must rather redirect this money to install CCTVs in Khayelitsha and other crime hotspot areas. It must invest towards addressing the environmental factors in crime hotspots that make it conducive for violent crimes to thrive in poor working class communities. Because of its failures to respond to the above challenges, the ANC does not support this budget. Somlomo.
[Applause.]

†Die SPEAKER: Dankie, agb Bans.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bans. I now see the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): The EFF would like to invite the hon Minister to step into our major gang-infested communities and stick around for just a few days, so that he can actually realise how serious things have become for residents in such communities. And hon Minister, we know that you hail from Mitchells Plain, which is the usual response that you will probably give me. But I also come from Strandfontein, another part of Mitchells Plain where gang activity is also starting to increase, but not yet so bad as gang activity in areas like Woodlands, Lentegeur, Manenberg and in Noble Park among others. If you know the real issues of a community as you claim, then you would implement a proper Safety Plan for not only Mitchells Plain, but the entire province to ensure a decrease in crime and more so, gang and drug activity.

The EFF cannot support a budget that decreased funds in a very critical department that deals with crime, especially with the province being number

one when it comes to crime activity in this country. And more so, with all the money being spent annually by this Department, nothing seems to really change in such communities because this Province fails to plan and fails to properly address the major factors or issues that lead to drug and gang activity in such communities. And it is no secret that this DA-led City of Cape Town Municipality's Human Settlements Department even fund gang activity via contracts awarded to gang leaders and while at the same time, in recent news and in media are facing allegations of fraud and corruption by their MAYCO member who led that very same Department.

At the backdrop of all of this, this DA-led Provincial Government wants to waste more than R700-million into a failing initiative which they call the Safety Plan, which does not even speak to half of the major issues affecting our communities when it comes to crime. The way the funds are allocated and priorities to different items on this budget, we can rest assured that nothing will change as it once again, does not speak to the real issues which lead people to commit crime because crime is a symptom of a far greater problem and to think it can be easily polices away is a misdiagnosis. Those who seek crime as the only alternative, need to be treated with hope of a better life away from poverty, homelessness and unemployment, among others. So, hon Minister, start working hand-in-hand with other departments to ensure that your Safety Plan actually starts doing justice to our communities.

The amount of drug houses which have been shut down so far by this DA's

ridicules compared to the amount still actively operating within our communities. This Department along with SAPS received emails and complaints of drug and gang activity, but there is still no proper intervention plans. In fact, the hon Minister promised for the past two weeks to give an updated report on how many drug dens they have closed, where exactly and who now occupies those properties but to date, nothing. Hon Speaker, in conclusion the EFF rejects this Budget.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Cassiem. I now see hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is important in the media that the confidence and the trust in the police is at an all time low. Hon Speaker, building trust in communities is a major, major, major thing that the Department must look at because when the community looks at LEAP officer or Law Enforcement, they refer to them as 'cops' and they might be labelled the same. So, I want to know from the hon Minister what is his Department doing that the community can, you know, look at the police with confidence and trust.

But, hon Speaker, I need to say that hon member Bans is misleading the House with her assertions of the CPF and the Neighbourhood Watches. She knows that was not the discussion in the Standing Committee. We are calling for the devolution of powers from National Government. The ANC National Government has failed us, has failed the people of the Western Cape. Has

failed these people and we need the powers ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Christians, there is a ...[Interjection.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...because we need the power, we need to be ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Christians?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Yes, yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Christians, there is a point of order in the House. Is that the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, can the hon Christians please submit a substantive motion. He is accusing hon Bans of misleading the House. That is quite serious. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: *Ja*, you are asking [Inaudible.]. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans, my apologies. What is your point of order?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Hon Speaker, it is actually shocking. Hon Christians was just supposed to say I was absent. If he does not know what we are speaking about, he must just hand it. He cannot be responding to my

statement.

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

[Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): hon Speaker, what I wanted to say is the hon Minister explained in detail in the Standing Committee why Neighbourhood Watches are getting more. He gave us to the point, why Neighbourhood Watches are getting more because of the amount of Neighbourhood Watches. So, she is misleading the House. I am repeating that.

But I want to say this, hon Minister, are we losing the battle when it comes to halving the murder rate? Murder is increasing. Your target of halving the murder by 2029, is that still on par? What are you doing to make sure that less and less people are killed in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I now see the hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, if there is one thing that we can all agree on in this House is that crime has reached epidemic proportions in this country. That is an assertion that finds common agreement not only in this Parliament, but also across our communities. Our people are tired of seeing certain hon members stand in this House crying wolf about community safety, and they weaponize the very real pain that victims of crime face all the time to score political points.

I would love to engage with the work of fiction that was presented here by the hon members from the Opposition, but I am going to leave that version of *Harry Potter* for someone else to look into. Hon Speaker, as leaders we have been appointed to deal with crime and this budget just does that. The budget sees the Department changed its name in recognition of the police oversight role it plays because this Department does not have a boots on the ground mandate. That is with the character from *Harry Potter* who wears the hat.

The Department completed its yearly ritual of visiting and investigating every single one of the Western Cape's 151 SAPS stations. They focused on ensuring that policing in our communities includes important initiatives, such as the response to GBV. Because ultimately, our oversight over the police ensure that we know that victim support rooms exist in those police stations where should. What they found in police stations has sometimes been shocking because after years of neglect, it had become all too predictable that SAPS is not able to maintain police stations in this province. The Western Cape remains chronically under-resourced with the SAPS to population ration having decreased massively. And that has been admitted to by the National Commissioner in this Parliament.

Hon Speaker, let me be quite clear. This Government views every officer of the South African Police Service as a vital partner in the effort to eradicate crime in our province. And the many men and women in blue who put their lives on the line very day to keep us safe, have our sincere gratitude, but they

also have our sympathy too. Persisting in an organisation that refuses to train them to high enough standards, issue them with functioning equipment or station them in adequately maintained facilities is clear that SAPS nationally, does not care. Instead of making sure that police officers are adequately equipped, SAPS rather ensures that criminals have guns in their arsenal.

In a sample of 38 SAPS stations, 68,4% of them had no access control points; 26,3% of them had no holding cells and we know those ones in Knysna and in Bito; and 10,5% of them did not have any detention facilities. How are officers able to carry out their work with this lack of support in these circumstances, is beyond me? This leaves our street level Law Enforcement officers to fill the gaps themselves and frankly, hon Speaker, it is only through the heroism and diligence of these people that we have a police force at all. It is perhaps little wonder why so many of South Africa's best police officers are leaving SAPS in their droves to join law enforcement units in the City of Cape Town or in the Western Cape Government.

Hon Speaker, I want to read all of this into the record because as you know, some hon members are professional fiction writers. But I also want us to understand the context in which this Department has made these budget allocations. It is not the job of hon Minister Allen or his Department [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bosman, please take your seat. Hon Deputy Chief Whip,

is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, no. I want to know whether hon Bosman is prepared to take a question.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He has got 33 minutes. So, maybe he can.

The SPEAKER: Okay, please take your seat. Hon Bosman, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Unfortunately, not, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, hon Bosman is not prepared to take a question.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Through you the hon Minister of Education ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: You can continue, honourable ...[Interjection.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): ...has not issued a report for that ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bosman, can you please continue with your speech.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): hon Speaker, as I said, it is not the job of hon Minister Allen or his Department to police this province, but our SAPS struggles to remain a viable organisation. It has fallen to them to do something.

Hon Speaker, I was raised to believe that when someone needs help you help them, even if no one else does and we know the ANC does not want to help. [Interjections.] It is the same ethos that has informed the Western Cape Government's response to crime. The data shows us that LEAP works. More than 1 200 officer now patrol the streets of the Western Cape, arresting criminals, confiscating illicit drugs and illegal firearms and ensuring that our communities are safe.

This budget takes this programme further. It is allocating R10-million for a new LEAP station in Philippi because this is vital. Because what we know, hon Speaker, is that when loadshedding hits, police stations in the Western Cape close down. So, we need a safe space for LEAP members to be able to deploy.

Hon Speaker, we have also poured money into the expansion of our safety in rural communities through our dedicated Rural Safety Units and they will receive more than 9,5-million, while more than R10-million will be allocated to expand the K-9 units because we know that SAPS is not able to run a functional K-9 unit. The latter initiative is particularly valuable given that these police dogs are one of the many initiatives that have been cut, reduced

and defunded by SAPS.

Finally, hon Speaker, this Department is mobilising communities to fight crime alongside it. Hon members of this House often tell us the CPFs are not supported and Neighbourhood Watches are supported, but I think we need to just look at the numbers to see that community activists are being supported to ensure that police oversight happens. [Interjections.] What I hope the hon members will see from these initiatives is that a DA-led Government is totally committed to curing the disease of crime ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): ...because we know that the African National Congress ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): ...are the sponsors of crime. Hon Speaker, I know that there will be those who criticise this budget for perceived lack of spending in some areas, but it is the inefficiencies and failures of our National Police Service that require this Department to spend much more of its budget to subsidise the crime fighting effort. [Interjections.] What I see in front of me is a budget that takes every possible step to ensure that the safety of our people, despite the many, many challenges placed in our path, is looked after.

For this reason, I unequivocally support this budget on behalf of the Democratic Alliance and if the hon members of this House truly care about the plight of our citizens, I would encourage them to stop spewing fiction and start looking at the facts. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bosman. Hon Minister Allen.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you so much, hon Speaker, I will try to wrap up as quickly as possible. I firstly want to say to hon member Christians, through you, hon Speaker, thank you so much for the support. I would also then want to state that I made note of the comment with reference to hon member Ayanda Bans, and I think deep down, I firmly believe that she would not have wanted to mislead the House, but it might just be that the data was looked at probably just incorrectly.

Hon Speaker, the 47% and 53% that hon member Bans quoted gave the illusion that it was referenced to crime, but it was actually a comment that I have made that was based on the amount of drug houses in the City of Cape Town and outside of the City of Cape Town. So, 53% outside. [Interjections.] But when we look at the data, hon Speaker but when we look at the data with regards to where crime is happening, the data and hon Speaker, through you to hon member Kama, and this might be a good opportunity for him to make a note, in that it is actually 78%, 78,5% of murders are occurring in the City of Cape Town. [Interjections.]

And we all know, through you, hon Speaker, to the hon members of the Opposition that over 66% of the population is also in the City of Cape Town. I also do not think that hon member Bans attempted to mislead the House with regards to Simonstown and the CPF, but for the record, that is an incorrect assertion that was made with regards to R20 000 and R5 000. That is not true. [Interjections.]

With regards to the comment made ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. The hon Minister is responding. [Interjections.] You had an opportunity. The hon Minister is now responding.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: with regards to the comment made against the HOD. I think the beauty of Parliament is that we have YouTube and we have recordings and that particular sentiment that was attributed to the HOD does not exist. But deep down, *†ek dink nie sy wil die Huis mislei het nie.* [I don't think she wanted to mislead the House.] But I do appreciate the inputs from hon member Bans and I commit, hon Speaker, that I will definitely take it up in order to have that particular cup of coffee with hon member Bans. We might need two cups of coffee. [Interjections.]

There was not much, hon Speaker [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
There was not much to reply to, but my sentiment is that we will again appeal to hon members of this particular House to read the Safety Plan. Hon member hon member Kama is on record to state †die 3de Julie 2022. [the 3rd July 2022.] I am going to say this extremely slowly. I know I need to go somewhere because communities are waiting for us, but this is what hon member Kama said: †die 3de Julie, [the 3rd July], 3 July 2022, from the onset and I sincerely trust that I do not need to explain what that means.

From the onset, the ANC was very critical of this Plan, a clear indication that this Plan, the Safety Plan, we never supported from the ANC's side and then to make the assertion that they have been supporting this Plan is also an incorrect assertion. It was also for the record. I want the record to reflect, hon Speaker, that it was actually the ANC Government between the years of 2006 and 2008 that actually stopped the Bambanani. [Interjections.] Then, every year we hear the sentiment ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
...bring back the Bambanani ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: It was the ANC that stopped the Bambanani and I want residents to know that it was the ANC that stopped the Bambanani. [Interjections.]

I also appreciate the comments made ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I also ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I also appreciate the comments made from hon member Gillion Bosman ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I want to say through you, hon Speaker, to hon member Bosman: thank you so much for your diligence. You are highly capable as a Chairperson and I sincerely trust that the Committee will continue to work in a collaborative

approach. So, thank you so much.

I have made notes of the EFF's comments as well. Since my arrival here in this Parliament, I have been very vocal with regards to drug houses and in holding SAPS accountable to close those amount of drug houses.

But as I conclude, it was also on 16 December 2019 when the Leader of the EFF and this is also quoted, he said:

“Give the EFF five years to build a school or you do not elect us because we would be useless.”

I just want to tell the EFF that the time is running out on the five year period, but hon Minister Maynier is more than happy to give input with regards to the accelerated capacity and how to build schools. But the EFF, we note their remarks to safety. I bring in the comment with the EFF making the undertaking that they will build a school in five years because if you look at schools, it contributes to safety. Cultural Affairs and Sports contribute to safety. Each and every person that is serving in Cabinet has a role towards safety.

Under the leadership of the hon Premier, hon Speaker, we will continue to ensure that we are not cowards. We will continue to ensure that we put money where our mouths are. We will continue to ensure that we do everything in our power to hold SAPS accountable, but also to strengthen the

hand of the South African Police Service because we want to see a capable and professional Police Service.

Two days ago, six members of the South African Police Service were arrested in a take-down and that particular take-down ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: ...is a strong sentiment that we want to say to every SAPS member in our province: if you are corrupt or inept, you will be tracked down and you will ultimately land up in jail. We have received and here, now, I have the latest Section 19 and 21 report. Hon member Kama did not always take the liberty of reading it, but this particular report actually highlights the amounts of cases that SAPS investigate, and we actually keep a handle on it.

We apply the pressure, the oversight to lead to better service delivery. We want to make sure that professional services and that SAPS members that are unscrupulous – we will make sure that they are held accountable. [Interjections.] The only province with the Western Cape Community Safety Act and Gauteng is now following in that step. The hon Premier shared the amazing news with us that sentiments coming out of other provinces are that a new policing model is required. [Applause.]

And hon Speaker, I will undertake to never say ‘devolution’ again if the ANC

will agree to a new policing model because it still means that the power should not be in Pretoria. Choices concerning our Province should not be made 1 500 kilometres away from where we are. [Applause.] The people of Mitchells Plain are 1 500 kilometres away, It should be closer to the people and that is what we are calling for. And under the leadership of the hon Premier, we remain committed, but we are going to say this to each and every hon member of the Opposition. ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: To each and every hon member of the Opposition, hon Speaker. As I conclude, hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]... difference.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I have checked. [Interjections.] I have checked with each and every hon Cabinet member. No hon Cabinet member has received any document with regards to where we should be prioritising funding, where should we be cutting funding. We will always welcome those inputs. To make it simple: it is as if I am going [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, speak to me.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: So
[Interjections.] so, we are very open as a Provincial Government
...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: As
a Provincial Government, we are very open ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
We are very open to receiving input ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Deputy Chief Whip
of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes. Yes, hon Speaker, can my dear
friend tell us what is the purpose of the debate in the House, perhaps?
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Please take your seat, hon
Deputy Chief Whip. Hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Hon Speaker, as I conclude, under the leadership of hon Premier Winde we remain committed to taking input, taking advice from the hon members of the Opposition because we ultimately want to ensure that this particular province can succeed. [Interjections.] I also want say again that I am so thankful for the ANC that was quoted in this House on 14 April when they said, ‘make Reagan the MEC’. †So, baie, baie dankie. Ons luister [Applous.] want ons wil alles doen in ons vermoë om die provinsie veiliger te maak. [So, thank you very much. We listen [Applause.] because we want to do everything in our power to make the province a safer place.] Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on this Vote. I am going to give one minute for the officials to exit so that we can go onto the Seventh Order of the Day. Alright, thank you very much. I am going to move straight on. Secretary, can you please read the Seventh Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Votes and Schedule – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2-2023].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers, but that parties who wish to do a declaration on all the Votes and the Schedule, now be afforded an opportunity to make such a declaration for a maximum of three minutes. I recognise the ANC. Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. As has been stated in each and every debate in all the departments, we want to re-emphasise that we do not support this particular budget. And the reasons have been made very, very clear. The budget allocations and failure to actually allocate in the priority areas that the ANC has stated, perpetuates the apartheid legacy in this particular province. It fails to address the social distance between Government in this particular province and the people. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I now see the EFF, if they so wish.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker, I cannot see if our Party Leader is in the Chamber. If he is not, I can speak on his behalf. The EFF would like to put it on record once again that we do not support the budget as once again, [Distortion.] address the issues of racism within this House. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am not sure if GOOD is online. If so, GOOD. ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports the budget, and we believe that the budget will continue to advance the [Distortion.] [Interjections.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No, hon Speaker, we believe that the budget will advance the people of the Western Cape. There is, of course, a lot of challenges, but we will, as the ACDP, work hard and keep the Executive accountable. That is the job of the Opposition. But we believe this budget is a budget that speaks to the people and we can really support it. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] I recognise the FF Plus. Al Jama-Ah? And then, the Democratic Alliance.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, the DA members have already indicated in the respective Votes that we support the Votes. We support the budget. We will be seeing a R1,1-billion being spent over the MTEF period in terms of giving power to citizens, in terms of energy. R40-billion will be devoted to the Western Cape's New Growth initiative in terms of jobs. There is an extra R396-million added to the Safety Budget, which has now reached nearly R5-billion.

The budget not only funds policing, but also pays for R987-million to the Department of Social Development's Crime Prevention Support Programme and several notable allocations have been made in terms of Education, regarding the R3-billion for Education Infrastructure, as well as R350-million

for the Rapid Build School Programme. R193-million has been allocated to the School Feeding Scheme over the next three years in order to keep our children well fed and ready to learn.

Provincial Treasury has proven diligently to plug holes left by the decrease in Conditional Grants from National Government, with R85-billion allocated to Healthcare in the Western Cape. This includes R240-million for mental health services and an additional R92-million to improve the response to Tuberculosis in the province.

The Budget of Action will work for the people of this province and in line with the Committee Report of 24 March, which anyone is willing to read. The DA supports the budget. Unfortunately, the ANC did not support the budget. I note that Al Jama-Ah in the Committee reports on Vote 12 did not support the budget, even though they were not present on the actual Budget Committee meeting on Monday specifically and I look forward to reading the Minutes of the House of the past Monday, regarding how we voted. And I look forward to when this budget is passed, for the hon Premier to ascent to both the Additional and the Main Budget, which will assist with Education Infrastructure. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that concludes the Declaration on the Consideration of the Votes and Schedule of the Bill. I have to announce that there are currently 30 hon members present and entitled to Vote, and the House is therefore quorate. Are there any

objections, hon members, are there any objections to Votes 1 to 14 and the Schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill?

Hon MEMBERS: No!

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and therefore, those in favour of the question being put and being adopted say 'yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes! Yea!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the question being approved, please say 'no'.

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it. Question approved. Hon members, the Secretary or just for the record. The Votes and the Schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill have therefore been approved. The Secretary will now read the Eighth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Finalisation of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill including the Clauses and the Short Title.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move that the Western Cape Appropriation Bill B 2-2023 including the Clauses and Short Title be finalised.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. There be no list of speakers. Are there any objections to the Bill, the Clauses and Short Titles being finalised?

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections? There is an objection. I will therefore put the question to the House. Those in favour of the question being adopted, please say 'yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the question being approved, please say 'no'.

An HON MEMBER: No!

An HON MEMBER: No.

Hon MEMBERS: No. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it and the question is therefore approved. Okay. Finalisation including Clauses and Short Title of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill B 2-2023 are therefore approved. The Secretary will read the Bill. [Applause.]

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. The Bill will now be sent to the hon Premier for ascent.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: The Secretary will now read, hon members, the Ninth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Rules Committee of

24 March 2023 on the appointment of a trustee to represent the Members of the WCPP on the Pension Fund Board of Trustees, namely hon member D America as the trustee and hon Member A P van der Westhuizen as the alternate.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Hon members, are there any objections to the report being adopted?

Hon MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. Hon members, after a very long two days, that concludes the business for the day. The House is adjourned. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will be exited from the sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:43.