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MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2021

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. A very good morning to our hon members and guests in this hybrid sitting. I would just like to remind you all on some logistics. Today we will be using the hybrid sitting and I trust that everybody who is in the hybrid sitting has been connected to Microsoft Teams. Our sitting today will be conducted in terms of the Standing Rules and Directives issued by the Speaker on 17 April 2020. Those that are present, all that are present both in the Chamber and on Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law.

Please note that any members who are considered to be out of order will have their microphones muted and called to order. Just to remind you that the Standing Rules apply. In instances where the Rules cannot apply, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

For those members who are online, please use the raised-hand function in order to be heard. I do note that the media may have been granted access to Microsoft Teams, and to any guests and media, I request that you do not show your video camera or switch on your mic during the proceedings.

Any of you who would like to participate in and listen to other languages please access language translation services via the second device, meaning your cell phone, and as ruled by the Presiding Officer in the sitting of 23 April 2020, no interjections shall be permitted during the debate. In this regard I would like to draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. Thank you very much.

I will now ask Mr Poggenpoel to read the first Order of the Day.

The ACTING SECRETARY: (Mr Poggenpoel): Debate on Vote 10 – Transport and Public Works – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4 - 2021]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Poggenpoel. I recognize the hon Minister Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I hope you can hear me loud and clear.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Loud and clear.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Deputy Speaker; hon Premier and my Cabinet colleagues; hon Leader of the Official Opposition and all leaders of other parties, hon members of the Provincial Legislature, the Director-General and officials of the Western Cape. Deputy Speaker, I would like now to just switch off my camera so that the audio quality can improve.

Deputy Speaker, it would be easy and even understandable to devote a significant amount of this time of the House during this Budget cycle complaining about the difficult economic times we are in, difficult times made even more challenging by the wide-ranging demands of the pandemic. But, Deputy Speaker, these difficult circumstances are a given and are often beyond our control. How we respond as a government is not a given and is very much within our control, particularly if we keep cool heads and make responsible, consulted decisions based on facts.

It was Warren Buffett, that most successful investor, who pointed out that in times of flood there are no prizes for predicting rain. Prizes go to those who build arks, which rescue people and enable society to move forward.

My focus will today be on a few of these arks, but first let us look at the financial resources we have at our disposal as Department.

Deputy Speaker, the 2021/22 Budget for the Department of Transport and Public Works totals R9,265 billion. This is an 8% increase from the Adjusted Budget for 2020/21. For 2022/23 the Budget is scheduled to be reduced to R8,636 billion before being increased marginally for 2023/24 to R8,891 billion.

The 2021/22 Budget is made up of the following receipts:

- The equitable share makes 44%
- Conditional Grants: 24%
- Departmental Receipts: 21%
- Financing Asset Financial Reserve and Provincial Revenue Fund: 11%

Deputy Speaker, it is important to note that the small percentage increase over last year's budget relates mainly to once-off allocations that do not contribute to the infrastructure maintenance capacity of the Department during a time when infrastructure is to play a key role in any economic recovery. This is aggravated by the failure over time of the budget to keep up with normal inflation, thereby further reducing funds available for infrastructure maintenance.

From a programme perspective, given the importance of maintaining and expanding a safe road network, it is not surprising that Programme 3, which is Transport Infrastructure, is allocated 41% of the total budget.

Programmes 4 and 5, which is Transport Operations and Transport Regulations, contain allocations to ensure that we are able to build on recent technological advances aimed at expanding the reach of our Traffic Services and the capacity of the Integrated Transport Hub which has attracted great interest from national agencies as well as from the other provinces keen to draw on our ideas and experience.

Deputy Speaker, the American leadership guru, John Maxwell, is credited with saying that “a budget tells your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.” This, of course, illustrates a crucial difference between the way in which budgets are drawn up and managed in the Western Cape as opposed to other parts of South Africa where massive allocations are made for projects and services which do not materialise.

On the basis that in the Western Cape money goes where this Government plans it to go, I would like to focus briefly on a number of activities of this Department. Deputy Speaker, in 2021/22 the top 18 projects in the roads space alone, which my Department plans to put out on tender in the near future, have an estimated value of R3 billion and an expected spend in the 2021/22 financial year of R819 million.

In this financial year my Department is due to spend over R4 billion on infrastructure, and as the implementing agent of Education and Health, a further R2.9 billion. This is a massive contribution to the economy, to an industry under pressure, and to the creation of work for our residents, Deputy Speaker.

From an employment perspective, projects put out by my Department in the current financial year created over 7500 jobs despite the fact that this period coincided with the most extreme form of lockdown and most projects had to be shut down for at least part of that time.

I have asked my HOD and had him to also embark on the process of identifying various partnership and financial models which can move us away from the conservative, traditional approach to the planning, packaging, procurement and financing of infrastructure projects. I hope to be able to report more fully on this development in the near future, because, Deputy Speaker, we have to make sure that we use the limited resources that we have to leverage for more resources from the private sector.

Now turning to Public Transport Innovation, during the pandemic, many of the additional responsibilities assumed by various departments of the Western Cape Government were entirely expected and in line with the steps which had to be taken to combat and limit the spread of the virus. So the massive task of outsourcing and managing the provision of isolation and quarantine facilities was not entirely unexpected and was logically within the mandate of the

Department of Transport and Public Works. Equally, fitting out Government buildings with the required health protective material was an extension of existing mandates.

There were, however, also needs which arose from the lockdown and other actions which were less expected, and which required for their resolution creative thinking and solutions. One of these, Deputy Speaker, was the impossible situation in which frontline health staff found themselves when national curfew hours were imposed.

My Department responded by developing and negotiating a system of public transport in conjunction with the minibus taxi industry, through which the transport needs of medical staff could be co-ordinated with vehicle availability using appropriate technology. In this way the Red Dot service was conceived and implemented.

As a result, thousands of frontline healthcare workers were able to manage their crucial duties in safety and within a hygienic travel environment. When similar needs arose to transfer patients from one facility to another it was possible to adapt the Red Dot service into what became known as the Red Dot Light Service.

The successful organisation and implementation of these two services required the development of a new basis of interaction with the minibus taxi industry. For this purpose the industry was assisted to establish Umanyano

Travel Services Company involving eight Regional Taxi Councils. A whole new way of interacting with the taxi industry has been established with significant benefits for the industry, the commuters and our province.

An indication of the success of this initiative is the number of trips undertaken and the number of passengers conveyed in safety, during very difficult times. In the third quarter of 2020/21 over 24 500 trips were undertaken, transporting both healthcare workers to and from select hospitals and COVID-19 positive patients, or those at risk of infection, to and from quarantine or isolation facilities. To complete these trips, over 1,95 million operating kilometres were travelled and more than 111 000 passengers were transported during this period.

Deputy Speaker, the success of this innovative system made a significant contribution to the Province's capacity to deal overall with the pandemic at a time when so many vital systems were under real pressure. But this success story does not end there, Deputy Speaker.

The many innovative ideas rolled out during, jointly by my Department and the taxi industry, while implementing the Red Dot system, have presented all parties with an ideal opportunity to re-conceptualise how these minibus taxis may continue to provide its extensive services to our commuters, but in a safer, more reliable way.

The Blue Dot Taxi Pilot Project is a ground-breaking initiative which aims at



improving the service quality and safety of participating minibus taxis, including a better passenger experience; to achieve fundamental transformation empowerment of the industry; to address two of the most challenging issues plaguing the industry namely illegal operations and violent conflict; to fundamentally shift the industry's existing economic drivers, which incentivise fare-chasing, competition, recruitment of illegal operators and route invasion.

In order to achieve this goal, we have developed the necessary technology to allow the industry to shift this cut-throat competitive basis to one in which reliability improve safety standards and better driving are monitored and incentivised.

Deputy Speaker, changes of this nature do not happen overnight. The new system, Blue Dot, named after its distinguishing branding, has required months of intensive negotiation; a deep knowledge of the industry and a willingness to give and take in the interests of all parties, particularly the commuters themselves. I want to thank my officials and the leadership of the industry for their hard work and commitment to a new way of doing an important part of the business of public transport.

Members will have noticed an amount of R150 million in the allocation for Vote 10 to the planned pilot, which will run until November of this year. So far we had a successful soft launch which was held on 4 March which involved all parties. Eight regional companies have been established and

signed up. The in-person sign-up of 1 300 operators has commenced. Driver and operator training programmes have been finalised. Vehicle fit-outs, including trackers and hygiene provisions, are ready and the purpose-designed and built technology system is already in place. Funding, contracting and payment mechanisms are in place and confirmed. The public communication campaign is ready to go live.

Deputy Speaker, given the ongoing unacceptable level of service provided to our commuters by PRASA, the Blue Dot system is a massive step forward in the provision of reliable, safe, affordable public transport.

While we are busy with this important partnership, we will make sure that we work with the leadership of the taxi industry to root out bad apples who continue to intimidate and extort money from the users of other modes of transport.

This behaviour is totally unacceptable, Deputy Speaker, and will be dealt with, because the success of Blue Dot will largely depend on the cooperation between my Department and the taxi industry, to make sure that we redeem the industry and become a safe and reliable mode of transport.

I want to thank the team behind this initiative, my HOD, the senior management in my office for all the hard work that they have done to make sure that we deliver the services that is needed to the citizens of the Western Cape. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. To the hon members and to the people of the Western Cape, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to decline support for the Budget Vote.

Informed and directed by the President in his State of the Nation Address, where I quote:

“We announced that we would be embarking on the massive rollout of infrastructure throughout the country. We have now developed an infrastructure investment project pipeline worth R340 billion in network industries such as energy, water, transport and telecommunications. Construction has started and progress is being made on a number of these projects.”

Given that National Government is taking the lead in our country’s economic recovery it is encouraging also to hear sometime from the hon MEC of Transport and Public Works that here in the Western Cape he has expressed

that the Department is committed to being infrastructure intensive, and an emphasis has been placed on construction, and I hope that is actually not only just going to be mere maintenance of the infrastructure. This is encouraging coming from the MEC especially after the MEC of Finance completely left out infrastructure in his Medium Term Policy Statement read in October last year, but sadly the people who must be benefitting from this infrastructure intensive programme of the Department, and construction, development, will not be benefitting, especially if the Provincial Government discards Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment.

If this is the case, then the question becomes who exactly will benefit from the infrastructure-intensive budget and who exactly will benefit from the so-called Economic Recovery Plan of the Province?

We had hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic will have presented a new opportunity for the Provincial Government given that they have been, especially the DA, in power for over a decade. This has been an opportunity to restructure the economy of this province meaningfully for the benefit of the majority of the people. We would have hoped that the Provincial Government and the Democratic Alliance will use this pandemic to ensure that more Black people – by Black people I mean Africans, Coloureds and Indians as well as women and young people, become full and active participants of the provincial economy and, even more so, benefit from the Department's Infrastructure Intensive Budget Programme. But when the Provincial Government and the Democratic Alliance threw race, class and

gender out of the window, not only does it become forgetful as far as history is concerned, but it also becomes narrow-minded in the expansion and restructuring of our provincial economy. The restructuring of the provincial economy must benefit the majority of the people in the province.

Amidst this core function of infrastructure and development the role of the Department in the fight against COVID-19 certainly comes into sharp focus, while the Department has initiated the Red Dot as well as the Blue Dot Programme, as well as providing quarantine and isolation sites for the Department of Health. There should be no doubt that the officials in the Department must be applauded for their effort that they have put in.

This initiative from the officials we hope is going to replicate itself into the political leadership of the Province in terms of giving vision and making sure that the Government does actually address the majority of the people, as this political leadership has actually been exposed as lacking, especially in this Budget Vote.

As we have heard the Department defers completely to the Department of Health, and while we may appreciate that the Department of Health should be taking the lead in the fight against COVID-19, however, the Department seems to have failed to have made the necessary provision for the next year or two.

Other than the Brackengate Field Hospital, which will be in place for the next

three years, the information on other interventions by the Department is non-existent as far the isolation and quarantine places are concerned.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the reality of the COVID-19 third wave is inevitable and there seems to be no clear preparations from this budget that has been presented here as to how are we going to be addressing the third wave that is actually inevitable, whilst, of course, we do not wish for a second that a third wave must come. However, it is clear that actually it might be worse than the first and the second wave. The Department therefore cannot afford to commit the same mistake as before, and now already isolation and quarantine facilities should have been identified.

If the Department is seized with the saving of the SMME sector, which is also something that is completely lacking in the budget of the Department, in this sector it will be important that the Department must make sure that opportunities are provided to SMMEs that are owned by African, Coloured and Indian, as well as women and youth, to make sure that they are also part and parcel of benefitting from this budget. At the same time, the Department, as the custodian of the provincial immovable asset, we would like that it must actually avail some of its movable assets to address the densification challenges that the province has actually been exposed to during the pandemic period.

The province has been actually exposed as the most densely populated province especially in the poor and informal areas. It is therefore pitiful

that no movement forward has been made on the Tafelberg matter and that only one building in the CBD is mentioned of being assessed for the possibility of affordable housing in the City of Cape Town.

Given that this Department admits that lots of opportunities will open up in the Master Office Accommodation Plan, it is also unbelievable that there has been no plan that has been immediately made to make sure that these sites actually have been made, there are available sites made to the Department of Human Settlements, because sometimes when we raise the issue with the Department, the Department always says that it is actually not responsible for human settlements. However, we would like to see and hear the Department making available some of its immovable assets in the form of land, in the form of building. Make them available to the Department that are actually responsible for human settlements. [Pause.]

With spatial integration, affordable housing and the ability of Public Works to assist in this regard... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, hon member.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Apologies, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just finish off.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Oh! In this regard, therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, I

would like to call on the Minister to actually start taking a lead and making sure that the issue of integration and the issue of using space for purposes of integration of the Provincial Government is being made in full use. In this regard we would also like to call on the MEC to consider abandoning the case of the Tafelberg matter and actually not appeal this case.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member, you are way over your time. Thank you very much.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mvimbi. I now call on hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Department of Transport and Public Works in the Western Cape has a duty to liaise and work with the Department of Western Cape Education, making sure that more classrooms are made available and more schools are built in the province. This allocated budget of R9,265 billion must be put to good use. The Department must also make sure that the Western Cape has a safe transport system. On a daily basis our people are being robbed of their belongings in buses and by criminals and there is nothing the Department is doing about it.

The Department has shown to have no solution when it comes to the taxi violence that continues to claim the lives of the ordinary people. As we



speaking, a number of taxis still do not have access to route permits which results in the taking of lives and killing of black people that has been promoted as black-on-black violence by this particular Department.

The EFF in the Western Cape is not going to support a budget that does not protect the lives and the wellbeing of our people in this province, and more especially the poor.

The Department of Public Works and Transport has got enough abundant buildings standing as white elephants in all town centres in the province, where our people could be accommodated closer to their cities and workplaces. Currently we have our people suffering from the collapsed transport system that risk their jobs, which are already threatened by effects of COVID-19. We are appealing to the Minister to consider the integration of our people especially to those who do not qualify for RDP houses, to be accommodated by this Department to address the challenges of settlement...  
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off, member.

Mr M XEGO: ...with the Department of Human Settlements, so as the EFF we are surely appealing to you in terms of that, you must bring our people closer to their workplace. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. [Time expired.]

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

recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ACDP supports Vote 10, Transport and Public Works. I thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much. The only contribution I want to make is that what is the Department doing to prevent the vandalism of decommissioned buildings belonging to the Western Cape Government, especially schools. They are being vandalised at a very fast rate. The Minister of Education decides to shut down a school and then your Department, Public Works sit with their hands folded while the buildings are being vandalised, especially in – I notice a building in Valhalla Park. I notice in Elsies River several schools vandalised and demolished.

What are you doing to make sure these buildings are either transferred to another Department or given to NGOs or churches, because it is taxpayers' money that is being wasted? I support the budget, but I would like the Minister to take note of the comments I have made. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Your time is up. Thank you very much. I now recognise hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Rural transport remains a huge challenge for people who depend on taxis or having to hitch a lift on the back of a truck. The taxi system lacks safety and is being regulated very poorly. We must encourage taxis to become driver-owned, which will instil a sense of ownership in them and lead to cooperating with traffic rules. The industry is also hampered by a lot of gang violence and extortion rackets. The MyCiTi bus service operates 90% in historically white areas and only a few nearby townships have been included recently. Large amounts of budgets are spent on this bus services, which is only operational in certain areas. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, members of the Legislature. I rise today to take part in the Budget Vote 10, Transport and Public Works, in the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4–2021.]

Deputy Speaker, before I get into the budget, allow me to highlight the key

focus areas and mandate of this Department. It is clear that nearly two years into office COVID-19 is undeniably the pre-eminent crisis of our time and one which knows no bounds.

The Department of Transport and Public Works aims to tirelessly pursue the delivery of infrastructure and transport services that are inclusive, safe and technologically relevant. This, Deputy Speaker, is the cornerstone upon which the Department and its decisions, specifically those relating to budgets, are taken.

Deputy Speaker, as I turn to the budget, which has been set to just over R9 billion, I would like to highlight just some of the most notable earmarked allocation under each subprogramme. In Subprogramme 1.3 under Corporate Support there is an earmarked allocation of just over R60 million for the development of an asset information system as part of the digital strategy of the Department.

In Subprogramme 2.2 under Planning an earmarked amount of R10 million has been allocated for planning preparation as well as an earmarked allocation amounting to over R5 million for planning projects allocated from the project preparation facility for precinct planning, enablement and mixed used developments.

If you turn to Subprogramme 2.3 under Construction, Deputy Speaker, an amount of R24 million is earmarked for construction in Phase 2 of the

accommodation for GMT. R84 million in 2021/22 has also been earmarked for the construction of Child and Youth-Care Centres.

Deputy Speaker, I would at this point also like to welcome the Department's commitment to continue to provide disinfecting services. This comes following the confirmed cases in all provincially occupied office buildings as well as the continuation of quarantine and isolation facilities where the need of such facilities has been identified with the Department of Health, especially in specific COVID-19 affected areas.

Deputy Speaker, we welcome the rollout and delivery of the early phase of the Conradie Project, and in particular the following milestones, which are expected during this financial year.

The occupation of the first two social housing buildings from August 2021, the completion of Phase 1 of social housing in January 2022, the commencement of the second phase of the social housing phase and the commencement of construction of the first second residential building, as well as the commencement of the first school phase and the complete construction of the first FLISP building.

Deputy Speaker, during this financial year we will see the construction of an additional dormitory at the Outeniqua Child and Youth Care Centre in George and in supporting that earmarked allocation in Subprogramme 2.4 under Maintenance, an amount of R26 million is allocated to the urgent

maintenance of Child and Youth-Care Centres across the province, and notably, the roof replacement at the Saartjie Baartman Centre, which is currently underway. Deputy Speaker, if we move to Subprogramme 2.6 under Facilities Operation, an amount of R3 million is allocated for job creation with respect to EPWP opportunities.

Under Programme 3.4 and 3.5, Construction and Maintenance, an earmarked allocation amounting to R20 million in the 2021/22 financial year is for service load pressure on roads infrastructure and transport that has been finalised.

Deputy Speaker, the road network forms the backbone to the integration of all infrastructure in the Western Cape and ensures economic sustainability. We welcome the construction and maintenance of such projects, which stretch from the Metro to all the corners of the province. Under this programme the Department will continue to deliver critical enablers of opportunities to citizens as well as business through construction and maintenance of safe, efficient and accessible transport infrastructure. Despite the various pressures Deputy Speaker, placed on the Department I would like to pause at the Blue Dot Taxi Initiative and welcome the continuation of this pilot project.

Given the safety concern and major challenges facing commuters, we support the Province's pioneering assistance to the minibus industry. Furthermore, as part of the Recovery Plan, it aims to include the groundbreaking initiative,

incentive programme, which clearly rewards participants for compliance with set standards monitored through onboard tracking, on-the-ground monitoring and various other mechanisms.

Deputy Speaker, it is at this point that I would like to draw your attention to the reduction of funding through the Public Transport Network Grant due to the National Government's fiscal constraints.

We welcome the commitment by the Department to facilitate a new rollout date of Phase 4A and the measures identified to improve financial sustainability of the system. In addition, the following notable allocation must also be emphasised. In Subprogramme 4.2 under Public Transport Service an allocation of R42 million for the George Integrated Public Transport Network and an amount of R150 million for the Blue Dot Taxi Initiative Programme have been earmarked. Under Programme 4.4, Transport Services, an amount of R52 million is earmarked for the Integrated Transport Hub.

Deputy Speaker, as we all know the rail service and infrastructure in this province is in dire straits. Trains are quite literally off the tracks. We therefore welcome the commitment by the Department to continue to work with PRASA, the City of Cape Town and other stakeholders to fix rail once and for all.

We further welcome the commitment by the Premier during the State of the

Province Address to establish a Western Cape Transport Authority. It will be remiss of me not to condemn the thuggish behaviour we have seen last year and recent attacks on the Golden Arrow Bus Services. I want to acknowledge the commitment by the Minister and the Department in partnership with the Golden Arrow Bus Service to test new technological solutions to counter attacks and bus robberies.

Deputy Speaker, public transport needs to progressively connect the entire province, especially as we safely work towards rebuilding the economy. We cannot allow criminal activities to continue and criminals to be allowed to steal from our hardworking commuters who rely on these services.

In the past six to eight months, Deputy Speaker, Golden Arrow reported that between six and seven robberies take place on their buses every week. It was also stated that the bus drivers are the intended targets of at least half of them.

In Subprogramme 5.4 under Law Enforcement an amount of R40 million had been earmarked for Provincial Traffic, specialised skills and technology, integrated into operation and in the transport hub.

We further welcome the continuation of 24/7 traffic law enforcement, which will see an effective traffic service to ensure safer roads in the Western Cape. This will be achieved through well-structured effective and focus-driven law enforcement operations as well as road safety education and awareness.



Deputy Speaker, these earmarked allocations are an indication of this Department's continual mission to strive to provide the best possible service to the citizens of the Western Cape, especially during the pandemic and under enormous financial constraints.

Deputy Speaker, in conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank every provincial traffic officer as we prepare for the Easter period. Thank you for ensuring our roads are safe, by making sure that motorists and pedestrians follow the law. I appeal to all citizens to drive safely and with caution as we approach the weekend. In conclusion, and finally, to the Minister, the HOD, every official in the Department of Transport and Public Works, we thank you for your commitment and dedicated service to the people of the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, the DA therefore supports the Bill for Vote 10. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now hand over to hon Minister Madikizela.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and thank you to all the colleagues who have contributed to the debate.

Deputy Speaker, just to quickly react to some of the comments. First to hon member Mvimbi, I have noted his point about the infrastructure investment

led by the National Government and I think I would really ask member Mvimbi to look at that Safety Plan from the Department of Public Works and the Presidency, and I would very much like to know from him once he looks at that Safety Plan, how many projects are from the Western Cape and you will realise that that is initially focusing in all other parts of South Africa, but not the Western Cape. And secondly, sometimes I get surprised when I hear some of the things that member Mvimbi is saying and I wonder whether we read the same Blue Book, because it is not true that this Department in particular and the Western Cape Government are discarding the BEE as he said. For example, in the month of February alone, Deputy Speaker, we have awarded 288 contracts, and out of those 288 contracts, 275 were awarded to BEE compliant companies, and if you look at the value of those contracts, the value of those 288 contracts is 109 million and if you look at the value awarded to BEE and out of that R109 million it is R105,4 million, which clearly indicates that member Mvimbi is reading his own book, not the Blue Book that we all read, or he has his own ideas about the work that we are doing as this Department.

Now again, he does not want to credit the political leadership for Blue Dot. Now everything that works must be credited to officials, which is fine, because I work very well with my officials. So he does not want to credit this Government for this initiative of the Blue Dot. He wants to credit it officially. Well, member Mvimbi must realise that this is a joint effort and from the political leadership all the way to the officials, and that is why we are able to do the kind of work that we are doing, and he made the wrong

assumption that we are not prepared for the third wave.

Well, again if you look at Programme 2 you will see that funds are provided for quarantine and isolation facilities and also if you look at Programme 4, funds are provided for the Red Dot service. So it is a clear indication that again we are not on the same page in terms of understanding of what we have budgeted for and what member Mvimbi thinks, and again, when it comes to affordable housing, you have been lectured on this point, but I think it must be very clear here that the disposal process of land, we do not as this Department just go around asking people who want land. The responsible department must approach us with a motivation for us to be able to dispose of land or to make the land available. Let me put it that way. We have made a number of pieces of land available to the Department of Human Settlements for the inner-City development, so it is not true that this Department is reluctant in making land available.

So member Xego, again, of course when you say that we have a duty to liaise with the Department of Education, the Department of Education is using this Department to build schools. That happens, you know, every year.

So safety, you talk about the vote, you are not supporting this because this Department has no solution to the taxi violence and yet most of my speech was about providing solutions to violence, and I think when the time permits, Deputy Speaker, because I would not want to take time here, is for me to make member Xego understand the reasons behind the Blue Dot, because the

Blue Dot is meant to do exactly that, to deal with the taxi violence as the taxi violence is happening because of the instability in the industry, where people who do not have income end up invading the rules that are said to be lucrative and all of those things, [inaudible - audio distorted.] if we deal with that, but over and above that, Deputy Speaker, there is no transport mode that I have spent as much time on as I have with the taxi industry dealing with violence.

So, the assumption that the Department or I am failing to deal with violence, is exactly that, and I do not know where member Xego leads, because if you look at even the report that is coming from the taxi industry they issued themselves, they will tell you that the efforts that have been made to deal with violence are commendable from this Department, so, and again, if you look at the security, we have committed to work with PRASA through our Rail Enforcement Unit. The Rail Enforcement Unit, I am sure you know about that, to make sure that we secure our passengers.

We have committed to work with Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS) where we are now installing technology, member Xego, to the value of R50 million, just so that we can provide security for our passengers. So if you look at all the modes of transport, even those that are not directly our responsibility as the Province, we have really been forthcoming in providing solutions to the security of our passengers, because everything we do we put our passengers at the centre.

Thank you very much, member Christians for supporting the Vote.

Member Marais, I take your point entirely about more efforts being made to prevent vandalism of the school buildings and of course, I think if you look at how some of these buildings are built and they are handed over to the respective departments. It is not entirely the responsibility of this Department to make sure that they are not vandalised, but I think the point is well made and taken, member Marais, because in some instances you will find that it is the contractors' responsibility. When you replace a school, for example, you will find that it is the responsibility of the contractor to make sure that the old school is demolished, but you would find that the people themselves, because they need the material, they will end up starting vandalising those buildings, but again I think the point is made that we must have a better cognitive approach to deal with this.

Member Brinkhuis, I agree with you that more effort needs to be made in terms of rural transport and of course this is an issue that we have been talking about for some time because the legislation is a challenge here. We have been engaging with our counterparts nationally to make sure that we deal with rural transport, and your point is noted about the taxis being unsafe and that is why, sir, we are really intervening in this space to make sure that we redeem the taxi industry so that it becomes a reliable mode of transport to our people. I also spoke about the issue of extortion which you have mentioned, during my speech, because I agree with you that it is an issue that we need to deal with.

The issue of MyCiTi, again it is noted, but you understand that this Department has very little powers. MyCiTi is a contract between National Department and the respective municipalities which have been from time to time assisting, to make sure that the service is restored. But again, your point is taken, sir, and lastly, I really want to thank member Mitchell, the Chairperson, for all your hard work in really making sure that the Department is kept on its toes and you are absolutely right, the notes that you have made about the efforts that the Department is making, particularly as part of our efforts to create jobs, because as you know the Western Cape Government is now focusing on three key areas which is your safety and your jobs and your wellness, and this Department is playing a very important role in the job space and of course the road network, as you said, rightfully said, and that is why, if you look at the infrastructure, our budget, how our budget is structured, 41% is dedicated to road infrastructure because that is where jobs need to be created so that we can deal with the plight of our people. But overall, thank you again for acknowledging the work done by our traffic officers, who are really working tirelessly to make sure that we deal with the challenges on our roads.

And lastly, Deputy Speaker, I do want to take this opportunity and echo the sentiments of member Mitchell, as we start the Easter, Holiday Season, I want to urge each and every of our people to drive safely, to obey our roads, to make the work of our traffic officers easier during this period and I wish all the people who will be travelling across our province and outside this province a safe journey and may you come back safe, and I want to thank

HOD Goetz and her team for really coming up with innovative innovations that are taking us forward as a Department. Thank you, Clive and Elizabeth and the team from my office for making sure that you provide the necessary support so that I can be able to deal with the many challenges that we are facing in this province.

I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Poggenpoel will now read the second Order of the Day.

The ACTING SECRETARY: (Mr I POGGENPOEL): Debate on Vote 6 – Health – Western Cape Appropriation Bill. [B4 - 2021]

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Deputy Speaker, can you see and hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Perfectly, thank you, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Okay, because we do not want to have the whole broadcast to be disturbed. I will switch off my camera and then I will come back later when I close. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Connection lost.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I have lost you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Have you got me now? Sorry.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Are you doing the opening remarks?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Yes, I am going to start. I am starting now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Perfect, thank you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Okay. Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet colleagues and members of the Provincial Parliament, Chairperson of the Standing Committee, the Head of Department and management from Health, citizens of the Western Cape, including the media. †Molweni [Greetings.]

Deputy Speaker, as we confront the COVID-19 global health crisis we are strengthened by years of experience that have shown us that even when problems seem insurmountable, victory is certain. This is the reason I stand proud to deliver the budget for the people which is about giving hope amidst the hopelessness to the millions of patients we serve.



Whilst COVID-19 dramatically shifted our priorities and the way we work to ensure the health of people, it did not change our mission to protect people who are at risk and safeguard the lives of frontline staff. This crisis only demonstrated how resilient our provincial health system is.

In February 2020 we launched the Western Cape Burden of Disease Rapid Review, which characterised the burden of disease in the province and identified the upstream interventions for the five main burdens of disease, namely infectious diseases, mental health conditions, injuries, cardiovascular, and childhood diseases.

We were ready to roll up our sleeves through the whole of society approach and the whole of government approach to tackle social determinants of these diseases.

Then, *Kaboem!* 11 March came – the day I will never forget; our first COVID patient zero in the Western Cape. The rest is history, Deputy Speaker. We had to make difficult decisions about which healthcare service can be safely continued, and which ones can be scaled back or temporarily halted. This led us to de-escalating services, and yes, there are backlogs in elective surgeries and some primary healthcare services that will have to be addressed going forward, and later, a year later, we are all under immense pressure, drowning in compassion fatigue, burnout. We are stressed. We suffer from insomnia, anxiety and depression, and many healthcare workers

have lost colleagues and loved ones due to COVID. It is for this reason that mental health is a priority on the list of the non-COVID services that have to be recovered. The wellness and psychological support of our staff come first.

Deputy Speaker, in this budget I want to prioritise the following, among others:

1. Innovation.
2. Public / private partnerships;
3. Infrastructure;
4. Human Resources;
5. The Vaccination Drive.

In regard to Innovation: technology, as part of our innovation, is a key enabler and [Inaudible] in doing business as usual. We build public trust by having the core markers on a public-facing dashboard that gets updated daily. This has also included the practice of being data and evidence-led. The Dashboard innovation was built in-house and won awards. That is why every day you will always get statistics from the Western Cape ever since we started with the COVID services. We won the Silver Medallist Next Generation Media Award for Technical Innovation. We competed with companies in the private sector such as Vodacom and South African Breweries. We won the Finalist for the BCX Digital Innovation Award. We won the Africa Tech Award, where we used the technology in the public sector and this was a continental award for the whole of Africa.

Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government Health's Emergency Medical Services, became the first government institution in South Africa actually that is allowed to fly over national key points, and we launched our Drone Rescue Project in December 2020. I am proud to inform you that the first mission took place in Rooi-Els on 28 January 2021 and it involved a search for a male who jumped off a cliff into the water.

The second mission took place on 10 February 2021 and it involved a 21-year-old male who went off the hiking-path on Lions' Head close to the Clifton Crest Route and got stuck. The incident was logged at 10:35 and the drone located the man at 11:43.

Under circumstances where we did not have this drone, it would have been impossible even to be able to rescue and also more lengthy in terms of the time that it took.

Other innovations, just quickly, the Virtual Emergency Care Tactical Operation (VECTOR) Project, where diabetics who were at high risk during COVID-19 peak periods – and it is actually still continuing – were pre-emptively identified, followed up daily, fast-tracked and admitted at earliest signs of decompensation. This significantly reduced the mortality of diabetics from COVID-19.

The other innovation is about the delivery of the chronic medications. More

than 1,3 million medicine parcels were delivered to homes of chronic stable patients. This reduced their risk of travelling to health facilities. Funds have been earmarked to continue this project in the coming financial year. Remember, we might have a third wave. We have to make sure we protect our vulnerable.

Deputy Speaker, the other part of the focus on this budget is the Public-Private Partnerships. This is key in our mission to preserve the patient dignity. The Department has entered into several partnerships that have allowed us to provide access to much-needed health services. Some examples – the first lesson that we learned from COVID-19 is that it does not discriminate. It knows no race, nationality, ethnicity or social standing. This is the reason why I called the first meeting with the private hospitals and general practitioners in the Western Cape which led me to change the Private Health Licensing Regulation that enables private hospitals to review their beds and prioritise COVID-19 beds. Western Cape was the first to complete the public-private agreements on sharing critical beds using the same critical protocols. We are resolute in not creating binaries between the public and the private. This has led to fruitful working conditions and I am proud of the partnership.

Regarding the other public-private partnerships, Deputy Speaker, during this pandemic there was never a time where we ran out of PPE. We were inundated with donations from companies, individuals, grocery shops, civil society organisations, foreign countries and others. I would like to mention a

few of those: the Gift of the Givers (GOTG) for their generous donation of medical equipment, including Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machines (CPAP), for several of our facilities in the Overberg and the Garden Route. The same humanitarian organisation donated R10 million towards renovating and equipping an entire ward in Mitchells Plain Hospital, which is now used for COVID patients. This proves that by working together we can ensure optimal care for our vulnerable community. We are appreciative of the additional humanitarian support in fighting this COVID-19 pandemic.

I would also like to thank Shoprite and Oceana Group for their generous contribution in the cold winter season, where they donated care packs consisting of a blanket, socks, beanies, scarves and hygiene packs. This came in handy to patients at field hospital quarantine and also ration-facilities. I can go on and on, because there are many, for example Adidas, where they donated tracksuits and also *tekkies* to our staff.

The other priority is the infrastructure. We delivered world-class infrastructure, Deputy Speaker, projects in partnership with the Department of Transport and Public Works, and we will continue to maintain clean and functional infrastructure. The infrastructure projects contribute to improved access to healthcare in the province. Every single cent we spent on infrastructure benefitted the people of this province. Infrastructure is one of the building blocks within the health system and forms part of our priorities as a way to address patient experience and service pressures.

Our key infrastructure projects include the refurbished Swartland Hospital that was destroyed by fire. Some of the key projects that we actually delivered in the last financial year include the Vredendal North Clinic, the Chatsworth Clinic and the Abbotsford Clinic.

For this coming financial year, we have earmarked the following infrastructure:

- The Klipfontein Hospital, *yebo*, the Jooste Hospital: the tender for the professional service providers has been advertised and is currently going through the various processes related to the tendering processes.
- The De Doorns Ambulance Station replacement facility project, the completion date is about 21 April 2021. Thereafter, a commissioning period of approximately two months will take place before the facility is fully operational.
- The Laingsburg Clinic: upgrade and additions of the Phase 1 sectional completion was achieved on 8 December 2020 and it is operational. The revised project completion of the whole project, both now Phases 1 and 2, is on 25 March 2021.
- The Victoria Hospital New Emergency Centre Phase Project completion is anticipated for 14 July 2021.

- The Tygerberg Regional Hospital, Speaker, because we did indicate that in the Metro we are focusing on two new big hospitals, there are two regional hospitals, where we could be able to decant then the Tygerberg Hospital and have Regional so that it remains as a central hospital.
- And then we have the Tygerberg Regional Hospital around there by Belhar, and then we have again Klipfontein, which is what we used to call the Jooste Hospital, so Tygerberg Regional Hospital departments are currently preparing the clinical brief.
- The Observatory Forensic Pathological Lab replacement: currently the completion would be around June 2021.
- The Helderberg Hospital: Phase 3 Project completion has been reached, and Phase 2 to be completed once decanting is done.

The other priority, Deputy Speaker, is human resources. Staff safety remains the biggest concern for the Department, with the EMS being the most vulnerable. 70 cases ranging from robbery, assault, theft and intimidation occurred in 2020. In one month alone, Deputy Speaker, in July, 11 cases were opened. This is in the midst of the COVID pandemic. This is totally unacceptable and deserves to be condemned in the strongest and harshest terms.

At the 2020 National Batho Pele Excellence Awards, Deputy Speaker, part of

our resource, the Western Cape Government received a Gold Award, the Department of Health. This is a significant achievement by any standard considering that we are honoured for being the best performing department in South Africa.

I am so proud of our recently retired HOD, Dr Beth Engelbrecht, for being awarded the Best-performing HOD. Indeed, she deserved this honour. She was always a decisive leader who executed her responsibility with great expertise and integrity, just like many of our staff in the Department.

The last part is the Vaccination Drive. This virus has been vicious to our healthcare workers and 123 died, did not make it, this is tragic and I convey my words of condolences to their families. May God continue to comfort them.

The road to vaccination, Deputy Speaker, starts with the solid rollout plan and the vaccination process that gets bought into by all stakeholders. Our vaccination plan is to vaccinate about 5,1 people in the Western Cape starting with our healthcare workers of course, 133 000 of all categories for both public and private. I am proud to announce that we have prioritised healthcare workers. Currently we have vaccinated about 41 000. This is last Friday's statistics. We do not have the recent one for today.

I remember vividly the excitement on their faces as the first healthcare worker was inoculated, Zoliswa Gidi-Dyosi, who went on to say the reason



she agreed to be the first nurse to be vaccinated is that she wanted to ensure that she is safe to protect patients and be in a position to perform her duties without fear of infecting them. The first doctor to be vaccinated, Dr Lahri from Khayelitsha, said he took the vaccine because it gives hope. It gives hope for the nation to recover physically and economically, and he went as far as calling it the vaccine of hope. It is people like him that give us hope, hope that this virus would finally be defeated. It is not a surprise that the Western Cape was ready to implement Phase 1. I am standing with pride to announce that the first South African vaccinee is in the Western Cape; the President and the Health Minister were also vaccinated in this province in Khayelitsha where we had our first COVID-19 case of community transmission.

Community involvement in health is a crucial part of a good health system functioning and an integral part of primary healthcare. That is why we are committed to meaningfully engage with our communities and civil society.

Immediately after the COVID first wave, I embarked on a Vulimpilo Campaign; a road show where I engaged with Facility Board and Clinic Committee members... [Interjections.] Sorry Deputy Speaker, are you talking? Okay, I thought you were talking to me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, please.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Okay, about the Department's strategy to

bring back health services that we had to halt due to COVID. Unfortunately, the second wave hit us severely and we had to shelve it once again. However, the campaign allowed me to engage with the Hospital Board and Clinic Committee members and hear their suggestions and concerns. Noting, Deputy Speaker, in an ideal world for the future we should not be closing some of the non-COVID services. Ideally our health system should be able to accommodate all other disciplines and all other diseases because just because we are focusing, prioritising COVID, it does not mean other diseases are on holiday. So that is why the community needs to be involved so that they could be able to share the information.

COVID and the opportunity for social mobilisation around vaccines that we are embarking upon in the next weeks to months will provide me with an impetus to meaningfully engage with communities on vaccination acceptability.

We have to ensure we create awareness among our communities, especially going to Phase 2 so that they could be able to know who does qualify or who will be prioritised as we have done recently, also when we are engaging with the women on farms with traditional health practitioners and also from the faith-based organisations.

Now coming to the finances, the projected population of the province in 2021 is just over 7 million of which 75% is estimated to be uninsured. Deputy Speaker, in fulfilling its constitutional mandate to progressively realise the

right to healthcare, the Department is committed to ensuring the provincial health system delivers high quality care to all of the people of this province, but this budget I am tabling now is not enough to cater to a 7-million population, especially when we have COVID, high unemployment, poverty and issues of safety that are prevailing in South Africa. Health, Deputy Speaker, absorbs almost all these inequalities and societal ills, for example the non-payment of disability grants by Social Development means an impact on children with disabilities, on vulnerable adults and others who are on chronic medications.

Deputy Speaker, the high number of unemployed people means more people cannot afford private health and are not able to pay even for some public services, and we use that money as our source of revenue. The abuse of alcohol and drugs means more trauma cases at our facilities, yet National Treasury has reduced the health sector budget by almost 6%.

Thank you to Provincial Treasury for blessing us to make up part of the shortfall. We have to bring in innovative ways, Deputy Speaker, to improve service delivery to the citizens of this province now that we have got all these challenges about reduced budget, but most importantly, we have to restore hope despite the shrinking public purse.

Yes, under the circumstances we will err. We err. We are not perfect, but we must work together as the whole of society to ensure that services get to those who need them most, and unfortunately we still have to prioritise which

services are safer to bring back as there is uncertainty with regard to the third wave.

Deputy Speaker, I want to offer my gratitude to the Head of Department, Dr Keith Cloete, who started at the time when the issue of the pandemic appeared, and also to his top management team for ensuring that we do not let the people of the Western Cape down. I commend them for the clean audit finding for two consecutive years. Yes, Deputy Speaker, two consecutive years – the only Department of Health in the country that has ever had not only one clean audit, but two! Accountable governance is crucial and reinforces public trust in the way we manage the public purse. I rest easy tabling this R27,213 billion Budget, knowing that it will be treated with the utmost care and spent to the benefit of the people of the Western Cape.

With regard to this R27,2 billion, from an economic classification point of view, the Compensation of Employees is about R15,6 billion; Goods and Services, R9,2 billion; Transfers and Subsidies, R1,593 billion; and Payment for Capital Assets R982 million.

We do have the conditional grant funding of about R6,9 billion, which includes a COVID component allocation of R156,6 million. That is the COVID allocation from National.

Earmarked priority allocations include R1,124 billion for infrastructure

which, as I indicated, Deputy Speaker, would include the Tygerberg Hospital maintenance and the capital program.

The staff wellness programs, R5 million, as I indicated our psychological and wellbeing of our staff is crucial, and also we have to again continue with the delivery of chronic medication where we are putting R33 million aside. The Province has also invested in the battle against COVID. We are ready for any wave, whether it is a third or fourth or fifth wave, under the circumstances where there are uncertainties, but also regarding the issue of vaccines. R832 million has been earmarked to provide R250 million to invest in staff safety through the acquisition of the PPE, R250 million for surveillance and testing, because we still have to continue testing, not only to test the people but surveillance in terms of using blood to test and the presence of the antibodies and also to test the water in terms of the strains.

Speaker, R332 million is invested in the healthcare platform to continue the operations of the Brackengate Hospital of Hope and Sonstraal for the year and to provide relief to the central, regional and district hospitals, because it is crucial, Speaker, to understand that whilst people say that “Jo! You have closed the CTICC”, it does not mean that there are no other field hospitals that have opened. We opened, for example, Brackengate, Sonstraal, Mitchells Plain and also some that are attached to the hospitals and so forth.

Speaker, we have to extend the staff contracts in anticipation of the third wave. Hence, we have to do the allocation also as part of this R832 million.

Some contracts were supposed to end now but thank you to Provincial Treasury for blessing us to be able to continue with that in anticipation of the third wave. The Province has also provided the Department with R150 million for vaccine implementation and procurement. The sourcing team from the Provincial Treasury and Health are already at an advance on the contingency plan to procure the vaccines, when in need.

The Budget has been allocated to these programmes now, Speaker:

Programme 1: R1,522 billion

Programme 2, District Health Services: R11,1 billion.

Programme 3, Emergency Medical Services: R1,2 billion;

Programme 4, Provincial Hospital Services: R4,1 billion;

Programme 5, Central Hospital Services: R7,3 billion;

Programme 6, Health Science and Training: R360 million;

Programme 7, Healthcare Support: R561 million;

Programme 8, Health Facilities Management, R 1,1 billion.

Speaker, in conclusion, whilst the economic climate remains a challenge as do challenges within the health system, as a Department we are committed to making maximum citizen impact through adding public value and improving the dignity of our citizens. We need the whole of society to ensure we keep on improving health outcomes in the province. None of course of this incredible work we have done will have been possible without the support of the Premier and the Cabinet colleagues, the members of the Provincial

Parliament, the Standing Committees, for keeping us to account, the over 32 000 dedicated staff in this Department under the leadership of Dr Cloete assisted by top management. It is the support from our strategic partners, the private sector, academics, organised labour and support of our community structures. Of course, the wind beneath my wings, my ministerial staff office for their commitment and resilience. They know that there are more than 24 hours in a day, and, lastly, my pigeons, my bundles of joy, for their support and understanding over all these years.

Speaker, I hereby table the 2021/22 Health Budget of the Western Cape.  
†Enkosi. [Thank you.]

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, hon members, the people of the Western Cape, good morning. I now recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Speaker. Good morning, Speaker, Premier, Leader of the Official Opposition, hon members, †inwoners van die Wes-Kaap [residents of the Western Cape.]

Speaker, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to decline support for the Budget Vote. This Department is responsible for COVID-19 response, safety and wellbeing in the 2021/22 Provincial Priorities. Important lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic include the urgent need to address the

disparities and inequalities in the healthcare system as well as the need to mitigate poverty.

The MEC of Finance said the Western Cape mobilised R2,17 billion to defeat the virus in the province, yet none of these funds will be used to address the most pressing needs and structural challenges in our public healthcare system.

Speaker, the MEC must tell us how much of this will be spent on filling critical vacancies. The over-dependence on expensive seasonal workers is unsustainable and must stop. This Department in the entire DA Government is so devoted to the private sector they are determined to enrich white-owned businesses instead of improving and re-strengthening our hospitals.

The ongoing challenge in the emergency medical services is not prioritised in this budget. We have long warned the MEC and the Department about the shortcoming in the EMS. All these were ignored. It is clear that the intention was to use the Department as a cash-cow to enrich the white-owned private service providers.

In the 2020/21 financial year R28,9 million was paid to private service providers to transport patients, yet in this budget there is no allocation to capacitate the Emergency Medical Services. The COVID-19 third wave is fast approaching in this Department, which is entrusted with the responsibility to lead the fight against this pandemic, which does not have



foresight of when the third wave will hit us or what the severity and magnitude will be. It is concerning that there is no plan, no adequate preparation to spend R160 million allocated in the Third Adjustment and the R832 million that is allocated to the response to a possible third wave in a manner that will lead us to defeating this virus. A lot of costly mistakes have been committed in the past and are being repeated. These are mistakes that led to the death of over 11 363 people, including healthcare workers and other essential workers. Our prayers are with them and their families. When we need the healthcare workers the most, they answered the call and sacrificed their lives in the fight against COVID-19. Without healthcare workers there could be no response or fight against COVID-19.

Speaker, let us celebrate the departed heroes and heroines by spending these funds in a manner that will see employment of more healthcare workers to address the service pressure in our hospitals and clinics. Let us procure more beds in our hospitals so that patients no longer sleep on the chairs and floors. Let us pay the community healthcare workers the salaries they deserve for the sterling work they do and let us procure more PPEs and other necessary equipment needed to ensure safety of the healthcare workers and to improve their working conditions. This Department is ignoring and avoiding fixing the real challenges. It only cares about rushing to do quick fixes. Last week I visited Alan Blythe Clinic in Ladismith. The local community asked me to relay the challenges to the Department. The people of Ladismith want to know how far the process is to build a new clinic in the community, which was approved long ago.

While R99 million over the medium term will be spent on the home delivery of chronic medication, which will decongest that clinic and decrease waiting times of sick patients, the people of Ladismith want the Department to know that no delivery of chronic medication is taking place in their communities and that they are tired of walking long distances to the clinic and spending the whole day in long queues in the sun and rain. The people want the Department to know that there is no patient privacy in clinics in the area. This is so that clean audit does not guarantee service delivery. All these challenges are overlooked as R306 million is spent on pursuing a duplicate and late vaccine rollout programme. It is clear that not a single dose of vaccine will be procured before the end of this year, as all the vaccine manufacturing companies have rejected all offers from the Provincial Government and opted to work directly with National Government. So what is the point of continuing with a programme that has clearly failed and behind schedule?

The ANC demand that the Western Cape must stop with quick fixes and stop the vaccine procurement and direct the funds to sustainable and long-term solutions to improve the public healthcare system.

It is a concern that not a single cent has been spent on the rebuilding of G F Jooste Hospital, which was closed down by the Government in 2014. Only R10 million is allocated this year, which explains the people of Manenberg will not have a hospital until 2030. We are also concerned with cuts in the infrastructure budget, particularly for upgrades and additions. The ANC

rejects this Budget because it does not address the critical challenges in health and it will make the Western Cape a COVID-19 epicentre yet again.

The Province needs to expend the COVID-19 testing strategy to include community screening and testing. The coronavirus continues to wreak havoc in our province, breaking families and destroying livelihoods. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. Hon members, I now recognise hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, Speaker, and greetings to you. The reality is that the Western Cape in the first and the second wave served as one of the epicentres nationally. That is science, which talks to the fact that the health system in our province is not as beautiful as it may be presented here. We have done oversight work in areas such as West Coast, where we have seen a frustration of those who worked in the health system and those who are affected by the poor health system that is there. The rural areas still remain a critical phase where it is planned by this Department to have them rescued from their collapsed health system.

Furthermore, the reality of the third wave is what we need to look at, that it is indeed coming and then we need to plan accordingly. Areas such as the Garden Route, the Central Karoo, West Coast and Overberg need to be part and parcel of key areas that are submitted. The Department has taken up a

very good step in the beginning where it implemented one of the manifesto pillars of the EFF to pilot a 24-hour service clinic in Grabouw, and of which, if it can continue doing so, all over in the Western Cape, that is the only solution to the current situation that we find ourselves in. The EFF cannot accept this budget. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon member Xego. Hon members, I now recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker, on behalf of the ACDP I support Vote 6. Speaker, we know with this pandemic we were facing a decreasing budget day after day but, Speaker, what we want to say is under the leadership of Minister Mbombo, the HOD, Dr Cloete and the Department, we want to thank them, the healthcare workers for the role they played to save lives in the Western Cape, and this, we do not know what we are facing, but, they need to, every day with new vigour and I know there are many healthcare workers that lost their lives and with the diminishing budget the Department needs to reprioritise and really, from our side, we can only pray for these healthcare workers, pray that they do their best and that we really motivate and encourage them so from our side you cannot just complain, you need to assist. How are we going to fight this pandemic if there is a third wave ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you sir, your time is up, thank you. Hon members, I now recognise hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, thank you so much. I want to compliment this Department. I think they did a sterling job under trying circumstances. They have a whole delivery service for chronic medication. They are focusing on diabetes now because this is the most vulnerable section of our community for COVID and they have had a clean audit for two consecutive years! What more can we expect of them?

If National Government wants to help the rural areas, give us the money. Stop cutting our budget. Stop cutting the budget for the Western Cape, then you will see we will even do better than what we are doing now. I am just concerned and I want them to tell me whether they are testing people for diabetes now and what are they going to do about the wage agreement fight between the unions and the State? How far has that settlement gone now or are we in for strikes or are we in for big disturbances in the health sector, but for the rest... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you for a great job done! [Time expired.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agbare Marais, baie dankie. Baie dankie, meneer. [The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, thank you. Thank you, sir.] Hon members, I now recognise hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, much effort has been made to improve the quality of healthcare in the Western Cape since 1994. However, Speaker, there remain many, many challenges which the public face when visiting healthcare centres in the Western Cape. One of the major problems contributing to the challenges include a shortage of medical staff, poor hygiene and infection control measures, shortage of medication and equipment, poor record-keeping, long lines which elderly people of 80 years old have to stand in early in the morning.

Also of great concern is the safety and security of our healthcare workers who are exposed to gang fights in and around these institutions. These include paramedics who are exposed to grave dangers while performing their duties. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. Hon members, I now recognise the Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Health, hon Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you, Speaker. Hon Speaker, Premier, Cabinet members and residents of the Western Cape. A responsible budget should reflect hope, resilience and embody that the key role of Government is to plan accordingly and, as mandated, in its responsibility as custodians of

taxpayers' money.

The building of a capable state with zero tolerance for corruption and looting, a people-centred budget, one in which the true reflection of resources available would be put to use to the immediate needs of the citizens as seen here in the Western Cape.

Speaker, R2,17 billion has been allocated to a War Chest to defeat COVID-19. Speaker, for the immediate threat to society our lives and livelihoods and a looming third wave with intensities unknown to all of us. Nothing less is expected of a caring government to make sure that it is prepared to face any such onslaught during this pandemic. We welcome the almost R326 million for the rollout of vaccinations, which will be spent on rolling out up to 5,1 million vaccinations in the Western Cape under the capable governance of the Provincial Department of Health.

We further support the allocated R75 million for the procurement of vaccines, which may be spent on procuring up to 500 000 single-shot vaccines for the Western Cape, in which we showcase the level of seriousness in ending the pandemic; first and foremost, in the interest of residents who have sacrificed a year of their lives. This budget allocation speaks to the competency of health between Provincial and National Governments. It further demonstrates the ethical obligation this Government must maintain in order to uphold priority number one, which is saving lives.

Speaker, we welcome an allocated R20 million for communication on vaccines, which will be spent on communicating the benefits of being vaccinated in the Western Cape. This remains a crucial project given the proliferation of misinformation concerning vaccines and COVID-19. We must note with regret that there continues to be delays and a lag in provision of vaccine procurement plans from National Government. Both the National Minister of Health and the President have indicated that the country will not be reaching our population immunity target as previously promised. Even with the news reports over the weekend of additional vaccine tranches to arrive and the ambitious target of 200 000 jobs per day, the reality is that without intervention or provincial support residents can only expect any semblance of a new normal next year at the earliest, and that, Speaker, would not be without any glitches.

Speaker, I thus present foresight from the DA administration in stark contrast to delayed haphazard efforts from our central authority. I wish to articulate and highlight that the Western Cape Government is complementing the R1,08 billion from National Government with R1,09 billion from own funds to fight this pandemic, and in addition to this we welcome the allocated R832 million to respond to inevitable subsequent waves of COVID, which will be spent on inter alia rapidly expanding testing, providing PPE equipment through you, Speaker, to member Windvogel, and on insuring sufficient supply of oxygen and critical care capacity in the Western Cape. This means that the Western Cape Government has planned and budgeted to procure vaccines, to roll out vaccines and to respond to additional costs arising from the fight against



COVID-19 in the Western Cape.

Speaker, from an oversight perspective, it is evident that we have a comprehensive budget, backed up by a plan, a plan that is based on data that takes every possible step to fight for a more secure future for this province.

Hon Speaker, residents of the Western Cape are offered hope, hope through the provincial procurement process, confidence through holistic and reliable communication, care in a world-class managed system and security in this Government's readiness to fight a third wave and escalate rollout vaccination services, as we await more vaccines.

Through you, Speaker, to Minister Maynier, I concur that in the Western Cape when it comes down to the virus versus saving lives, saving lives will win, because the Western Cape Government has planned and the actual money is there, due to years of prudent financial management and availability of reserves at Provincial Treasury.

As I conclude I wish to rectify some misleading and deliberate inaccuracies from the Opposition. Speaker, the reality we face in South Africa is that healthcare and frontline workers were promised vaccines by the end of January this year. They were then asked to hold on a bit until a week later, only to hear that the promised vaccine would expire before it could even be utilised and that it would be ineffective to the dominant COVID-19 variant on our shores or the severe COVID-19 cases.

Speaker, I thus fail to comprehend why the ANC in this Legislature is in actual fact complaining because the DA Western Cape Government has the planning and the fiscal ability to plan ahead for the wellbeing of residents in this province. It would not be necessary for Provincial Government to lean in, had National Government taken our vaccine procurement strategy seriously. In fact, Speaker, the Deputy President stated that it would centralise procurement to prevent opportunities for corruption as experienced through the PPE process countrywide, ironically of which their own cadres are being investigated. However, we are yet to recover the cost lost of years of corruption, which has left our country in terrible financial standing at the cost of basic service delivery. I need not discuss this shocking revelation of greed and corruption through the Zondo Commission, but to put it in perspective, this country remains in the first half of Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), and has remained static over the last ten years. This is despite promise after promise to turn the tide of corruption by the ANC and by admission by the ANC, of a R22 billion loss in the health sector due to corruption, and yet, Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition in this House has the audacity to defend this by talking of alleged reform in his party and supposedly called "renewal." The fact remains there is no renewal and any semblance of such does not recover the billions already lost.

Speaker, corruption means no houses. It means ongoing delays in social grants for the vulnerable. It means learners without placement in schools and it means residents fearing for their lives as we are unable to fund our

frontline departments due to the crisis from a national level, and as I mentioned, how COVID-19 also came and wiped a third of our economic base during 2020. Speaker, there is no greater need than now for a Western Cape 2021/22 Budget of Hope, in the interest of a responsive, accountable competent, honourable, innovative and caring governance in this Western Cape. Speaker, I therefore support Vote 6. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Philander. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister of Health, Dr Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you Speaker. Thank you, hon members, for your input. Without wasting time, quickly from member Windvogel, creating binaries between private and public, creating binaries using the race card is really unfortunate. Just to make an example here, especially when it is not even substantiated, for example, part of the EMS you are saying we are giving you a cash-cow for the white and all for private.

Do you know Zamabunzi who is from Khayelitsha, who owns [Inaudible.] MB Medics, EMS, who has been transferring the patients between Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain, part of private, so before you cast aspersions you need to find out exactly what is happening.

Secondly, do you know that as part of the universal health coverage or aka what you call the NHI, it will never happen until you have to partner with private, so when you are actually having all of these engagements working all

together with the Province as the steward, you are actually preparing for the whole country, for us using the Western Cape as a platform and also as a lab. So it does not go like that. When I heard member Windvogel, it was like she was talking about the Eastern Cape or Gauteng where even their budget has to go to litigation because of the whole issue of them being sued.

The first wave, yes, Western Cape was the epicentre. The second wave it was the Eastern Cape. Most of the deaths, excess deaths, because they do not actually audit deaths and do not report deaths properly in other provinces, except us, actually, most deaths are in the Eastern Cape and KZN. If you look at the deaths, the excess deaths that are coming from Gauteng, which they are not reporting, because they are outside the health system, so the third wave, we do not know which it is going to be, but we do not want to create again binaries between the provinces, which one has had the first wave, the second wave, taking note that the Northern Cape is still struggling. All the other provinces, their cases have plateaued. In the Northern Cape, although they might not be big cases, it has not plateaued, so you must avoid creating binaries because people move anywhere, and the virus can happen to everyone.

Thank you, hon Christians, and also thank you to all other members for supporting the budget. Thank you to the Chairperson also for reiterating some of what we already said.

Lastly, Speaker, we are approaching the Easter Holidays. We urge people to

socialise safely, keep it small, keep it short, keep a distance, mask up, avoid crowded places. Do not share your airspace and avoid poor ventilated places and confined environments. Keep a distance, a 1,5-metre distance. Please use alcohol responsibly and for those who are selling alcohol, please, you need also to be responsible with regard to the distribution, because at the end Health will have to absorb everything.

Thank you, Speaker. I hereby table the Budget for the Department of Health. Thank you very much.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, and to the hon members who participated in this Vote. That concludes the Vote. Hon members, I see the hon Minister is ready in the House, the hon Minister of Agriculture but at this point I wish to request the Secretary to read the third Order.

The ACTING SECRETARY: [Mr Poggenpoel] Debate on Vote 11 – Agriculture – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B1 - 2019].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Poggenpoel. Hon members, I now recognise the hon, the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Ivan Meyer. I recognise you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier

and hon Deputy Speaker, hon Members of the Cabinet, hon Leader of the Official Opposition, members of the Provincial Legislature, special guests, the media, and members of the public. Hon Speaker, when Premier Alan delivered his State of the Province Address, he inspired the citizens with a message of hope. He gave them the undertaking that the Western Cape Government will lead from the front.

Today, Speaker, I have the honour of tabling a budget that inspires hope and confidence and that leads from the front in terms of economic recovery in the Western Cape. Speaker, I am privileged to be part of a sector that has and continues to bring hope to South Africa. When COVID-19 and the hard lockdown hit us, agriculture and the health sector, of course, took steps to ensure the safety of the agri-workers in the Western Cape; it did so by making personal protective equipment available to agri-workers across the province. Agriculture also embraced the call to ensure that food security was not compromised, hon Speaker. The sector was leading from the front.

Speaker, in 2020 South Africa's economy took a pounding. There was, however, one sector that stood out, and that is agriculture. While the different sectors of the economy had negative economic growth during 2020 during the first and second quarter, the agricultural sector was the only sector that had positive economic growth in South Africa, and by doing so, hon Speaker, the sector inspired confidence in its ability to lead the Western Cape's economic recovery.

Behind this message, hon Speaker, lies the hard work, unwavering commitment, tenacity and resilience of agri-workers, farmers, producers, commodity organisations and exporters. To all of them from this Government and this Parliament, a big thank you on behalf of the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, the strength of the Western Cape agricultural sector lies in the fact that their combined contribution of agriculture and agri-processing in 2019 was R48,9 billion. In the last 10 years the average annual real growth rate was at 4.3% in food processing gross value-add (GVA). Hope, Speaker, is real in agriculture.

The agricultural sector created 22 000 jobs in 2019 and the food, beverages and tobacco sector added another 12 000 jobs, a combined total of 34 000 jobs added for that year. What these figures tell us is that hope is real in agriculture, hon Speaker.

The Western Cape agricultural sector is dominated by the horticultural sector, which accounts for 47% of the province's gross farm income. Livestock farming accounts for 37%, and field crops 16%. The Cape Winelands accounts for 41% of gross farm income in the Western Cape, of which 60% comes from the horticultural production.

The Overberg and the West Coast districts have also horticulture as the main farm activity, and accounts for 46% and 43%, respectively. They, together,

account for a further 37% of the province's gross farm income.

Speaker, the Western Cape and particularly the Cape Winelands is the biggest district by volume and agricultural output in South Africa. Table grapes was the biggest agricultural export from the Western Cape in 2019.

Hon Speaker, orange exports however made a strong comeback with an export breaking season of 146 million cartons exported in 2020. Blueberry exports increased in real terms by 39% in 2019 and 29% in 2020. Hon Speaker, this is a message of hope. This is indeed a budget of hope.

The Department has continued to deliver its services during the COVID-19 pandemic, quite often with the sacrifice of lives of officials, of farmers and agri-workers. During this period, hon Speaker, we lost lives of farmers, agri-workers and even my own staff in the Department of Agriculture

As part of our COVID-19 response, the Department provided advice and guidance through written motivations, ministerial letters, Cabinet submissions, technical and economic research. The Department also monitored developments and constraints in the food value chains. We have regularly updated the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), developed also together with my colonel, the Minister of Transport and Public Works, a protocol for agri-workers and also generated regular hotspot reports. 1300 participants have benefitted also from the Wine Tourism Workers Support Stipend.



As part of the process of establishing lucerne on 48 plots at Ebenhaeser, irrigation water has been connected to the bulk water system at the first eight plots. Hon Speaker, actual planting will begin next month in April for this planting season. Hope is real in agriculture in Ebenhaeser in the rural areas of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, structured training and education is also one of my key priorities, and we must continue to increase opportunities for youth, women and the disabled to secure sustainability for the agricultural sector.

The College offers formal training programmes at a higher education training level, consisting of the Bachelor of Agriculture Degree and a 3-year Diploma in Agriculture. The College also provides learnership programmes and short skills courses. 167 students graduated from these programmes at the end of the 2020 academic year – the most difficult year in history. To date, 1 799 agricultural beneficiaries have benefitted from skills training.

Hon Speaker, in collaboration with the Stellenbosch University, the Department expanded the Moodle Electronic Digital Platform to use the diploma and learnership students, allowing them a comprehensive blended learning approach across all our training offerings. It will be further developed to align our teaching and learning with the Fourth Industrial Revolution and opportunities.

The College is in the process of ensuring that programmes within the Agricultural Skills Development Programme align with the new Quality Council for Trade and Occupations (QCTO) systems and processes.

Hon Speaker, during 2020, students attended contact classes on a rotational basis, based on the applicable lockdown regulations. Despite COVID-19, the Elsenburg Agricultural College completed the entire academic year in 2020. This was mainly through the Moodle Platform and the commitment of our academic staff at the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute. We did not, hon Speaker, allow COVID-19 to deprive us the hope education provides us.

Speaker, today I am pleased to announce that the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute will continue to offer both formal and non-formal training programmes. Training includes the B.Agric degree, the 3-year Diploma in Agriculture, a Certificate in Horse Mastership, a learnership to at least 550 students and skills courses to 1 500 participants.

Human Capital Development Programmes, including internships, bursary programmes, scholarship programmes, and Young Professional Persons Programme are implemented to enhance the sector's skills development. The future, hon Speaker, of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute remains under threat and its future is unclear. I briefed the Western Cape Cabinet recently about the risks and I will shortly make an announcement in this regard.

Hon Speaker, research is very important in agriculture. Agriculture is a science and a science needs research and so part of the research for smallholder producers and the contribution of the Western Cape output is relatively small. The animals used for production are from many and varied breeds, including dairy cattle. As a sterling example of collaboration between our farmers and their needs, the Department introduced many years ago, a Bull Project, which empowers our smallholder beef cattle. Farmers are annually provided with bulls of superior genetics to improve their livestock quality. Typically stud bulls are very expensive and therefore difficult for these farmers to come by. This project addresses that particular need.

This project started in 2016. To date, 41 bulls have been distributed to 26 smallholder farmers in the Overberg, Garden Route and West Coast districts. The bulls' recipients pay a nominal fee of R100 per year for three years that the bull is on their farms. Last year I handed over eight bulls to farmers from Genadendal – the place of hope.

The Department hosted the WOW day during November 2020 to highlight the latest innovations and technologies that the Department has developed for the Western Cape's agricultural sector, and this happened during the period of COVID. We are resilient. 14 innovations and technologies were presented, showcasing novel approaches to improved service delivery. The presentations were part of the drive to embed the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies within the Department's service delivery agenda. These innovations, hon Speaker, prove that hope in agriculture is real. It is

happening.

Farmer support and development, a very important strategic priority in this Government and this Department. Speaker, our strategic intent is to increase the efficiency of farming businesses through diversification, partnership and more effective production systems, ultimately leading to an increase in the standard of living.

The Programme implemented 106 agriculture projects, both smallholder and commercial, for 2020/21 to the amount of R101 million and in doing so facilitated the creation of 325 permanent and 5 674 seasonal jobs. Furthermore, hon Speaker, the Programme Agricultural Producer Support and Development, through the Extension and Advisory Services, has conducted 4 015 on-farm site visits to farmers during the 2020/21 financial year. This is an extraordinary number of visits given the fact of COVID-19. These are important engagements to give strategic and operational advice to the farmers.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a record of 5 400 household gardens were established across the province. Our One Home One Garden Policy supported household food production, thereby securing citizens' dignity. This project is bringing hope to communities across the Western Cape. Speaker, I would like to encourage citizens of this province to start household gardens to produce fresh, nutritious food for the household. We will continue to implement our One Home One Garden Policy in impoverished communities

across the province. An amount of R11,516 million is ring-fenced, earmarked for household and community gardens.

The strong partnership with municipalities, the community-based organisations, the faith-based organisations will strengthen our opportunities so that more people can benefit from this. We encourage communities to start harvesting rainwater for food gardens and thus reduce the dependence on municipal water.

Hon Speaker, connecting with the miraculous world of plants gives an indescribable boost to personal and mental health and overall wellbeing. I was deeply encouraged, hon Speaker, when I visited the psychiatric hospital at Lentegeur, seeing how the vegetable garden is assisting the psychiatric patients with their physical and mental wellbeing. Soon after Natasha Johannes was diagnosed with cancer, she began the Garden of Hope on what use to be a dumping site in Mitchell's Plain.

I am pleased that hon member Ricardo Mackenzie and the Premier joined me during a visit to Natasha Johannes to the Garden of Hope in Mitchells Plain. With her passion for agriculture and her passion for plants and her passion for vegetables, she, together with her husband and the local community, showed us what is possible when there is passion, where there is dedication and where there is leadership. It is possible to make a difference in the communities. It is possible to plant the seeds of hope in your life, as Natasha Johannes and her husband demonstrated to us during our visit at the Garden

of Hope in Mitchells Plain.

Speaker, today I announce that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture will implement a further 1 800 household gardens in impoverished communities across this province. Agriculture is delivering on its message of hope. Today, I further announce that the Department will continue to support our smallholder and commercial farmers by implementing 105 agricultural projects to the amount of R104 million and facilitating the creation of 466 permanent and 1 097 seasonal jobs. All these will be supported through partnership with the commodity approach, which remains our strategy for farmer support.

The partnership and collaboration with our community organisations has proven to be the driving force within this province, hence, the positive outcomes of the land reform success here in the Western Cape.

Speaker, as highlighted by the recent case of farmer Ivan Cloete on the farm Colenso in Darling, the National Government seems to be determined to destabilise the agricultural sector, not only here in the Western Cape, but all over South Africa. Land appropriation is National Government's responsibility, and this land appropriation without compensation, and improper conduct of officials in the allocation of state-owned farms, pose a huge risk to the agricultural economy, but also to the future of South Africa.

The Ivan Cloete case further portrays the National Government as being cruel

and lacking empathy in dealing with real issues that affect the lives and livelihoods. The National Government must assure South Africa that land reform is not going to be used to benefit politicians and their friends. It is unfair. It is unjust to do so at the expense of hard-working and deserving land reform applicants.

The bottom line is the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform must not repeat Ivan Cloete's treatment of farmers again in this province. Replacing productive farmers with politically-linked individuals places South Africa's food security at a major risk. Agriculture is an important sector of the economy of South Africa and we cannot allow the state capture of farmland to continue.

Rural development and safety, another critical priority here in the Western Cape. We have facilitated the coordination of Rural Development initiatives in eight regions of the Western Cape and it resulted in 52 structured engagements through the Regional Coordinating Committees.

Hon Speaker, the Department has also facilitated seven Rural Youth Interventions across the district to address rural youth unemployment. The interventions provided life-skills training to the youth to realise their potential. The interventions focused on assisting rural youth focused on job-readiness, entrepreneurship, internships, and bursary opportunities.

Hon Speaker, the Technical Rural Safety Committee and the Inter-Ministerial

Committee had various engagements during the last year with the agricultural sector including with my colleague, the Minister Albert Fritz of the Department of Community Safety and well as the South African Police Service.

Speaker, today I announce that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture has established a Rural Safety Desk. I want to thank my colleague, the Minister of Community Safety, Minister Albert Fritz for the support of his Department with the establishment of the Rural Safety Desk, the first desk in South Africa to take rural safety forward. The desk provides a platform for farmers, agri-workers, and agricultural stakeholders to log inquiries on rural safety issues.

We have also developed, hon Speaker, a Rural Safety Monitoring Dashboard. The aim is to capture and record all rural crime reported to the Department, provide spatial data on crime incidences in rural areas, and follow it up, and referral to the relevant mandated authorities. This initiative supports the ministerial focus on rural safety. Citizens can access the Rural Safety Desk through email at [ruralsafety@elsenburg.com](mailto:ruralsafety@elsenburg.com) and the contact number 021 808 5421.

Hon Speaker, market access is very important here and I have set the target to increase market access for the agricultural products here in the Western Cape, over the next five years, for 5%.



During the 2020 financial year my Department augmented its support to the wine industry, especially for market development activities. More than R4 million went into various activities in the wine industry, including export promotion, domestic market access support and the ethical trade. The Department spent R11 million on market access-related activities across multiple countries to increase agricultural product exports from the Western Cape. It is evident from this sector's export performance that 2020 was a good year for agricultural exports, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, except for a few commodities.

Further good news was that the value of our wine exports increased by 7.7% to R9,1 billion in 2020. Hon Speaker, the packaged wine export grew by 8,3%. Bulk wine has also seen positive trading, with value increasing by 5% to R1,9 billion. Wine exports increased in developed and traditional markets in the United States, the European Union and in Canada.

Hon Speaker, we now know with the Africa Free Trade Agreement, we are now also planning to increase our African market footprint and the Department has now added Kenya in East Africa to markets such as Uganda, Ghana and Angola.

In 2020, the Government continued with its ethical trade initiatives in partnership with the Wine Industry Ethical Trade Association (WIETA) and with the Sustainability Initiative of South Africa, also known as SIZA.

Speaker, over the past weeks, Western Cape table grapes producers have been harvesting table grapes. These have been marketed to China's wholesale and retail market under the South African Table Grape Industry's (SATI), China Market Development Campaign. We have contributed to this particular strategy. The campaign is a strategic partnership between the table grape industry and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and it aims to increase market access for table grape producers. Hope, hon Speaker, is real in agriculture.

Hon Speaker, the strategic intent is also to enhance the agri-processing value in this province from R17,4 billion in 2018 to R19,2 billion in 2024, the end of this term of office. The Department has committed to fund a PhD student for three years to research halal studies to develop this industry's capacity. The opportunities existing in the halal market are worth more than \$3 trillion dollars globally. The research will directly benefit agri-processing, which is one of the strategic focuses of this Department.

Agri-processing is a strategic priority. It is vital for job creation and 46% of people employed in the food, beverage and tobacco segment alone are women, while 48% is youth. It is the only sector that has been increasing jobs for the past 10 years. Through fostering new relations with various partners, the Department aims to take agri-processing to the next level.

Speaker, today I announce that I will be launching the Agri-Processing On Wheels Project later this year. This initiative will expose rural communities

to agri processing opportunities, which are jobs and sustainable food security. Hope is real in agriculture, hon Speaker.

Speaker, as you are aware, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture recently reported the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF), diagnosed at properties in Mfuleni here in the Western Cape. As prescribed by the Animal Diseases Act, the Provincial Veterinary Services immediately activated a contingency plan and initiated measures directed towards arresting and controlling the spread of the infection.

The South African Pork Producers Organisation, my HOD have met with them and the Cape of Good Hope Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the SPCA, continues to work closely with the Department in communicating and managing the effective control of this disease. You also need to know that this disease is not transferable from animals to human beings.

Affected farmers were engaged and informed of facts concerning the disease. Also, they were advised on the reasons for the interventions instituted. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture and officials are assisting with the implementation of bio-security measures and the distribution of disinfectants and other remedies to farmers.

In line with good international practices for disease control, 240 animals were slaughtered with the industry role-players' assistance. Culled animals were safely removed and disposed of to ensure that no further spread and

environmental contamination occurs here in the Western Cape.

Speaker, the pig industry in the Western Cape is the second-largest producer in South Africa, with production having grown at an average annual rate of 3,7% over the last 10 years. The Western Cape contributes 21% of the total national herd of 3,3 million pigs, making it an important contributor for growth and jobs, and very central to the Economic Recovery Plan of the Western Cape.

This Department also values the support of the South African Pork Producers' Organisation (SAPPO), who has shown, and we remain encouraged by, their willingness to help. Speaker, we encourage all farmers to adhere to the rules in terms of the quarantine measures to ensure no movement of animals in the area and to avoid disease flare-ups and other risks in the area. The Department would like to thank the farmers for their on-going support. We encourage them to remain vigilant, maintain heightened bio-security measures and continue monitoring all affected areas to stop the spread of the swine flu in the Western Cape.

Speaker, today I want to announce that the Veterinary Laboratory was audited by the South African National Accreditation Systems (SANAS) in November last year and it was once again granted unconditional accreditation and thereby retained its accreditation status for 10 consecutive years, certainly a history in South Africa, certainly a case of hope in action.

Speaker, today I want to announce that the Western Cape will be commissioning a Chemical Residue Testing Facility housed in our Provincial Veterinary Laboratory. Hon Speaker, this will bring services faster to our clients. This service will offer real hope to our farmers.

Climate change: this led the agricultural sector to become a low carbon, climate-change resilient sector by advocating climate-smart production. The Department supports irrigation agriculture with the FruitLook Project, which provides nine water use and crop growth data parameters via the FruitLook web portal.

Disaster management: at the beginning of the 2020/21 the Department provided R10 million worth of fodder support to 1 736 farmers situated in critically and extremely dry areas. Hon Speaker, I have paid visits to various areas. I have undertaken a drought tour. It is heartbreaking to see what is happening in these areas, and I am thankful that this Government, under the leadership of the Premier and the Minister of Finance, have allocated an additional R25 million to 1 174 farmers in fodder vouchers. Many farmers indicated that without the support of Government, many would have had to close their farming businesses. The drought affected not only farmers but also the entire farming community. The farming community include the whole value-chain of workers and their families.

Hon Speaker, we will also promote a healthy ecosystem through strategically focusing on the ecological infrastructure critical areas. Sustainable Resource

Use Management has identified several ecological infrastructure interventions, which would assist the farmers in both the short and long-term. Ecological infrastructure projects promote naturally functioning ecosystems that deliver valuable services to people, such as fresh water, climate regulation, soil formation and disaster risk reduction.

These projects, hon Speaker, include implementing fencing projects; river stabilisation structures; clearing of alien vegetation; the rehabilitation of agricultural land damaged or destroyed by drought and fires; also upgrading and maintenance of canal systems. Through stakeholder engagements, the Sustainable Resource Use and Management Programme has identified the design and installation of water pipes critical to mitigate the future threat of water scarcity. This is very important because these projects will create 1 000 green jobs, and 15 000 hectares of agricultural land will be rehabilitated.

Speaker, last week I had the privilege to visit the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Alien Clearing Project at Zonquasdrift, located downstream of the Berg River in the Drakenstein Municipality, Cape Winelands. This project is part of our interventions in building climate-change resilience.

Speaker, protecting, maintaining, and restoring the province's ecological infrastructure is a critical part of the work that we are doing. Secondly, overgrown Invasive Alien Plants (IAPs) in the river stream cause severe soil erosion that increases water turbidity and water quality. Thirdly, Invasive

Alien Plants out-compete indigenous vegetation. Thus, their removal will directly impact the ecological infrastructure, which contributes to healthy functioning ecosystem.

During that visit, hon Speaker, I met the contractor and National Landcare winner as the best contractor in 2018, Linda Jansen. She employs four teams consisting of 52 people to remove alien vegetation along parts of the Berg River. With the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Landcare Programme, Linda Jansen can reverse the damage caused to our ecological infrastructure.

Speaker, today I announce that during the 2021/22 financial year, a total of R7,8 million will also be allocated for the erection of fences.

Hon Speaker, the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Act (PDA) is currently before Parliament for approval. If approved, the Subdivision of Agricultural Land, Act 70 of 1970 will be repealed. This development will significantly impact on provinces as certain decision-making functions will be delegated to provinces. Delegating powers to provinces is what Premier Winde referred to during his State of the Province Address. Speaker, we must facilitate an increase in agricultural production in sustainable and smart agriculture. Speaker, today I announce that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture will implement the Smart Agriculture Management Improvement Plan in 2021.

Speaker, I am also happy to announce that I will be launching three climate change booklets, transcribed and translated into Afrikaans, English, and IsiXhosa.

The booklets emanate from the award-winning well known first-ever radio series on climate change, *Die Kwik Styg*. The radio series received the 2020 Eco-Logic Gold Award, the Category Climate Change. The booklets will be available in hard copy and online in e-booklet form, which will be embedded in radio technology. The reader will also be able to listen to the radio broadcast whilst reading the e-booklet.

Hon Speaker, I am ready to conclude. The Department concluded also the seventh round of the Alternative Crops Fund. It funded nine research projects to the value of R1,944 million. Alternative crops are climate-smart, high-value crops with high labour needs. The fund, launched in 2014, has already been supported to the amount of R13,115 million.

Speaker, it is now my pleasure to table the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Budget of R909,08 million for the 2021/22 financial year. It is a budget of hope and a budget that places agriculture at the forefront of economic recovery. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon Marran.



Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Marran, you may proceed, hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker and Premier, hon members of this Parliament, officials, on behalf of the African National Congress I wish to welcome the good from the good [inaudible – audio distorted.] that is made in a number of respects, but because it is indeed a work in progress for now, we cannot support this Budget Vote. No doubt, our main opposition to this Budget Vote is that it continuously ignored the agricultural landscape of our province and the historical legacy thereof. This Department and this budget make no explicit provision for questions of race, and whilst there is a bias towards SMMEs in some instances there is a lack of recognition of SMMEs from poorer areas as well as women.

What is this agricultural landscape of our province? The large majority of agricultural land, somewhat 92%, remains in the hands of white farm owners and farm or agri-workers continue to be exploited and their safety remains uncertain, especially in respect of physical harm and evictions.

These two factors in the main cannot give rise to the stability and success of the sector. Indeed, CASIDRA has put another call, but predictably this does not favour emerging African, Coloured and Indian farmers.

This second output came after the MEC of Agriculture basically interfered

and instructed to CASIDRA to stop an advertisement that was put out basically to support African farmers during this COVID period.

This was basically also saying that CASIDRA have to make sure that white farmers get their piece of the slice. Speaker, this, to black farmers, is a clear message that whilst the legacy of apartheid remains, they should get over it and move on.

Speaker, while we thank and acknowledge the work of the MEC and the Department in respect of the transport of agri-workers, the MEC's visit to the Hex River Valley, and we welcome the idea of an Executive Statement by the MEC on agri-workers' working conditions and wages, the fact remains that agri-workers cannot be hopeful, because it is DA policy that farmers must have the option to opt out of the national minimum wage, and be able to pay farmworkers the equivalent to an old-age pension grant. No amount of criticism of the national departments will change the fact that this is DA policy.

The MEC expressed the principle of the commitment of the Provincial Government to help all farm- and agri-workers and remaining committed to redress, but in the light of failing DA policy this reminds me of the sentiments of my colleague, the hon Dugmore, which he expressed on Friday, words, words, words.

At the same time we reiterate that the security of farmers is not just a race

issue, but indeed we must quickly add the security of farmworkers who often feel threatened by their very employers. Again there can be no case like the Smith case in Stellenbosch in 2019 to show the vulnerability of the farmworker.

Speaker, despite the fact that travel and substance is [Inaudible.] on the back of a decreased budget, the ANC still finds it unacceptable that there is an increase in this budget. In the current economic climate we should be cutting fat such as travel and substance, whilst R100 million may be spent on the departmental evaluation and hence the high budget for consultants, we remain unconvinced that this service should be insourced. We are told that a R10 million energy project is taking place at Elsenburg to save energy over the long term, but no plan for insourcing is done on these departmental evaluations so as to cut on the cost of consultants. Could it be because of the people doing the evaluations and that it is not in their interest to simply be employed by the Department?

The ANC remains committed to working with the Department and with the National Government, and where needs be the Local Government, especially in the Klein-Karoo and Karoo, to broaden and build on the success of the sector despite the travesties of COVID-19 and the drought. The ANC remains committed to working with all stakeholders, to build the sector and to ensure that it remains a success. We therefore wholly support and wish success to the 120 graduates in the broadening of the export market, and especially to markets in Africa and China; specifically to that of table grapes. Without a

doubt we will support success endeavours, but we are part of the State and the duty of the State is to ensure that those who are emerging and on the margins are brought into the mainstream and given a kick-start.

We cannot support this budget because it does not support farmworkers enough. We cannot support this budget because it does not have the vision of uplifting emerging African, Coloured and Indian farmers, and setting them on the same playing fields as their white counterparts.

We thank the MEC and his Department for this work, but it is work in process and therefore we cannot support this budget. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran. Hon members, I now recognised hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Speaker, here we are dealing with a department that has its mission as seeking to unlock the potential of agriculture and to enhance the economic and social wealth of the people of the Western Cape. That is the missions that they have, but however, the reality is the total opposite.

This is one department that does not care about black people and the poor, especially the farmworkers, as well as the emerging small-scale farmers. It is under this Department that we have seen the higher rate of the spreading of COVID-19 through seasonal workers that were transferred to the Eastern Cape, with reckless handling of that entire process, with the Minister folding

his arms and closing his eyes saying “Glory Hallelujah” also.

It is under this leadership of the Minister that we see that the people are encouraged, especially the poor, to concentrate on food [Inaudible.] instead of allocating them land and resources to ensure that they become at the same level with their white counterparts, as hon member Marran reiterated.

It is the fake marching for the farm killings that is not backed by any kind of scientific evidence that any white farmer, or otherwise, has died during the lockdown of COVID-19, of which the Minister led that to the National Parliament, faking that is [Inaudible.] instead of concentrating and ensuring he moves the economic hurdles that are facing our people in the agricultural sector.

As the EFF we cannot support any vote of this kind, that does not aim to progress the lives of our people. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Xego. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, in my minute I cannot say much, so I just want to compliment the Department, the Minister and the department, and the initiative of the home gardens; I think that is a really a tool to help the most vulnerable, so I want to compliment the Department at least to give us hope and to help the most vulnerable. You know the fish and

the fishing rod; we are giving people fishing rods in order to catch fish.

So thank you very much and well done to the Department and the Minister.

Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARIAS: Thank you, Speaker. Minister, thank you for your presentation. I just want to bring a few points to your attention.

You know the City of Cape Town is making billions out of water tariffs. It was headlined, screaming in the *Cape Times* how many billions they have made out of the increased water tariffs, but we are trying to tell people to use water to wet your gardens. How does that make sense to you, Minister? The people do not have water to drink and you say that they must have gardens, to wet gardens?

So, well, if that is your plan, are we going to ask the City to reduce their tariffs and increase the amount of water these households get free so that they can water their gardens?

Secondly I see all the informal settlements, Dunoon and [Inaudible.] has DSTV †*skottels*, soos hulle sê in Afrikaans – [*skottels*, like they say in Afrikaans] - dishes. They have TV, but no water. I just want to know where

do our priorities lie? I want to ask the DA, should these people not rather have water tanks to collect more rainwater than DSTV dishes?

Then I want to know why the Kleinzee Farm at Genadendal cannot be sold to ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Your one minute is finished. Thank you, hon member, Marais. Your time is up, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Oh.

The SPEAKER: It was a minute, so I was very kind, but I cannot do it beyond this point.

Mr P J MARAIS: You must never stop me at full speed. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: I apologise, hon member Marais, next time I will try. Hon member, I now recognise hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker. Al Jama-ah is very disappointed to note that the Minister did not include the plight of the homeless farmworkers chased from their farm on which they were born, raised and worked on. The rights of the farmworkers or how the budget will assist the body Future of Agriculture and Rural Economy, FARE, which was established in 2013, following the sporadic protest by farmworkers for a living wage and to

address other grievances.

Farmers must be encouraged to recognise trade unions and not to victimise farmworkers from joining trade unions or political parties of their choice.

Farmworkers are also a driving force behind successful harvests. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. Hon members, I now recognise the Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Agriculture, hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, hon members, I rise to speak on Vote 11: Agriculture, against the unique backdrop of events that require this Department to be of even greater service to the Western Cape and South Africa than ever before, and despite the increasing importance of its work, this Department will have to deliver more with less. This budget is smaller than any of the preceding 3 years, being valued at R909 million.

Due to the economic challenges brought about by COVID-19 and the damaging regulations of the National Government, we have seen an increased emphasis on sectors and entities that can assist to grow the economy, specifically to grow employment. Fortunately the agriculture sector and the Department of Agriculture are examples of a sector and an entity that have proved that they are able to help us achieve that goal. With 17,2% of



employees in the Western Cape and agriculture, and with the strong growth in employment figures of almost 60% since 2014, it shows how important it is for us to support the further growth of this mostly rural sector.

Primary agriculture in the Western Cape added R14,8 billion to our economy in 2019 and despite the numerous challenges posed by COVID-19 regulations and the limitations, production in this sector grew by 12,6% last year, and exports by 11,4%.

Yet the picture is not only a rosy one. Climate change will have a notable impact on agriculture. This Department is therefore focussing on research on alternate crops and the optimal use of water. We must also acknowledge the damaging effects that the drought is still having and will continue to have on a large part of the Western Cape's farming sector.

In addition to the drought still being prevalent in some areas of the Groot Karoo and the Matzikama District, the veld and natural grazing in these areas will need at least 3 years of normal or above normal rainfall to recover.

In other areas, such as part of the Klein-Karoo, thousands of fruit trees died because of the drought, and it will take about 5 years for newly planted young trees to come into production. These farmers are by and large left at the mercy of financial institutions for funding as the drought alleviation interventions by the National Government have mostly been designed to assist stock farmers with fodder, etcetera.

In this respect I want to pay tribute to fellow farmers and NGOs that have reached out to the drought-stricken farmers and that have come to the rescue of many, many rural families.

With South Africa being ranked as the 30<sup>th</sup> driest country in the world, it comes as no surprise that almost all of our vineyards and orchards rely heavily on irrigation. We also know that the provision of bulk water is the responsibility of the Central Government. In this respect the delays with the construction work on the Clanwilliam Dam, which will increase its capacity by a factor of 2,4, is most regrettable.

What is more is the unfulfilled promise by the National Minister of Water and Sanitation, that her Department would be providing the funding for the increase in the height of the water canal of the Brandvlei Dam and that the Western Cape would not need to step in. Hon members would not be surprised to learn that this was nothing but an empty promise, which is why the Province has again committed R20 million to this project in the upcoming financial year.

In this we see real meaning to our Budget of Hope, and an example of the Western Cape leading from the front to fill the gaps left behind by National Government.

Hon Speaker, the ostrich industry continues to play a significant role in economic activity of the Klein Karoo, this despite the effects of the avian flu

that hit the industry some 10 years ago, but there is still a ban on the export of raw ostrich meat and there is a limited amount for processed ostrich meat. As a result, additional monetary pressures are placed on the sector and particularly the Klein-Karoo.

We have also seen a sharp reduction of 40% in the volumes of wine exports over the last 6 years. This, together with the decrease in local consumption of wine and other alcoholic beverages due to COVID-19 regulations that prohibited the sale of alcohol over certain period or on certain days, have done huge damage to our wine industry. The industry is sitting with record levels of bulk wine, causing pressure on storage facilities, at a time when room is sought for the current harvest to be accommodated.

A further nail in the coffin of farmers is the sharp decline in tourism. An increasing number of farms in the Western Cape have felt the need to diversify their income through the provision of tourism-related services. These range from tourist accommodation, restaurants on farms, guided cellar tours, etcetera. This income stream for farmers has also been dealt a serious blow by the travel restrictions imposed by National Government as part of its response to COVID-19. Strict travel restrictions are still impacting negatively on international travel and this source of income is therefore still being adversely affected.

A number of farms therefore had to lay off workers in order to survive. Fortunately our Department of Agriculture stepped in with the Wine Tourism

Support Scheme, which financially assisted numerous families that would otherwise have suffered greatly. It is of significance that some of our colleagues that purport to plead for the plight of the poor, have been quiet on this.

Hon Speaker, it would be irresponsible of me not to refer to the damages already done by the Government's efforts to change our Constitution to allow for the expropriation of assets without compensation, and Minister Meyer referred to this as well.

We need economic growth. For this we need investments. Investors in turn need to be assured that their investments are safe. This is done in the hope of expecting a return on their investment. We only need to look north of the Beit Bridge to witness the damages caused when assets are grabbed without law and order or compensation. Our Constitution is there to protect citizens against undue influence of the State, particularly against an incapable one.

The true intent and lack of skills of our National Government are clearly demonstrated by the events related to the allocation of Colenso Farm to a group, including so-called MK veterans, and a notice to vacate the farm that was served on Mr Ivan Cloete. Fortunately, the DA exposed this through the efforts of our National Spokesperson, Ms Annette Steyn, and at provincial level by Mr Ivan Meyer.

When confronted with the facts and the results of an internal investigation,

and when numerous cases of a similar nature were brought under her attention, Minister Didiza backtracked and stated that the officials in her Department were lacking the necessary skills to allocate State farms in accordance with the official policies. Come on, we all know this is what happens when the administration is politicised; when officials budge under political pressures, and when those that are better connected are served first.

It is plainly another example of the ANC and National Government looking after its cadres rather than looking after the citizen of the country it is supposed to serve. Do not for one moment think that investors are not scared by this. Just imagine the full agricultural potential which could, would and should have been unblocked if we could assure investors that their investments were safe. Just imagine the thousands of jobs that could have been created as a result of a larger investment in agricultural infrastructure. Just imagine the contribution to the Western Cape's economy and particularly the rural economy if we saw greater agricultural activity, and just imagine the advantages to our people if the prices of food, specifically primary agricultural products, could come down due to increased productivity and competition.

Despite all the hurdles that the National Government is putting in the path of this sector, we still see impressive investments in agriculture by our hardworking and intrepid entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs that are often under attack from the National Government and also in this House this morning.

Agriculture, due to favourable weather conditions in large parts of our

country, led to a growth of 13% in this sector in 2020, and we are proud of the contribution of this Department's training initiatives which are aimed at ensuring productive, well-trained and well-skilled participants. This initiative will be allocated R57 million in this budget, which is marginally smaller than the amount spent in the 2017/2018 financial year already. I lament the fact that these students do not qualify for student financial support from the NSFAS scheme, but then with the ongoing mismanagement and trouble at that institution, we may currently be better off in this regard.

This Department is also responsible for the administration of various grants made available by the National Department of Agriculture to support emerging farmers. Again we see how the National Government is increasingly turning its back on the poor. This is illustrated by the sharp decrease in the allocation for the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, also known as CASP.

The beneficiaries of this programme are mostly defined as the hungry, as well as substance and household food producers. This Province will receive only R170 million for the upcoming year, which is significantly smaller than the amounts allocated over the last 4 years.

Another casualty of the budget cuts imposed on this Province by National Treasury is Casidra, our agency tasked with the responsibility to support development in rural areas. Casidra in the past funded in the order of R260 million, R475 million and R207 million per annum. It has unfortunately

only been allocated less than R139 million for this year.

Hon Speaker, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning studied the budget in detail. We are convinced that the Department, through the careful management of the smaller budget in comparison to that of the last few years, will continue to ably support the agricultural sector.

The Committee therefore expressed its majority support for the Budget. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen. Hon member, I now recognise the hon Minister of Agriculture.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, thank you for the members who took part in the debate, but also who contributed to discussion during the Standing Committee when we tabled the Budget proposals in the Standing Committee chaired by Hon member Andricus van der Westhuizen.

Hon member Pat Marran, I am also noting that the ANC is now rejecting support for farmers, for agri-workers and producers. Because when you reject the budget, that is the rejection, that is the effect of what you are rejecting.

Hon member Marran, if you have any proof and evidence of farmers abusing agri-workers or anybody, please supply me with that information. I would be

very happy to follow that up because certainly one of our key strategic priorities is well-being and dignity and we have to protect our farm agri-workers. It is a very significant sector. We have about 256,000 agri-workers and they play a meaningful role in the economy of the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, the bulk of the budget of farmer support are for emerging and small-scale farmers and so this Government is committed to redress and this budget confirms this because a budget, as we have heard also through the Minister of Finance and the hon member the Leader of the Opposition, a budget is a reflection of your policies and your values. Our policies and our values are clear. We are supporting emerging farmers to become commercial farmers and our Western Cape Government has now a target of 50 emerging farmers, to turn them into commercial farmers and we are making particular progress in this regard.

I want to assure the House that we are making progress and I am pleased to hear that the hon member Marran acknowledges that it is a process making progress.

Hon member Xego simply does not understand land reform because he does not understand that his ANC bosses are responsible for land reform in South Africa. He has absolutely no understanding of land reform, of how it works because he certainly are singing the songs of his political bosses, the African National Congress. He is the ANC Youth League in the EFF.



Hon member Christians from the ACDP, thank you for your input and support to this budget, I really appreciate your support.

Hon member Marais, yes, you raised the issue of water tariffs. Agriculture must also be very water resilient and we have seen, as you rightly pointed out, also mentioned by the hon Chairperson of the Standing Committee, the Western Cape, South Africa in fact, is the 30<sup>th</sup> driest country in the world and we need to do everything to become water resilient.

Hon member Peter Marais, one of our programmes is to also encourage vegetable gardens to use grey water, and my Department also assists people with equipment, training and advice in terms of how to turn greywater also for effective use in vegetable gardens. We discourage many of these vegetable gardens to use municipal water; we also encourage all of these vegetable community gardens to rather do rainwater harvesting precisely because of the water shortage.

Hon member Peter Marais, you were shortcut due to the time, so I hear there is certain information that you want to pass on to me. We must not allow the time of the programme to prevent that, so after this meeting, at another time, a telephone call, send me an email because certainly I gather that you have certain information that I certainly need to pick up.

I also heard you speaking about Genadendal. I did not get the full story because of the time limitations on your side from the Programming Authority

here, but I think I am quite happy also to engage with you about that so that we can find a solution.

Hon member Brinkhuis, if you have certain information I am very happy to receive it because I have also heard that there is something that you want me to follow up. Please pass that information on to me.

I did hear hon member Brinkhuis speak about agri-workers. I can assure you that 17% of the total labour force of the Western Cape is working in the Agricultural Sector; it is a very important part of the Agricultural Sector. In fact it is significant and we have huge numbers of people also employed, more than 200,000 also in the agri-processing sector.

So this is a very important sector that we need to care. We are the only province that has an agri-worker programme that has an agri-worker competition. We are the only programme in South Africa that supports agri-workers. We have an agri-workers prestige forum that advises us about certain things.

So if you have any further suggestions I am happy also to engage with you on the agri-workers programme. I do not want to dismiss issues that people have brought under my attention, so I am pleased to listen to that.

Hon member Van der Westhuizen, thank you for also your role and realising the role and the impact of agriculture in the Western Cape and thank you also

for acknowledging the increase in agricultural production during the period under review, as well as the increase in the exports. Agricultural exports for us are significant, hon Speaker.

You will recall at a previous time I did inform this House that during the period of 2008 and 2018 the Western Cape contributed 50% of all of South Africa's agricultural exports and so far those are particularly markets that we want to maintain, given the Africa Free Trade Agreement we certainly will target the African continent, 1 billion people; a very significant market for our products.

Yes, hon member Van der Westhuizen, thank you, the drought is real and we are conducting currently research on farming in desert and arid areas and we have also now appointed the world expert in climate conditions and certainly looking forward to her contribution in agriculture.

Also thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen, for your role of the TBOs and the civil society and the faith-based organisation for the massive contribution in assisting farmers in drought-stricken areas, not only in the Western Cape, but in the rest of the country.

Hon member, I enjoy working in this portfolio and I will fight for the agricultural sector, but it breaks your heart if you see how the National Government fails farmers, particularly the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, as well as the Department

of Water and Sanitation, because they are really the biggest threats to agriculture in South Africa, and because we adopted a resilience approach as a strategic intent, we will not allow the National Government departments to derail our plans, and that goes for every single member of this Cabinet who is struggling with our colleagues in National, but we will continue to fight for justice and fight for what is right because resilience tells us do not stop, keep on going and make a difference.

The ANC will rather protect Ace Magashule at a National Executive committee meeting than to support black farmers in South Africa.

I want to know where was the EFF, the ANC Youth League, and its bosses, the ANC, when farmer Ivan Cloete faced eviction in the Western Cape, but I want to warn hon Minister Thoko Didiza not to proceed with the plans to continue to allocate another land reform farm to an MK veteran without due processes, because that is what she wrote in her report, because I will fight it again because we are fighting for justice.

Hon Speaker, you will recall that Premier Winde has addressed the issue of federalism and more provincial powers, during the State of the Province Address. In line with his call I want to announce today that I have mandated my Department to start giving effect to this and start the process of drafting a Provincial Veterinary Services Legislation for the Western Cape.

I will keep the Standing Committee and the Western Cape Parliament

informed about this progress in this regard. We are putting in place the principle of federalism and subsidiarity here in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, hon Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Mr Van der Westhuizen referred to the important role of the ostrich industry. I have two weeks ago visited the ostrich industry in Oudtshoorn. As you know 77% of the total South African ostriches is exported to the Netherlands; 14% of South Africa's ostriches is exported to Switzerland, and about 4% is exported to the United Arab Emirates.

I have recently met with the South African ostrich industry, as well as with the Klein Karoo Ostrich Chamber, and we are certainly engaging with two issues. First, to remove some obstacles that prevent them from further exports, and I am also currently involved with assisting them with a market access strategy to also promote the ostrich industry more broadly amongst the diplomatic community because some of our diplomats here in South Africa, foreign diplomats, they have not tasted the nice taste of ostrich meat, and I know, hon Speaker, you like ostrich meat because it does not have fat, so I think this is a great product that we need to export globally, and that process, and engagements between myself and the ostrich industry are currently underway, and I will soon have another meeting with them about removing red-tape for exports.

Hon member Van der Westhuizen is also correct that the National Government is turning its back on black farmers with huge budget cuts

through the conditional grants, as he pointed out. These cuts is a result also of taxpayers' money finding its way to the pockets of those implicated at the Zondo Commission, and those who are drinking tea at Nkandla have a lot to answer for these taxpayers' money that have been abused.

Hon Speaker, I want to thank my Head of the Department, Dr Sebopetsa, as well as Mr Darryl Jacobs, the DDG, as well as our CFO, Mr Floris Huysamer, for the great work they have put together in compiling this particular budget, as well as all the programme managers in the Department of Agriculture. I would also like to thank all the farm managers at the seven world-class, well-run research farms under the capable leadership of Dr Ilse Trautmann. When people hear about a Government farm they are always worried. When you hear about a research farm please come and visit our well-run research farms here in the Western Cape.

I would also like to thank my own office, Marietjie van Jaarsveld; Mr Daniel Johnson; my private secretary, Charmaine de Vos, and all my staff in the Department, but I must also thank the farmers, the agri-workers, the producers of this province, and lastly thank you to the Standing Committee for giving their support to this Budget that is being tabled here in this House, and I would like to conclude that I want to thank them for their support and hereby submit the Budget for the Western Cape Department of Agriculture to this House. I thank you. [Applause.]

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, the session will now be suspended. I will suspend it for a period of 45 minutes. That gives us between now and quarter to 2. I shall see you then, thank you very much, the session is suspended.

[Business of the House was suspended at resumed at 13:45]

The SPEAKER: You may be seated. Hon members, you are welcome and let us proceed with the business of the day.

I will now request the Secretary to read the fourth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 9 – Environmental Affairs and Development Planning – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4 - 2021]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon Premier, hon members, distinguished guests, I now recognise the hon Minister of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, hon Minister Bredell. I recognise you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, hon Premier of the Western Cape, Provincial Cabinet colleagues and members of the Legislature, Head of the Department and CEO of CapeNature, ladies and gentlemen.

Today it is my privilege to present the 2021 Budget for the Department of

Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, as well as for the biodiversity agency, Cape Nature.

We meet at a time when the Coronavirus continues to be a real disruptive event, one that continues to present enormous challenges to Government. This Department and CapeNature has also been severely affected and we too have lost staff and loved ones over the past year.

I want to take a moment on this platform, once again, to thank the Head of the Department, Mr Piet van Zyl, and Dr Omar, the Chief Executive Officer of CapeNature, for their ongoing leadership during this difficult time.

Hon Speaker, I also want to thank all the people in the Department and in CapeNature who continue to work hard despite the new challenges, and challenging environment we are operating in.

Hon Speaker, the province's ecological and natural environment remains under threat. Some of these threats are largely outside our control, this includes global challenges like climate change and population growth.

Some of the threats are within our control. These would include illegal land invasions and rapid urbanisation due to the collapsing economy and systems in other areas of the country.

In addition and despite the growing challenges, the budget to do our work



remains under massive pressure, and the Department and CapeNature has now, for a number of years, not been able to fill all the critical posts on its organogram due to continued budget cuts.

Hon Speaker, this poses some concerns moving forward with regard to sustainability, particularly given the fact that the COVID pandemic is demanding further cuts to programs in order to ensure we can properly address the pandemic.

The Department and CapeNature gets allocated a total budget that is amongst the smallest in the Province and amounts to roughly 1% of the total Provincial Budget. With that budget we need to manage and to protect our natural environment within our areas of mandate for future generations.

Hon Speaker, with the constrained national economy, the budget allocations for the Department and CapeNature for the 2020/21 financial year, as well as over the 2021 MTEF, have been revised downward.

The total allocation for the Vote has decreased by R18 470 000 from R588 532 000 to R570 million in the 2021/22 budget year, a decrease of 3,1%. The MTEF allocation of Vote 9 over the three financial years – 2021 to 22 to 2023/24 - increases from R570 062 000 to R581 872 000, representing an increase of 2,1%.

Looking forward, the outlook is that South Africa's economy will remain

weak, influenced by international and domestic factors, in particular the ongoing COVID-19 response.

To enable the Province to achieve a more resilient and sustainable environment, the Department will be focusing on three main areas: jobs, safety, dignity and wellbeing.

When it comes to jobs, we are proud of three major initiatives which are the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Partnership Project which sees the upskilling of technicians through further education and training on the use of natural refrigerants in the RAC sector.

The second initiative is our support to waste SMMEs through the Waste Picker Support programme and wastepreneurs project. We plan to develop a municipal waste management services guide, as well as doing some capacity building of SMMEs on how to transact with municipalities.

Finally, there are opportunities for Extended Public Works Programme job opportunities through the rehabilitation of our river systems.

Speaker, in this province we have been combating a nearly decades long drought. In most parts of this province it has been broken by the past two years of good rainfall, but there remain parts of the province where a devastating drought remains in effect.

The drought has put the spotlight on the important issues of water security and this Department is leading the way forward to revising the overarching Sustainable Water Management Plan that in turn provides a framework for water management within the province.

As part of our water security program, clearing of alien vegetation in the catchments in the Upper Berg continues. The work done to date currently continues to release up to 26,5 million cubic meters of additional water per year in Western Cape river system.

Speaker, the Department and CapeNature continue to implement and roll out critical programmes with the best interest of the public at heart.

One of these programmes is the Regional-Socio Economic Project known as RSEP, which is one of the ways the Western Cape Government is tackling spatial transformation and managing urbanization. This flagship programme will continue through the '21 to '24 MTEF period, despite the funding challenges.

There are currently 12 beneficiary municipalities in the programme. These are Saldanha Bay, Swartland, Bergrivier, Witzenberg, Breede Vallei, Drakenstein, Stellenbosch, Theewaterskloof, Cape Agulhas, Prince Albert, Mossel Bay and Bitou Municipalities, and 15 participating towns spread across these 12 municipalities.

When it comes to climate change, the Province, through the Department, continues making our global contributions under The Climate Group, States and Region Alliances and the Under2 Coalition.

Hon Speaker, the climate change landscape has significantly changed since the approval of the Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy in 2014 and as such will be undergoing a review followed by an intensive stakeholder co-creation process amongst all 13 Western Cape departments, to assist in adjusting the way of doing business to respond to climate change.

Speaker, the Department had consistently met the targets for finalising waste license applications within the legislative timeframes and will endeavour to continue to do so.

Further afield, the increasing waste generation in the province continue to negatively impact on the already limited available landfill airspace in the province. We remain hard at work in seeking the best solutions to address this major challenge going forward. Part of the answer is the establishing of several regional mega waste disposal hubs.

The key Vote 9 policy priority informing the Department '21 to '24 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework are to enable the Province to achieve a more resilient and sustainable environment, which will empower an inclusive and transformative spatial economy.

We are working hard to deliver on these policy priorities despite the real challenges that are causing some delays in rollouts from time to time, as well as having a continued impact on our budgets. With that I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Premier, hon members, I now recognise the hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank, Speaker. Speaker, as I rise this afternoon to support the claims for this Budget, the words of [Inaudible - echo.] comes to mind, and I open quote:

“The child who just wanted to play in the sun of Nyanga is everywhere. The child who became a man [Inaudible.] all of Africa. The child who became a giant travels through the whole world without a pass.”

On 8 February this year, four children in Nyanga were playing in the sun. Their afternoon play in a rogue sand mine came to a devastating end when the sand collapsed onto them. This tragedy, which should never ever happen again, have robbed these four children who might have trekked through Africa, or might have become giants travelling the whole word without a passport.

Today we hear a Budget Vote of the Department of Environmental Affairs

and Development. Where members of the Democratic Alliance are more worried about fish washing up on the sea, we hear very little, in fact nothing from this Budget on sand mines. Their regulation in how this Department foresees ensuring that a tragedy such as this would never happen again, it is only when you think so little of African children that it becomes invisible in your budgets. A lack of planning, whether it is rogue sand mines or pits, or whether it is building human settlements far away from schools, is the characteristic of this Department and its laidback leadership.

One Cape Town 2040 Vision is, and I quote:

“Highly skilled, innovation-driven, resource efficient, connected, high opportunity and collaborative society.”

Yet since 1999 already the ANC-led National Government moved, for example, from housing to human settlements, indicating that the necessary infrastructure and the development within the community must be created, but One Cape Town 2040 Vision does not speak of firstly an integrated society and secondly, a comprehensive a holistic society.

While the Department must be commended for wanting to play a leading role in capacitating Western Cape Government officials to understand how the planning and design of our places and spaces impact on safety, demonstrating this to practice, this Budget lacks the necessary detail of exactly how, for example under safety the Department [Inaudible.] socio-economic project

program will train or capacitate officials of the Provincial Government. In fact the lack of detail in this budget is characteristic of the lack of the detail in the so-called Premier [Inaudible.] Project Safety Plan.

As the hon member Dugmore said on Friday, “Again words, words and more words.” In respect of spatial transformation and managed urbanisation, the budget provides information on grant funding which is given to the participating municipalities in order to implement spatial upliftment, projects in neglected areas, most of which are in so-called integration zones. One hopes the people of Saldanha Bay, Swartland, Berg River, Witzenberg, Breede Valley, Drakenstein, Stellenbosch, Theewaterskloof, Cape Agulhas, Prince Albert, Mossel Bay and Bitou are listening because according to this budget, these 12 municipalities are participating in these integration zones.

We hope that integration zones mean that people in municipalities live closer to their places of employment or to job opportunities. Part of the problem with apartheid spatial planning was that the people who had to use public transport and who earned a little money, had to travel far to their place of work, while the ones with cars and who earn high salaries, huge salaries, lived in town. Yet we doubt that these integration zones are addressing these issues.

If you go to Saldanha Bay or Grabouw now, the still same applies: the poor lives far away from town. The same in Breede Valley with your Transhex Housing Project.

Speaker, under the Premier's North Star of dignity and well-being the Department list water security, yet we do not hear of the plan of the City of Cape Town to interject purified sewerage in the City's drinking water system which is proving quite controversial with a number of academics in particular waving red flags. The budget in the Department is completely silent on this issue. We regret that the programme on administration will receive a mere 8% budget increase. This money could have gone elsewhere where it is much more needed.

With at least three programmes with cuts to their budgets and these being the three core programmes of the Department, unbelievably administration gets an increase. Surely cutting on administration cost is the first programme to look at when considering cuts. At the same time the R8 million cost of the Minister's Office should be shared by both departments, if cuts affect both.

While we may well underspend the R3 million for travel and substance, we see that Programme 1: Administration is again one of the biggest culprits, envisaging spending over R800,000. We should be cutting the fat.

Again is it Programme 1 that gets a 5,000% increase in budget for training and development. In the light of cuts and economic climate, Programme 1 should be cutting travel and subsistence. Cutting training and development and cutting the cost of the Minister's Office because they simply are not the core business of the Department.



Speaker, for these reasons the ANC cannot support this Budget Vote, I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran. Hon member, I now recognise hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, Speaker.

The EFF does not support Vote 9. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning plays a key and strategic role in matters of intergovernmental coordination, spatial development and development planning.

Speaker, to this day the Department still fails to develop and integrate spatial planning within the City of Cape Town and create provisions for affordable housing for the poor, despite being handed land within the City of Cape Town, but the Minister is still telling us today that they have no land. It's clear that the DA has no intention to address the issue of spatial planning and integration by cutting budgets on environmental policy planning and coordination that seeks to address the issue.

Speaker, the Minister also made mention that the Department is facing challenges in addressing the spatial planning and this has been the case even before the COVID-19 pandemic, which also negatively impacted on budgets. I wonder if this DA Government will ever prioritise the implementation of

spatial planning and give it the attention it deserves as it only affects a certain race that is not favoured by the DA in this province, unfortunately. I thank you, Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the ACDP supports Vote 9.

Just a question to the Minister, we are worried about the illegal land invasions and what is the Department doing so that valuable land is not taken from the Government.

So are there plans? Wherever you drive you see people invading land, illegal land invasions. So that is the question in my one minute. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon member Christians. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Marais.

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

This Department has disappointed us. They have sold the Western Cape very cheaply by suggesting that we change the Constitution of the Western Cape to do away with an Environmental Commissioner. What utter nonsense? This

Constitution does not belong to the DA, it belongs to all future parliaments in this province, and you have now amended the Constitution, giving all power on environmental issues to the National Government.

I think it is a betrayal of the trust in you when you say that you are federalists or that you support subsidiarity. Nothing of the sort. First Helen Zille refused to appoint a Children's Commissioner and now the Premier of the Western Cape does not want an Environmental Commissioner.

I also wanted to tell you to concentrate on all these informal settlements. The seepage of ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: ... faeces into the underground water supply is dangerous.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid Marais, [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais,] your time is up. I now recognise hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

We are about 7 million people living in the Western Cape and the number is increasing with the influx of people into urban areas. We are also a province with a high level of inequality which not only have a negative impact on health and socio-economic conditions, but also leads to environmental

degradation, especially amongst the poor.

The environmental degradation is found in the living space of the poor and homeless when they are faced with water contaminated with faeces, lack of access to clean water, drinking water, sanitation facilities, electricity and refuse removal. Such living conditions lead to waste being dumped into rivers, canals and other forms of illegal dumping.

In Masiphumelele in False Bay shack dwellers' homes are flooded with polluted water when the nearby canals overflow during the heavy rainfalls.

In Macassar people and animals become ill by ...[Interjections.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. Hon members, I now recognise the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, hon Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon members, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has severely changed the South African economic and fiscal landscapes. With a constraint economy the Budget

allocation for this Department 2021/22 financial year, and over the 2021 MTEF period, have been revised downward. This Department will now receive an amount of R570 million for the 2021/22 financial year, which is a decrease of 3,1% on the previous year's revised estimate. Taking inflation into consideration, the actual cut in the budget available is more than twice this percentage, and with more than 24% of the budget going to the compensation of employees, all eyes in this Department will be on this year's salary negotiations in the Public Sector Bargaining Council.

The cuts in the budget will also require of the Department to work more effectively and to review and decrease certain expenses. Expenses, some of which up to now have been viewed as essential expenses. I am referring to new ways of communication and the savings on certain travel and accommodation costs. These savings have been made possible through the possibility of video conferencing which can now be done from almost any Government building.

The Department has also had to take a deep and critical evaluation of its activities and the value that each expense is adding. We need to appreciate the often difficult decisions that the leadership in this Department had to make in order to stay within the allocated budget.

On last Friday's Third Adjustment Budget debate, I briefly referred to the growing realisation that our generation is utilising various resources of the earth at an alarmingly and unsustainable rate, and that our impact on the

earth is contributing and speeding up various changes in the state of the earth and its atmosphere. These are factors that will mostly affect the lives of those who are following in our footsteps. In order to preserve the well-being of our children and of our children's children, it is our duty to be proactive whilst we hold office. This Department has various initiatives that assist with this range of challenges.

The challenges range from studies that support the responsible management and recycling of solid waste; the monitoring of air pollution and steps to improve the air quality; the preservation of biodiversity and the actions that we need to implement in honouring our international commitments regarding climate change.

This Department, and Minister Bredell referred to this, is also supporting waste recycling SMMEs focused on what this Department likes to call "wastepreneurs".

We have seen a barrage of legislation and amendments to legislation over the last number of years aimed at the preservation and conservation of the environment. This puts a considerable responsibility on the Department. One of these is, for example, the evaluation of Environmental Impact Assessments for certain developments.

The demands set by ever-changing legislation are all resource intensive, and with an ailing economy and general budget cuts, meeting the expectations and

the timelines have become quite a challenge.

I am therefore relieved to see an increase in the budget for Compliance and Enforcement from R25 million to R28,5 million, which is probably still not nearly enough.

We do not only have a challenge in terms of solid waste, our rivers are under threat too. The pollution from informal settlements, nutrient-rich run-offs from agriculture and industrial discharges, all negatively influence our rivers. Therefore samples of the water in the Berg and Breede Rivers are already regularly collected. This allows officials to be able to measure the effectiveness of interventions implemented.

It is also this Department that is tasked with the leading role in developing policies related to climate change.

This Budget Vote also caters for transfers to the value of R288 million to CapeNature, the entity responsible for the management of the Western Cape's provincial nature reserves. The privilege to care for the Cape Floral Kingdom rests mainly on us as representatives of the Western Cape. The Cape Floral Kingdom is the smallest of the six international floral kingdoms and about 70% of the 9,000 plant species are unique to this area. The conservation of the remaining areas of natural fynbos is of international conservation significance. As a province it is a special responsibility on us to manage and safeguard our nature reserves. There can be no doubt that a

significant portion of our tourism is generated by the natural beauty for which the Western Cape is renowned. CapeNature is therefore also a major player in the field of tourism, and as can be expected its income from tourism was also severely hampered by the COVID-19 regulations by the National Government and the need for individuals to self-isolate.

Safety has become a major topic in South Africa and the presence is on various law enforcement agencies to bring crime under control. There is mounting evidence that factors other than visible policing can play a huge role in improving the safety of communities, and these include the work of the Regional Socio-Economic Projects programme, the so-called RSEP programme.

This programme, however, goes a lot further than the construction of infrastructure for use by Neighbourhood Watches. One of its aims is also to address the issue of special transformation, and it is indeed a pity that the funding of this programme had to be severely cut.

The Department has been supporting various municipalities lacking in capacity, with their town planning function and I am truly concerned that we will experience a severe lack of town planners to consider all the development applications and building plans once the economy is again up and running, as we saw up to 2008.

The Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development



Planning reported that it supports the Vote. I therefore also ask for the support of this House for this Vote. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Let me start off by thanking our Chairperson, hon member Andricus van der Westhuizen, thank you for your leadership in the Standing Committee, for your difficult questions that you pose to us that we need to grapple with because it is all to the best interest of the environment in this province. I also know that you are very much hands on, or must I say “feet on” because you are a lot of times out there in the field, and then asking the right questions. So thank you for that.

Hon Speaker, to the hon member Marran, when four children died it is sad. However you want to put it, it is a sad event and nobody wants a reoccurrence of that, or nobody wants it to happen, especially not within this province, but please, let us not politicise it for the heartbroken parents who lost their children. It is a difficult time also for those families, and I want to call on the hon member Marran to take our hand because if you drive through the Western Cape you will see that there are a lot of people staying under

Eskom's high voltage poles; it is very dangerous. There are a lot of people that stay in flood prone areas. We need to deal with those things and if we all work together and not politicise it, it will help to keep our people safe so that we do not have to deal with another tragedy like this.

The hon member Marran then goes on and speaks to the housing and human settlements and spatial upliftment of our people. Now, hon Speaker, I am always stunned by this that it seems like the ANC just live in denial. I mean the last 26 years under ANC Government this country has become bankrupt because of mismanagement, corruption and theft, that is it. I will be too ashamed to stand up here and actually make allegations of why we have not done more in the housing or spatial transformation, etcetera, because the country is basically bankrupt under ANC Government.

To the ACDP, I want to thank hon member Christians because he posed a very difficult question and he will acknowledge that it is a very difficult question. We grapple with it on a daily basis because you also need to find the balance and because, hon member Christians, because of population growth and urbanisation, this is a big headache for all of us. We also want people to have a dignified life and how do we pull all these agendas together? We also need to be able to talk to our courts and things because people cannot just jump the queue.

So there is not a single answer to this, except that as a government we struggle and grapple with this on a daily basis, also taking cognisance of the

people on the waiting list for long.

To the hon member Marais – †ai, oom Piet, my pa het my geleer ek moet grootmense mooi respekteer so ek moet mooi antwoord. Ek het net een vraag: toe u Premier was, hoekom het u toe nie die Omgewingskommissaris aangestel nie? Want dit was nog al die jare in ons Grondwet.

So kom ons maak nie hiervan politiek nie. Ons probeer ons uiterste bes met al die wetgewing tot ons beskikking en die wetgewende raamwerk het oor dekades so verander dat al wat ons sê is dat op hierdie stadium is dit nie die regte besluit nie. So kom ons neem hande en ons doen wat die beste is vir die Wes-Kaap. Daar is genoeg wigte en teenwigte om ons omgewing te beskerm indien ons almal saamwerk.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

*[ai, Oom Piet, my father taught me to respect adults properly so I have to reply carefully. I have only one question: when you were Premier, why did you not appoint the Environmental Commissioner? Because it has been in our Constitution all these years.*

So let us not make politics out of this. We are trying our best with all the legislation at our disposal and the legislative framework has changed so much over the decades that all we can say is that at this stage it is not the right decision. So let us join hands and do what is best for the Western Cape.

There are enough checks and balances to protect our environment if we all work together.]

To the hon member Brinkhuis, just one request, obviously we're under pressure because people want to move to the Western Cape because of a better life; it is the only province where they can get a better life, but for us as a government it is an ongoing challenge and yes, we want to do more on the water, sanitation, waste front, but let us not speak to the influx of people, let us respect people. People got the right to move and I think you will acknowledge that. People – "influx" is a very hard and cold word. I respect people who wants to come to a province where they want to get something better for their family.

Hon Speaker, I also want, in conclusion, to thank my Ministry for their hard work, for supporting me, for helping us landing this budget. It is very difficult, we all acknowledge that, but I am very proud to be associated with this Department and with that I want to table the Budget for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and the entity CapeNature, I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Premier, hon members, that concludes the debate on this Vote. Hon Minister, if you do not mind switching off your mic there. Thank you.

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

†Die SEKRETARIS: Debat oor Begrotingspos 14 – Plaaslike Regering – Wes-Kaapse Begrotingswetsontwerp [W4 - 2021]

[The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 14 – Local Government – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4 - 2021]]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, I now recognise the Minister for Local Government, and that is hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier of the Western Cape, Provincial Cabinet colleagues and members of the Legislature, Head of the Department, Mr Graham Paulse, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Today it is my privilege to present the 2021 Budget for the Department of Local Government.

We meet at a time when the Coronavirus continues to be a real disruptive event, one that continues to present enormous challenges to Government. This Department has in many ways, particularly through the Disaster Management Centre, been at the forefront of combating the virus.

I want to take a moment on this platform to thank the Head of the Department, Mr Graham Paulse, and his senior management team, for their ongoing leadership during this difficult time.

I also want to thank all the people in the Department for their tireless efforts over the past year and for the fact that they will continue to work hard despite the new challenging environment we are operating in.

Hon Speaker, the primary goal of this Department, by legislative and other measures, is to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, to exercise their powers and to perform their functions.

In addition, the Department must provide for the monitoring and the support of Local Government and promote the development of Local Government capacity to enable municipalities to perform their function and manage their own affairs.

Recognise that municipalities are at the coalface with communities who need help and better services, and this often results in significant challenges in the provision of adequate infrastructure, service delivery, governance and development.

Hon Speaker, this in turn sees the proliferation of protests which are increasingly violent. In addition, we see large scale land invasions onto parts of the land that are not habitable and indeed pose large safety concerns for the people living there.

The example is that of Driftsands in the City of Cape Town where a

community has settled in an area that is prone to flooding. We are working with the community and others who are in a similar position, to see what can be done to assist them.

Hon Speaker, this Department remains committed in promoting access to small scale economic opportunities for poor communities to alleviate poverty in every municipality. Hon Speaker, we must do what we can to help tackle the scourge of unemployment, poverty and inequality especially in our rural and poorest areas.

In this regard the Community Development Work Programme continues to enhance partnerships and networks with other Government departments, entities and other organisations with economic opportunities to support communities through creating small scale economic projects.

In addition, in the year ahead the Department will continue to leverage off its Thusong Programme to continue to build hubs for poverty reduction, job creation and broad-based community development.

The Department continues to provide training to councillors across this province in order to further strengthen governance within municipalities. The training includes matters of ethics, anti-corruption, legislative roles, and responsibilities as well as draft rules of order.

The Department further continues with close partnerships with the Hanns

Seidel Foundation, with whom a summer school for training councillors has been launched.

The Department is also proud of its partnership with the French Development Agency, a partnership that is aimed at addressing the backlog in the investment in infrastructure in the province.

The project aims to foster an enhanced integrated approach to municipal infrastructure development based on coordinated and sustainable principles.

Hon Speaker, the Department's Budget amounts to R348 664 000 in the 21/22 adjusted downwards to R285 314 000 in 22/23 and with a marginal increase to R293 085 000 in 23/2024.

The Department's allocation increased by R 68 600 000 in the 21/2022 or 24,5% in comparison with the Revised Estimate of R280 million for the 2020/21 financial years.

The Department has received earmarked funds over the MTEF in the following programmes:

- An additional amount of R6 904 000 over the '21 MTEF to support the implementation of the Joint District and Metro Approach.
  
- An amount of R8 662 000 over the '21 MTEF towards strengthening the



Forensic Investigation Unit in the Department. This unit aims to provide better support to municipalities where there may be a need for corruption investigations.

- R5 million towards support to municipalities through the strengthening of public participation and citizen focused interventions
- R50 million is allocated to the Department to coordinate and ensure the implementation of targeted, short-term public employment programmes for communities identified as being in distress. These funds will be transferred through conditional transfers to local municipalities in the Western Cape where and when needed.
- R2,5 million towards the development of a 15-year Western Cape Integrated Drought and Water Response Plan.
- R1,7 million over the '21 MTEF for maintenance and support requirements related to the upgrade and replacement of the Disaster Management Centre Audio Visual Infrastructure
- R32 543 000 for aerial firefighting; additional funding provided to the Department will allow for improved firefighting response related to the increase in fire incidents experienced in this province.

Hon Speaker, we are heading into our winter season and we do expect a wet

and cold winter. On top of the COVID challenges, this will present challenges to communities, especially those residing in low-lying areas and in flood prone regions.

This is particularly relevant to recent land invasions in Driftsands in the City of Cape Town where we are concerned about the proximity to a dam wall in the area.

I want to urge the community to take note of early flood and weather warnings. I want to urge such communities to contact their municipality and determine the risk for flooding and fires in their communities, and to seek help from the municipality to see if alternative arrangements and support are possible.

Hon Speaker, on that note I want to thank the disaster entities and responders for their efforts over the past summer fire season where we saw several large wildfires across the province.

Whether these are Government or volunteer or private institutions, it requires a team effort to combat natural disasters and it remains a privilege to be associated with the world class team we have. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now request the hon member Smith to address the House.

Mr D SMITH: Speaker, Premier, MEC for Local Government, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, hon members.

The ANC does not support this Budget Vote. The establishment of the Khoisan Commission in the Western Cape is a historic moment for our province and people.

As our country celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution at Sharpeville, we celebrate the fact that finally recognition will be given to the history of the indigenous people of the Cape.

Finally 12 years after the establishment of the National House of Traditional Leaders in 2009, the Democratic Alliance is forced to recognise our traditional leaders in the unique forum here in the Western Cape.

Despite Provincial Government's concerted efforts to erase our history, slowly but surely we continue to give recognition to Krotoa and Dawid Stuurman, Autshomao. Hopefully one day our schools too, as they promote the Northern Cape, will be able to encourage the learning of !Kung, among other Khoi and San languages.

The ANC in the Western Cape has high hopes for this Khoisan Commission and we hope that it will play a prominent role in the quest for identity for the majority of the inhabitants of the Western Cape.

Speaker, we have been patient for 12 years under the DA rule, for a move to be made such as this, to establish such a commission, it will not only promote leadership, but hopefully language, arts and culture as well. We will continue to be patient with the Department of Local Government as they pursue assessment to provide the Commissioner with resources. We hope that this assessment will be concluded by the end of this financial year.

This budget of course makes no provision for even that assessment and we would have hoped that more funds than a mere R100,000 be allocated. At the same time we remain concerned at the subtle contradiction that exist with the reduction of CDWs, Local Government foot soldiers, as it were, on the one hand, but the increase in training and ward committees in the setting up of them.

CDWs continue to play an important role in the functioning of wards and Local Government, and ensure the continuous link between Government services and the people. Our communities cannot do without this link. CDWs must play an integral role in the Department's rollout of ward committee training and their establishment, as well as the Getting To Know Your Ward Committee campaign.

While the ANC welcomes the small-scale economic activities of projects that ensure the sustainability of the livelihoods of young people, this must not be seen to replace the roles that actors, such as CDWs, play within our communities. However, we remain concerned with the conditions or the

indicators to be developed by either the Department or the municipality for these projects or activities and the R50 million, as we believe this may be open to abuse. In an election year we have cause to be concerned.

At the same time the ANC will continue to ensure that attention is paid to local economic development opportunities, especially for those municipalities which have a low income tax base.

In this respect we are pleased that finally Provincial Government departments are working together and speaking to each other, with the Department of Local Government with the Department of Economic Opportunities and Tourism. If only Public Works and Education could work more with Human Settlements. Yet the cooperation between the Department of Economic Opportunities and Tourism and the Department of Local Government speaks to ensuring more economic opportunities for our municipalities, but even more so, more economic opportunities for our people.

Again, unlike the negative approach of the DA, the ANC caucus promises to work with these departments and will even lobby our national departments to encourage these projects and opportunities in local economic development within our municipalities.

Speaker, the ANC remains concerned with the Local Government challenges that we highlighted in our response to the SOPA over a month ago. We will continue to point out the situation in Swellendam and the need for action by

the MEC and his Department. Anything short of drastic intervention will guarantee that the ANC will not stop talking about Swellendam.

Again we wish to commend the Department for, amongst other, the water resilience programmes, but also having a transversal approach to the drought and water shortages in the province.

We also remain concerned with the rise in the budget for legal services; the large advertising budget in Programme 1, and the remaining large sums budgeted for consultants.

For these reasons, Speaker, we cannot support this budget, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Smith. Hon member, I now call upon the hon member Makamba-Botya to address the House.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Speaker. The municipalities of the Western Cape Province have failed to [Audio distorted.] resources to bring about progressive realisation of the right to housing as required by Section 26 of the South African Constitution, even way before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaker, this is evident by a number of irregular expenditure and corruption cases. Currently we have a huge amount that is being incurred from irregular expenditure monies that should have been used or utilised to build housing

and provide basic services to our poor communities.

Speaker, most municipalities in the province failed to comply with legislation procurement regulations and contracts as required by Section 116 of Local Municipality Finance Management, 56 of 2003, and this has a direct impact on other projects that seek to benefit the poor.

Speaker, there is no intense oversight done to municipalities hence we are sitting with municipalities that are under administration. Municipalities are actually given key performance appraisals without proper monitoring, if whether they adhere or comply, the DA Government is just reactive and only deals with matters of non-compliance after the effects.

The Minister now has just even agreed that our people are in need of basic needs like the issue of housing, hence our people are taking land that is only available and closer to them, regardless of its conditions because they are so desperate and frustrated by the way they have been dumped there by the previous apartheid government. They do not want our people in town centres, hence people grab what they have in front of them, which speaks directly to the failure by the Western Cape Government to implement the spatial planning.

The EFF, Speaker, does not support this Vote, I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Makamba-Botya. Hon members, I

now recognise hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker, the ACDP supports vote 14.

Just two questions. The one is it is not nice to read in the media that in the Western Cape four municipalities are owing Eskom millions of rands: Cederberg, Kannaland, Beaufort West and Matzikama.

So when the Minister talks about oversight and monitoring, it is concerning that municipalities go in the red with millions.

The other question is also in the papers, it is now the Hawks are following up reports that emerged from three municipalities: Bitou, George and Central Karoo, which has been investigated for corruption in the last year. What is the Minister doing to strengthen the Department's monitoring role in order that this will be dealt with? Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Marais.

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Speaker, dankie Minister dat u gesê het dat u ma het u baie goed geleer, dat jy moet ouer mense respekteer.

Nou ek het ook baie goed na my ma geluister. My ma het gesê, "Jong, jy moet die jongeres lei en hulle touwys maak. Hulle het nie altyd al die antwoorde



nie.”

Nou toe ek Premier was in 2001 was daar nie *land invasions* nie. Daar was nie soveel plakkerskampe nie, en die Milkwood Forest in Hermanus het nog gestaan, dit was nie afgekap nie. So ek het nie ’n behoefte gehad om dringend te kyk na ’n Omgewingskommissaris nie.

Minister, om terug te kom na hierdie punt toe.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, thank you Minister that you said that your mother taught you well, you have to respect older people.

Now I have also listened to my mother very well. My mother said, “Jong, you must lead the younger ones and teach them the ropes. They do not always have all the answers.”

Now when I had been Premier in 2001 there were no land invasions. There were not as many squatter camps, and the Milkwood Forest in Hermanus was still standing, it was not chopped down. So I did not have a need to urgently look at an Environmental Commissioner.

Minister, to come back to this point.] I support your vote, but I wish to request that you take a relook and recommend amendments to the Municipal

Structures Act to address current mismanagement issues at local government level, and also to look at the redemarcation and have a word with IEC to say, “Things have changed, the demographics have changed. There are many more people in the Metro especially, and we need to look at the redemarcation and criteria for demarcation of local government.” Just a word of advice ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: ... that my mom said I must share with others.

†Die SPEAKER: Dankie, agbare [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon] – thank you very much, hon member Marais. Hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker, I hear the Minister mentioned about the eradication of inequality here in the Western Cape and especially here in the City of Cape Town. When will we hear the Minister encourage municipalities to give each and every ward a proper budget? R1 million can never be a proper – Minister, R1 million can never be a proper budget for each ward. Thank you very much, Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. Order, hon members. I now recognise the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Local

Government, hon member America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you. Good afternoon, hon Chair, good afternoon, Premier, good afternoon, Minister, good afternoon, my colleagues. It is a pleasure to participate in this debate this afternoon.

Hon Speaker, the Main Appropriation for this Department for this coming financial year amounts to R328,664,000, which represents an increase of 24,5% from last year's Revised Estimates. Our equitable share increased in percentage term, this year compared to last year, by 32,94%.

Hon Speaker, in his 2021 State of the Province Address, the Premier made a number of commitments which have a direct and indirect bearing on this Department. I will speak to some of the projects the Department will do in support of some of the commitments.

1. The Premier calls for the province to lead from the front in South Africa, with new ideas, with better policies and good, clean and accountable government, and it is my pleasure, hon Speaker, to say that that commitment is imbedded and part of the DNA of this Government.
2. Furthermore, the Premier committed us to support and improve governance in the municipalities and this includes pre and post the '21 Local Government Elections.

3. To strengthen the forensic investigation capacity and unit within municipalities, not within municipalities, but in the Department.
4. To coordinate the implementation of the Joint District and Metro Approach for better service delivery.
5. Strengthen citizen interface in partnership with municipalities.

Hon Speaker, in support of the Joint District and Metro Approach and other municipal interventions, the Department committed R7,467,000 over the medium-term, and to strengthen, as the Minister already alluded to, the forensic investigation unit, an amount of R8,662,000 in the medium-term is appropriated to combat corruption in municipalities.

Speaker, improving the interface with citizens. The Department has played a critical role in strengthening the effectiveness of ward committees through supporting municipalities to establish ward committees and providing various capacity building programmes to address developmental challenges in communities, and ensure key role-players work towards a common goal. Communities must become key role-players in understanding and implementing the developmental role of Local Government.

Given that 2021 is the year for the Local Government Elections to take place, this responsibility is critical to ensure that participatory democracy is not compromised.

A major campaign across the length and breadth of the Western Cape is underway, using a variety of different media, as well as community voices, to share accurate and factual information with the public on the vaccines being used. To this end the Department commits to support municipalities with the implementation of communication campaigns relating to COVID-19, including educating citizens about the vaccines.

A further commitment is what we need to develop a comprehensive response plan to ensure preparedness for the anticipated second, third and fourth wave. In support of this, the Department will continue with the implementation of the tried and tested hot spot approach, partnering with key stakeholders, using our communication capacity, and coordinating our responses to our joint operation centre.

This will be further enhanced through the coordination of the hot spot strategy, through the district and Metro approach.

Creating jobs: Hon member Smith, in this financial year 17,700 job opportunities will be created through the Community Works Programme. I want to repeat, this financial year 17,700 work opportunities will be created through the Community Works Programme.

These CDW workers will continue to work with critical stakeholders to implement and/or support programmes aimed at raising awareness about COVID-19 in our communities. To support municipalities for the

strengthening of public participation and citizen-focused intervention, an amount of R17,5 million over the medium-term is committed.

As the Minister alluded to, a further R50 million through conditional transfers to local municipalities is made available this year. Municipalities are required to coordinate and ensure the implementation of targeted short-term public employment programmes for communities identified that are in distress.

Hon Speaker, an exciting feature is that the Department embarked on a number of initiatives and programmes in supporting municipalities to develop strategies to realise gender mainstreaming in the IDP and budget processes of municipalities.

Speaker, at the end of last year the Department launched its Municipal Energy Resilience Project, which will assist municipalities in taking the necessary steps to generate, procure and sell their own power. As part of the first phase, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, in partnership with the Department of Local Government and Provincial Treasury, has already undertaken an assessment process with all municipalities to determine their readiness for and to select those that can be the initial drivers of new energy opportunities in the Western Cape.

The Department will continue to support the Department of Economic Development and Tourism with the implementation of the Energy Resilience

Project.

Hon Speaker, with the expected Local Government Elections this year, there will be new councillors. It is important that councillors are exposed to ongoing training to ensure that they are able to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively. The Department will continue to strengthen and support its support to municipalities pre and post this year's local government elections.

This will include support with the convening of the first council meeting; the training of the new councillors on their roles and responsibilities, including the establishment of ward committees.

The current reality in Local Government is that there are a number of allegations relating to fraud, corruption and maladministration being reported. Moreover there have been changes in political control in certain municipalities brought about by parties forging new coalitions. The past year the Department conducted several assessments in relation to allegations of fraud, corruption and maladministration in municipalities, and during this financial year will continue to strengthen the capacity to conduct investigations in our municipalities.

Often councillors and the public are frustrated with the length of time these investigations take and rightfully so. To strengthen the capacity to investigate and expedite investigations into allegations of fraud and

corruption, the additional amount of R8,662,000 over the medium-term will go a long way. It is a clear indication of our intolerance and zero tolerance approach towards corruption.

Speaker, despite our relentless efforts to root out corruption and maladministration, our tasks are often frustrated by municipalities not under the control of the DA.

A recent example, notwithstanding that the ANC control Matzikama Municipality being investigated by the SUI for alleged PPE corruption, the municipality proceeded to appoint an acting municipal manager who had been released on bail and stand accused of fraud, corruption and money laundering, in criminal proceedings to be heard in the Clanwilliam Magistrate's Court. In addition, two other criminal cases against this official are before the NPA for a decision. Speaker, this really answers it all.

Hon Speaker, this Government is alive to the economic hardships brought on by the pandemic on our people. This resulted in that municipalities face significant challenges in collecting rates from financially distressed ratepayers. This resulted in a significant revenue loss for a number of municipalities, which impacted negatively on the cash flow of municipalities.

The loss of jobs associated with the pandemic has also led to an increase in the indigent households, which municipalities must subsidise. This is a threat for our municipalities as their sustainability largely depends upon the ability



of the residents to pay for the municipal services.

Whilst resources to spend on service delivery continue to be negatively affected, the citizens continue to demand higher quality of services. This manifests itself through illegal land invasions, sustained inward migration of indigent households, protests which often result in the infrastructure, critical to service delivery, being vandalised and destroyed, and as we move closer to the municipal election, this will only increase as the Opposition parties, political opportunists and NPOs acting as front for certain political parties, attempt to destabilise the Western Cape to achieve political advantage in the elections.

The Department, in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, have commissioned the University of Stellenbosch to design a financial and operational sustainability model for municipalities. This model will assist in identifying alternative and additional revenue streams as well as a basket of services and the minimum level of services which municipalities should render to communities.

Hon Speaker, the Department will continue to focus on building water resilience in the province, and ensure that municipalities are better prepared and equipped to proactively manage and respond to future drought occurrences. In this regard the Department has commenced with the development of a 15-year Western Cape Integrated Drought and Water Response Plan, for which an amount of R2,5 million is appropriated for this

year.

Speaker, towards the end of the 2020 the aftershock of three earthquakes was felt once north of Cape Town and twice in several suburbs of the Western Cape. Thankfully no reports of casualty or damages to infrastructure were recorded.

Annual fires and floods are becoming a regular feature of the Western Cape. These events bear testimony to the impact of climate change. Over the past few years, the Western Cape Government has invested and developed a world-class disaster response system to ensure it is better positioned to manage disasters. This includes the continuous training for rescue and emergency personnel who have exposure to assist with major earthquakes and disasters across the world. Although our capabilities are ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Your time is now concluded.

Mr D AMERICA: Speaker, I have ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Two pages. You have 15 minutes. It is finished.

Mr D AMERICA: Speaker, I just need to speak for one minute.

The SPEAKER: No, no, your time is up, that was 16 minutes hon member. I am afraid I cannot. Thank you.

Mr D AMERICA: Last year Speaker, I ended my speech with a song of Bob Dylan, where he stated, 'times are a changing'. The reference has changed ...

[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon America.

Mr D AMERICA: ... and this year I end with Bob Seger, 'we shall overcome'.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon America, the hon members say next time you must start with a song. [Laughter.] Thank you very much, hon America. †Agbare Minister. [Hon Minister.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Let me start off with the hon Chairperson and thank him for his leadership. We can see he has a passion for Local Government. In that passion we sometimes get lost a bit and we do not stick within our times but thank you for your oversight role and for always promoting good and self-governance within our municipalities.

Hon Speaker, to the hon Smith, no surprise there but you know hon Speaker, I want to say through you to the hon Smith, the truth will set you free. †Hoekom kan 'n mens nie net die waarheid praat nie? Dit maak jou vry, soos ons sê aan die Weskus. [Why can't one not just speak the truth? It sets you

free, as we say on the West Coast.]

You know the Khoisan Bill was signed by the President 26 years after democracy. Why did the ANC not sign it earlier? Now today, he wants to politicise this very important piece of legislation and again, hon Speaker, they do not tell the people out there the truth. There is still a long process ahead that National must lead to determine who is going to get recognition or not. So, we must be truthful within this.

Hon Speaker, it is difficult for me, but through you to the hon Smith. He never speaks about the EPWP, the CWP programme, always the CDW [Inaudible. – audio distorted.] of that grouping. They must stop these things. So, I can easily stand here and say he is punting for himself, the CDWP Programme is a good programme. The ANC must stop politicising the programme. Then we will move forward, hon Speaker.

And then hon Speaker, lastly, I do not know why the passion about Swellendam? My advice to the hon member will be to worry about the ANC controlled governments. Swellendam, we will sort them out, as we sort out all the municipalities. We will get to them. We do not treat any municipalities as special. If there are problems, give them to us, we will investigate because it is in the best interests of the people. If we do any project in this Department, we will always be fair, it does not matter which political party is in governance. And I sent the documents to the hon Smith when we divided the funding for the food programmes etc., They can scrutinise it as much as they

like because we live in the light.

To the EFF, just look at the result of the clean audits and we will talk again. To the ACDP, hon Christians, thank you very much for support. Eskom is a big worry for me too and again, look at the governance within those municipalities. Now let me put it, hon Christians, and I think you will agree, there is no reason for a municipality not to pay Eskom or not to pay Water Boards. They get an income, its maths 101. You get an income; you are entitled to put the profit in your budget but pay Eskom and pay the Water Boards. You cannot expect the people to pay you, but you do not pay the Water Boards or pay Eskom.

The corruption and the Hawks, those municipalities, hon Christians, we hand them over to the Hawks. We have done a lot of work through the Forensic Investigation Unit and we hand them over. The problem that I have is that it takes too long to get them in front of a judge and therefore I call on various platforms and I want you to support me on this, we need to build capacity within the Hawks and the NPA. We need to get the State Institutions capacitated so that we can get the criminals in front of the courts, in front of the judges and put them where they belong.

Hon Marais, thank you for supporting the Vote, the Structures Act, the demarcation. I personally think the Structures and the System Act must become one act, it is an ongoing process, ongoing debates on a National level.

Hon Brinkhuis, a million rand. That million rand is definitely not to deal with everything in the wards. It is for small projects and I can promise you, hon Brinkhuis, that the rural municipalities will give what to get a million rand per ward. But there are IDP processes. There is a budget of over nearly 50 billion rand and every single cent must go to providing better services to the people of this province.

Hon Chairperson, hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, allow me again to thank the Chairperson of the Standing Committee and to thank my Ministry for supporting me, for being there day and night to help the people to live a better life in the Western Cape. I thank you. [Applause.]

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote. The Secretary will read the Sixth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 1 – Premier – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4 - 2021]

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

The PREMIER: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much to the honourable members of this House. I want to say as I start, a word of

gratitude and thanks to the Chief Whip for shifting the programme around a bit. Normally Vote 1 is the first one up, but we were supposed to do the President's Coordinating Council this morning. I say supposed because unfortunately it was cancelled this morning despite shifting the Budget Vote to now and we are now going to be doing PCC tomorrow morning, so perhaps I will use this opportunity to excuse myself from the first part of the debates tomorrow morning.

I also want to say, because of the change in programme that I must apologise. Normally the DG would be sitting in the box but also because of the programme he is now chairing the PTM at the moment, but the CFO is logged on to this part of the debate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as a Department, our vision is to enable and lead a capable Western Cape Government by institutionalizing a culture of innovation and collaboration. Over the past year of lockdown, this Government, under the leadership of this Department, has worked more innovatively and collaboratively than ever before.

The Department of the Premier is the engine room of this Government and it has led our COVID-19 response and our recovery interventions, providing the leadership, the support, strategy and data that our departments rely on to get to work in service of the people of this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to do this, the Department of the Premier has been

allocated a budget of R1,748 billion for the 2021/22 financial year. Last month when I delivered my State of the Province Address in Genadendal, I detailed how the Western Cape Government is leading from the front to deliver in the areas of jobs, safety, dignity and wellbeing, and of course to continue with our COVID-19 response.

In the year ahead, hon Deputy Speaker, we will harness innovation and collaboration even further, to become leaner, smarter and even more agile and responsive.

Deputy Speaker, examples of this include:

- Providing policy support to the ECD sector, which this Government has identified as an essential service that we must support, to ensure the smooth transition from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education.
- We will also conduct a scoping exercise to understand the behaviours affecting Early Childhood Development outcomes in the Western Cape, using behaviour change techniques focusing on parents, learners, centre managers and teachers, and partnering with global and local experts. We have earmarked R1,5 million in funding for this purpose.

Deputy Speaker, I also want to say that obviously in the movement of ECD to Education, these decisions are made, and we must sincerely hope they are



made as the right decision, it cannot be just moving deckchairs on the Titanic. And of course, these are the big questions that we ask ourselves in the country today because obviously there are many things in our country that are under severe pressure and of course putting this kind of move in place we need to make sure we have got the correct support for it, that it gives us meaningful change, it makes the biggest difference that we can find for the citizens of our province.

Deputy Speaker, we are currently rolling out a similar partnership between the Western Cape Education Department, institutes of higher learning and international partners to conduct a needs assessment at 10 schools in Cape Town to assess perceptions of violence in schools. This will allow us to see how learners and others in the school community experience and perceive violence. The results will be used to design a pilot study to test the efficacy of violence prevention techniques which we can scale up, if positive results are found.

When I announced the Safety Plan, I said that it would be a data-driven and evidence-led programme and I said that it would put boots on the ground and look at violence prevention. This will be just one of the ways that we are putting this into action.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in June last year, we appointed our first ever Children's Commissioner in the Western Cape. Despite the difficulties she has faced getting out into communities this last year, Ms Christina Nomdo has made

enormous strides, with support from this Department.

A fierce advocate for making children's voices heard, she set about recruiting children to become Child Government Monitors. Since coming into office, she has recruited 45 of these monitors or are currently still working with her. The group includes children with disabilities, from the LGBTQI community, and children who live in care homes.

This group has advised her for submissions to the United Nations, and on the Children's Act. They have made submissions on the reopening of schools during the pandemic, and matrices in the group launched a campaign to make their voices heard on exam rewrites. They have also made submissions to her on topics including sex education and mental health in schools.

And I think this last point, mental health in schools, specifically now, as we have gone through this massively disruptive year as we fought COVID-19; we know that across society mental health is becoming something that we really have to focus on, and I do applaud her and this group of 42 young people in our system who are dealing with the real critical issues that we face.

In what must be a Government first, Deputy Speaker, Ms Nomdo has also allowed children to be part of the interview processes to appoint staff for her office, and they were instrumental in helping develop her brand, and have lived up to her office's slogan "Little Voice Must Count."

Deputy Speaker, in the 2021/22 year, the Children's Commissioner has an earmarked allocation of R9,8 million to continue this important work.

The Commissioner has also just launched her new website and I encourage everyone who has not yet gone to have a look, to do so. ([www.westerncape.gov.za/childrens-commissioner](http://www.westerncape.gov.za/childrens-commissioner)) and please comment to her. She values anybody giving constructive comments as she goes about this very important work.

Deputy Speaker, the Department is also tasked with leading on VIP 5-innovation and culture, so that the people of this province feel that they are our priority.

This Department has budgeted R18,1 million for innovative initiatives in this coming financial year. As part of these plans, we have allocated R3 million in this year, and an additional R4 million in the outer years, for the transformation of the Provincial Training Institute at Kromme Rhee into an innovation and learning hub. This hub will allow us to use new methodologies and technologies for skilling and training and help us come up with innovative solutions to service delivery.

Hon Deputy Speaker, effective service delivery requires every single person in this Government to share our set of values. Those values of innovation, competence, accountability, integrity, responsiveness and of course caring. It requires that we identify talent and develop our staff. It requires us to nurture

and mature our leadership capabilities. We have allocated R4,2 million to these culture change interventions in the current year, and we will include engagements and feedback mechanisms for citizens and employees so that we can monitor and track the progress of these interventions.

To be truly citizen-centric, we must become a leaner, smarter and more agile Government. The Department of the Premier will be taking the lead on this, developing a new way of work, which focuses on the intergovernmental collaboration, and encouraging the kinds of exciting innovation which we put in place in our response to the pandemic, in all areas of our Government. And I think, Deputy Speaker, anybody who knows me, is that innovation that really has driven me in the last year and that innovation that I am so proud of, across this whole Government, and the difference that we made through innovation which is going to be long lasting in our system.

Deputy Speaker, one of the key services this Department delivers to the public is the rollout of broadband and wifi. And over the past year, we have seen the importance of being digitally connected. Whether it was a patient who was able to video-call their loved ones from one of our temporary COVID-19 hospitals or learners using the internet to continue learning, or job seekers connecting to opportunities through accessing our Broadband and Wi-Fi, this has helped us to stay connected at a time when we could not be connected in person.

We have also been able to use technology and our call centres to deliver life-

saving information and interventions to the people of this province.

As part of our digital ecosystem, we operate 47 Cape Access Centres, 1045 public Wifi hotspots, 1911 Broadband sites of which the majority are now over 100 Megabits per second or higher, 13 citizen contact channels and the Western Cape portal.

For the year ahead, earmarked allocations of R375 million and R30 million have been made available for the Broadband rollout, or further Broadband rollout and Wi-Fi\_\_\_33 hotspots respectively.

Over the last year, we have seen our contact centres adapt and change and become involved in our humanitarian response as well as assisting our contact tracing and telemedicine efforts. In the year ahead, this vital service will continue to play an important role in the third wave, and in the vaccine rollout. This is also part of the innovation of how we have taken those most at risk who were diabetics with a comorbidity like that or perhaps a high blood pressure comorbidity, but specifically diabetic, and reduce those most at risk by massive amounts. I am pretty sure that we are going to see awards for even those kinds of interventions where we were phoning those citizens on a daily basis to see how their sugar levels were doing and making sure that we were managing this as best as we could and as it turns out, absolutely world class.

Deputy Speaker, I want to take a moment now to talk about the third wave

and the vaccine rollout. The Western Cape Government's response to COVID-19 has always been based on using the best available data to us to make decisions and sharing that information with the public so that we will bring about behaviour change in our province.

Even with all of the data available to us, we cannot pinpoint exactly when our third wave will come, where it will be or its severity. We do know that we are unlikely to have sufficient vaccines to achieve immunity in the country by then. Vaccines are safe and they are our ticket to economic recovery but our behaviour now and in this moment to come is the most important tool in our toolbox right now to minimize the severity of a third wave, and to save lives.

Deputy Speaker, over the past year, the Western Cape Government rolled out the biggest communications campaign on record for this Government to ensure that people have the information they need to stay safe and protect themselves. We have been absolutely open and transparent with every single thing that we do.

In the year ahead, Deputy Speaker, we have allocated a further R20 million in funding to continue this campaign and to provide information about the safety, efficacy and the rollout of vaccines in the province. For our vaccination campaign to be truly effective, enough people must get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity.

We know that there is still a lot of hesitancy around vaccines which is made worse by large amounts of irresponsible fake news. In countries around the world, communications and social mobilisation are key components of this vaccine rollout. The Western Cape Government is committed to sharing factual, science-based information with our residents so that they can make informed choices when their turn to be vaccinated or those vaccines come around.

Deputy Speaker, I would also just like to, as I close off, say thank you very much to the residents and all of our partners who have worked with us over the past year in fighting this pandemic. And when I say partners, I talk about all of our Government's departments, but also those governments at local government level and at national government level who have worked on a weekly basis with the Police Services, joining our Cabinet meetings, the District Mayors and municipal managers joining our Cabinet meetings. We really have worked very hard and very well together and I want to thank every single one of them and then every single citizen who has played their part in making sure that we flatten the curve, in making sure that we deal with this COVID-19 virus.

I also want to thank those people who have stepped up beyond their comfort zone, who have stepped up to help fellow citizens through feeding schemes and through really making a massive difference on the ground. I want to appeal to people now as we move forward towards these religious holidays that are ahead at the end of the week, that I want to make sure that we all

still continue to remember what we have achieved this last year. Keep this learning alive. Make sure that we continually wear our masks, hand sanitise and wash our hands, avoid those crowded spaces and close contacts.

We all know what to do and we need to use this time specifically to make sure that we keep pushing out this third wave for as long as possible. We will continue, as part of this deal, to play our part with the hotspot management, making sure that where we are picking up any spread of the virus. People know about it. We zoom in, we use the contact tracing systems, we make sure we put that bushfire out. We will only do this together and we will only succeed together.

And then, Deputy Speaker, finally I want to thank first of all, my own office, the full team that gives me that backup every single day, thank you very much. I would also like to thank the Chair and the Standing Committee for the role that they have played, not only in this budget process but of course in the last year. Then I want to thank the DG, every single person in the Department of the Premier and then of course every public servant in this Government who has really gone beyond the call of duty in the last year, I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment. We are not over this yet and I know that you will join us in making sure that we continue to deliver a world class response both as a department but also as a government as we move forward this year. Thank you very much.

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



recognise hon Dugmore. Hon Dugmore, I cannot hear you? Just check you are not on mute.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can you hear me, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you now.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, it is the Department of the Premier that sets the tone for the Province. Its Annual Performance Plan and its own Budget ... [audio distorted.] the provincial departments. What is prioritised and what is not.

As the ANC we have made the argument that the DA's so-called equal opportunities society is essentially a mask for its fightback against redress as required by our National Constitution. Fit for purpose has become an excuse to ignore the imperative of building a representative and a capable public service in the Western Cape. This Department's shocking lack of representivity in its senior and top management is in essence a licence to all other departments to undermine the need for employment equity. The current state of representivity in the senior and top management in the Department of the Premier is as follows:

People who have been classified Coloured 50%; African 7%; White 35%; and Indian 5%.

The representivity of managers from the coloured communities are consistent with the population of our province, however, the fact that managers from the African community make up only 7% of senior managers is nothing less than a disgrace. This trend started under the former Premier and is simply getting worse. There are only, Deputy Speaker, four out of 67 managers, at senior management and top level in the Department of the Premier that are African. And this when the following demographic breakdown in the province, according to Census 2011 is Coloured 48,8%, African 32,8%, White 15,7 and Indian 1%.

Neither the Premier nor any of his MECs ever raised a lack of representivity in senior management in the leadership of the provincial departments. Hansard will show this to be true. In this entire budget process can any member of this House recall any mention by any MEC about the lack of representivity? It is almost as though they have been banned by the DA from ever raising the race issue.

Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, if he or the DA has banned the MEC from ever raising the issue of employment equity in their public pronouncements. I searched the Annual Performance Plan and on section People Management there is not one word about plans to address the situation. The situation is a disgrace as I have said and what is more disgraceful, Deputy Speaker, is that there no acknowledgement of this by the Premier or any attempt at all to address it.

In our discussions on this Vote last week, we pointed out that the majority of the Western Cape departments had failed to comply with the legal obligation of reporting to the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Commission on progress regarding the implementation of this law. The Premier then claimed that all departments had submitted reports but failed to inform the Committee when this was done and this conduct in fact amounts to misleading the House.

I want to quote from a letter sent to the hon Nkondlo by the BBBEE Commissioner, Ms Zodwa Ntuli, and that letter was dated 7 February 2021. Ms Ntuli writes:

“In the light of the state of transformation as outlined above, our records show that only two compliance reports were submitted by the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Wesgro. The Western Cape Education Department did make an attempt to submit its report, however the report was incomplete due to the absence of a BBBEE certificate and therefore the report was not counted as having complied with Section 13 G1.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, by 7 February 2021, the Department of the Premier and all other departments of this Provincial Government, except Economic Development and Wesgro, had not submitted their reports. Thus Speaker, I challenge the Premier today to not mislead this House again. He needs to inform us of the date of the letter that he quoted from in which he claims the

reports were submitted. It would seem that these submissions were a rushed compliance job due to the letter sent by member Nkondlo and subsequently responded to by Commissioner Ntuli. And this is our point, hon Deputy Speaker, regarding the role of the Department of the Premier.

Instead of leading by example regarding employment equity in senior management or this Department and all others, and instead of giving leadership through the transformation of the ownership of the provincial economy by embracing the need for Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment in regard to procurement, in the favour of Black South Africans, Coloured, African and Indian this Department has in fact led the pack in non-compliance. The Department of the Premier has in reality been leading efforts to undermine national legislation aimed at transforming our country and the province.

The Centre for e-Innovation will control over R1,186 billion of this Department's budget. The Department also spends large amounts on communication, over R35 million will be spent in this financial year. I challenge the Premier to inform this House what plans are in place to ensure that black-owned tech companies and by black, I mean Coloured, African and Indian, will benefit from the spend in regard to the consultants employed by the Province, over R900 million. A similar question must be answered.

Thus, it would be true to say that the DA is leading from the front in maintaining the racially based ownership patterns of this provincial economy.

The DA is leading from the front in resisting the creation of a representative and capable public service by undermining employment equity.

I would now like to say something about technology and data-based decision making. While we know that the Fourth Industrial Revolution has its genesis since at least 30 years ago, our ability to leap into fifth generation technology could not have come at a worse time. The intersection between the paths of 5G and COVID-19 has led to a surge in support for what we have come to know as techno and pharma sceptics. On the extreme and among others, techno sceptics have promoted conspiracies that 5G is about control, surveillance and being overtaken by robots and robotics.

The other extreme, we have heard pharma sceptics suggesting that the COVID-19 vaccine is really a chip that will be placed in all of us so that our governments and others can control us. No need to mention that these suggestions are ludicrous.

The challenge though that we have at this point in history and as this 5G and COVID-19 intersection takes place, is in the fact the overall crisis of neo liberalism which refuses to acknowledge the deep-seated reasons for inequality in our world. The philosophy and policies that discard the importance of gender, of class, of race have served as a fertile ground for those techno and pharma sceptics to become mainstream. Even worse, these sceptics and conspiracy theorists are leading governments across the world.

My concern is that this Provincial Government by its conduct in certain instances has sometimes confirmed these views. The Premier called the beach ban non-sensical and said that it had no basis in science. No doubt this fuelled the beach protests. All of us witnessed some of the interviews with those who protested without masks, called COVID-19 a hoax and sprouted a host of conspiracy theories. They were never condemned by the Premier because their conspiracy theories of these denialists at the time played into the DA's view that the beach ban was nonsensical. What is to stop such protestors going into shops without masks?

All of us know how many beaches becomes absolutely packed over the December holidays. The fact that South Africa went into a hard lockdown over the December period no doubt contributed to helping to contain the second wave.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please finish off.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you finish off your last sentence, your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much. So, the rush by the DA and the Premier to lift the ban on the sale of alcohol against the science provided by the Provincial Health Department shows that

the DA will use science when it wants to and ignore science when it wants to.  
I thank you.

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. This Department is one department led by a denialist, a denialist in all forms and areas that challenge our people. Worst of all, as hon Dugmore has already alluded to, the denial that alcohol has a direct impact on lives and the health system in our province. The recklessness of this Government in the handling of issues that were caused by COVID-19 was due to the reckless approach of the political head of this province.

It is the very same Department that spends money, even in this current vote, that tells us how to address issues of social cohesion, when this province is one of the most racist provinces in South Africa with a number of racist impacts that have affected our people, such as Brackenfell High School where the Government was seen to be taking the side of the racists instead of uniting the people of the province.

It is this very same Department that spends this money and departments such as Human Settlements who have failed to give people housing of which we see a number of shacks and informal settlements suffering from fires from time to time. As we are approaching winter, this Department has not even

looked at how is it going to address the issue of flooding which our people are always enduring in the Western Cape under the current leadership of the Democratic Alliance.

There is nothing from the Premier that talks to the interests of our people and we have no confidence that he has any foresight of how to lead this province going forward. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP launched a High Court application against the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority and the Minister of Health to secure access to Ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

In the debate on the State of the Province Address, when I said the Province must join the ACDP in this fight, he said that the University of Stellenbosch was looking at research. As the ACDP we want to know how far is this research and is he considering Ivermectin to help us in the absence of vaccines? Now we see again that organisations are taking the Government and the Health Minister to court for the use of Ivermectin to be distributed by pharmacists and doctors. I thank you.

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



hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Premier, I want to latch onto what my friend Mr Christians has said. AfriForum took this matter of Ivermectin to court, and it is now an order of the Court that a medical practitioner can start treating a patient with Ivermectin. Without having to wait for approval of a submitted Article 21 application, they can have quick access to Ivermectin.

Now I want to know how ready and prepared are Western Cape hospitals should a patient, requested on doctors' orders, do you have Ivermectin on standby in our hospitals or only the Johnson & Johnson vaccine because this Ivermectin, I know of six of my friends who took it and they recovered within three days?

I have got my own son who recovered within four days from being very sick with COVID-19, using 1ml of Ivermectin. Now I want to know why do we not have it if we have it in our hospitals? It is a Court order, so it is legal.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I recognise hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I am covered, thank you very much.

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

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon Premier and members of the House. Hon Deputy Speaker, we welcome the Department of the Premier's Budget of Hope which truly lives up to its name. When you budget well and you spend well, you have hope. That is the difference brought about by the DA-led Government. We give hope where we govern.

And coming to a point quickly, hon Deputy Speaker, if I may, hypocrisy and I do not even think sometimes people think when they speak about hypocrisy. Was it not some members of this House who marched during lockdown on the N2 with massive crowds, ANC members actually, with no masks? But now hon Dugmore via you, Deputy Speaker, wants to lecture the Premier about beach marches. Was it not the EFF members that marched to the school in Brackenfell, massive spreader events, yet they want to lecture the Premier about beach marches of which we have no control over, yet other members who have control over their members want to lecture the Premier? Is that not a bit rich, hon Deputy Speaker?

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Department of the Premier has massive foresight and planning, and we can see this in their allocation of their budget addressing the needs of COVID-19 for the coming financial year, particularly around communication. And hon Deputy Speaker, like I said last week, when I addressed the Third Adjustment Budget Vote, communication is the key to

success. Communication, communication, communication. And the Western Cape Department of the Premier has been at the forefront in arguably being the best communicating department, without a doubt, in the country.

We consistently see this Department outperforming its peers in other provinces and the Department received a clean audit for the last six financial years as well as improving its budget spend. It is commendable that the Department of the Premier will not stand back and will continue to do more with less and hon Deputy Speaker, it was the National Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni who said, 'that the ANC Government owes a lot of people a lot of money'. The Government owes a lot of people a lot of money. And that was due to the ANC mismanagement, ANC corruption, ANC malfeasance and that is why we are here today. That every single department, every single municipality in this country is under pressure because of the ANC Government.

And let me come back to that point, hon Deputy Speaker, because some of these points were made by other members in the political debates. It was ANC members that marched to court when their CEO, their Secretary General, Ace Magashule, was outside the Free State High Court. Yet today, we have members of the ANC in this House wanting to ask the Premier about a matter that is unrelated to him. Beach goers have got nothing to do with the Premier, they are not even members of the Premier's organisation. Yet ANC members were bussed in to support the ANC Secretary General in front of the court.

Deputy Speaker, I am particularly pleased with the R20 million allocated for communication around the COVID-19 disease because that is how we are going to deal with this disease, communicating to over five million people in this province about the challenges relating to COVID-19. The Department of the Premier, their history and their track record have been excellent in providing key interventions in the mitigation of COVID-19.

The Department's Centre for e-Innovation has stepped up to the challenges faced by hospitals with their paperless systems and providing internet access which is even more critical during this time. Its Provincial Strategic Management Programme is further one which helps steer the Government and looks to incoming challenges and developments, for example the policy support for the ECDs in the upcoming transfer from Education to Social Development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I also want to welcome the support for the Children's Commissioner and as we all see on social media, whether you are on Twitter or on Facebook, she has been extremely active around the Western Cape and I want to encourage all members to not only follow her on social media but also spread the word and share the great content that she shares.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the stability of the Western Cape Government is the difference between this Government and this Department of the Premier and other governments. And like I normally do, hon Deputy Speaker, I took the courtesy this morning of taking six other provincial governments in the

country and I have taken the best of the worst and even taken the best of the worst, Deputy Speaker. It will leave you absolutely shocked. The ANC standards ... [audio distorted].

Out of their Departments of the Premier, I have taken Mpumalanga as an example. It seems like they are an acting department. Out of the top fifteen executives in their department: Deputy Director General Mr Mabaso (Acting), Mr Dlalisa (Acting), Mrs Ramochete (Acting), Mr Nkuna (Acting), Mrs Schuber (Acting), Mrs Lamamobasa (Acting), Chief Director Communications (Vacant). Acting, acting, the whole top management structure. How do you run a government department like that?

That is the difference between the Western Cape Department of the Premier versus the other departments of the Premier in the rest of the country and that Deputy Speaker, is the best of the worst. By the ANC standards that will be the best and if you go two years into those departments, Deputy Speaker, it has been like that for the last two years. Absolutely shocking, but by ANC standards that is their best.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Broadband and access to technology will continue to define our generation. It is what sets apart this great Department of the Premier versus the weak departments from the other provinces. For example, in one year the Department of Health, through the Western Cape Department of the Premier, have benefited with over R6 million in savings thanks to the installation of Broadband services. That is value for money, particularly in

the last year when the Department of Health needed it the most. That goes to the heart of good governance and the culture and the change of innovation that this Department of the Premier stands for.

We therefore fully support the Department of the Premier's Advancement of Youth Project and we are looking forward to welcoming our youth in the new opportunities that are coming. The Department will look to employ successful candidates over the next financial year. Between 70 and 80 young people will have access to this career launching opportunity and since 2012, hon Deputy Speaker, over 5000 youth benefited from this opportunity.

From the allocations as highlighted last week in the Committee, it is clear that the Department has done extremely well in budgeting for the worst because the ANC has caused us to owe a lot of people a lot of money. We will continue to hold the Department of the Premier accountable and look forward to seeing them in committees over the next few weeks and months. We hold our own colleagues to account and will ensure that they continue to perform well despite the continuous financial challenges. The DA fully supports the Budget allocation for the Department of the Premier and we welcome all members to do the same. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Mackenzie. I now recognise hon Premier Winde.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker and thank you very

much to all those members of this Parliament who had inputs in this budget debate.

I think first of all I will start with the Chair, hon Mackenzie. Thank you very much, thank you for your input, thank you for your leadership in the Committee itself and specifically thank you for your passion when it comes to specifically empowering the youth, the young people in our region. We know that it is something that we have to focus on because unfortunately in our country, the policies and the systems in which we operate in as a country, are not conducive to creating job opportunities and job environments for young people. We sadly have the highest youth unemployment rate in the world in South Africa. But I will get a little bit more to those policies just now.

Also, the linkage of lives and livelihoods. And of course, those have been the rough decision that we have had to deal with based on our data, based on our science, based on those advisors to make the best decisions we can, to get that balance right, the balance between lives and livelihoods. As we battle through this pandemic, as we battle through getting supply of vaccines, approval of vaccines, the process, but even before this as we battled positions on whether we should feed children in our schools or not, battled positions of when we should open our schools or should not, or of course the whole battle on positions on our beaches, but I will get back to that just now as well.

But Chair, thank you very much for your dedication, thank you very much for

leading this Committee, for the oversight role that you play. I really do appreciate it.

Then getting to the hon members who have added to this debate today. Very interesting. We are in this budget debate and of course true to what we would expect, the hon Dugmore spends his own time looking at bean counting, looking at whether the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment letter written to us on 7 February has had an answer and in actual fact, that the replies are untrue and coming here and just coming with a whole load of nonsense.

You know he is one of these guys that really stands out about fiddling while Rome burns and I will get to that just now when we look at the kind of input he is putting in here versus the reality both in fact, but also the reality when we get to having a look at what is happening in South Africa today which is being led by his political party. He actually failed in his opportunity to utilise this debate time to really put meaningful input.

But let me deal with some of these questions that he has asked. He asked a question about a letter and he talks about a letter to one of his hon members and he talks about a letter from the Broad-based Black Empowerment Act and of course, the Commissioner. And so, let me perhaps refer him to – he talks about a letter of 7 February. I think I am going to rather refer him to a letter of 24 February, one that I did refer him to when we had the Standing Committee meeting. And of course, we all understand that there is a process



of when you submit to the Commissioner and as has been our practice, as always in this Government, we submit to the Commissioner within the 30 days, which is within the requirement, once that document has been tabled to the Scopa Committee.

Of course, we do that because we respect this specific House and what the oversight role is of this specific Parliament. Because why would we submit as a government before we have even given the oversight role the Standing Committee has here in this Legislature. It makes good governance sense to do so. So, he starts fiddling around while Rome is burning on a letter from 7 February etc. But I will quote from a letter of 24 February which was in answer to that letter from the Commissioner and of course, as we submitted all of our reports. It says:

“Dear Ms Ntuli, Your communication of 2 February” – of course the one of 7 February was the political one to the ANC – but 2 February regarding the abovementioned matters. “The Western Cape Government always strives to ensure strict compliance with all applicable regulatory prescripts and accordingly note, with appreciation your advice and always awareness campaign in relation to the implementation of the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Act.”

And then in a more recent meeting held 18 February which our Provincial Treasury attended; National Treasury resolved to raise this matter. This is in conjunction with the process, we is actually taking it up. We have been doing

it since 2018. But, however, despite these discussions which we are having, we are in full compliance with our Department's annual financial statements and annual reports as per Section 13(g) of the Act, our understanding of regulation 12(2)7.

On 19 February 2021 the Western Cape Government Provincial Treasury, office of the Accountant General, issued a clarification in respect of the reporting obligations under the Act, Annexure C, in which it was advised that all Western Cape institutions were to submit their annual reports to Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Commission and further indicated that further guidance will be provided for the 2021 reporting cycle.

All Western Cape departments and entities have confirmed that they have submitted their annual report to the Commission within 30 days after appearing before the Standing Committee on public accounts. The Scopa annual report session took place from 25 to 29 January. From 29 January these have to be submitted within 30 days, and this happened.

So, I do not know where you come with your fiddling or you do not follow through or you just do not listen to answers given to you in the Standing Committee. You continue to raise the same question that you raised in the Standing Committee, of which we gave you the answer, gave you the date of the letter, and of course, you just raised exactly the same question again. It is about politicking, counting or fiddling while Rome burns and doing nothing else.

This while you are fiddling is while this ANC-led Government of yours is supposedly leading from the front, in failing South Africa. They fail in policies, they fail in taking our country to a debt crisis, almost pushing us over the edge. I cannot wait for the financial institutions of the world to step in, I am pretty sure ... [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: Point of order.

The PREMIER: Look at the SOE crisis that your party has led us to, look at the blackouts and the Eskom track record ... [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker ....

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: ... SAPS failures, youth unemployment, the worse in the world, unemployment of the worst in the world, nothing run by the ANC works.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, if you can just take your seat. Hon member why are you not raising your hand in the raising hand function in order to for me to see who is actually asking for my attention? What is your point of order? Who am I speaking to?

Mr M XEGO: You are speaking to member Xego.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order member?

Mr M XEGO: The Premier is addressing the hon Dugmore directly under your watch and he is directly attacking him as a person, and you are not protecting the member. He must address the hon member through you Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted. Thank you, hon member. Premier, please address the Chair you may then proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker and through you, the hon member raising this point of order, which was not a point of order. Interesting how he is allowed to say anything he can about me, but now he stands up and defends the ANC. That probably just shows you exactly where they are ... [Interjection.]. The ANC Youth League, sounds exactly right.

The hon Dugmore also then goes on to talk about the beach ban and saying it goes against the Department and quite interesting because obviously what he does not do is listen to what the Department says. In actual fact, the data provided by the study from the Department of Health in this Province, was the data that we took when we went to National Government to say to them that in actual fact banning beaches during this time and not giving local authorities the chance to manage their beaches, which was an economic disaster, has got no basis in science whatsoever.

It was not going against the Department, it was actually the Department of Health study that showed that open space including beaches and parks, you are 18 times less likely to contract the virus than in any closed environment. It was definitely much safer in the outdoors. But of course, the ANC, under the leader of Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, who really would like to rather be the President and is abusing these disaster declarations and this time to kind of showcase her power but at the same time, make the people of this country poorer, does not base anything on science and I see the hon Leader of the Opposition does not do that either.

We see the cost to the economy of not getting that balance right, absolutely shocking and unacceptable. And of course, the data shows us that in making these decisions based on data and science is exactly why we get the best results that we do despite the policies of the ANC, despite this ANC taking us down to the bottom of the ocean like the sinking Titanic. In this province where we do everything based on science, on data, on technology, really looking at making the best decisions we can.

It is quite interesting, having a look at the last quarter report on the highest official expanded unemployment rates in the country and you have a look at every single province and how they are so out of kilter compared to the Western Cape. 22,5% unemployment rate, the closest to us being Limpopo at 27%. But if we have a look at Limpopo, they are almost the highest in the country when it goes to expanded at 47,5% where we are 26% and of course every single other province gets worse than that. Every other province is

worse than Limpopo. I mean come on.

Then of course, let us have a look at data and science and let us have a look at the highest percentage of workers who work five days a week. The Western Cape is the best, followed by Gauteng and then Kwa-Zulu Natal. Again here, not just closely followed by, and we are talking about Gauteng, a major engine room in our economy. These are people who now despite the balance, despite the time we find ourselves in, despite what the ANC tried to do around lockdowns and closing of the economy and not getting this balance right, in the Western Cape we are sitting at 74,9% of people getting back to five days a week work. The closest to our 74,9% is Gauteng with 63,7% and it is shocking.

It just shows you that whatever the ANC does, however they count their beans, however they fiddle on this burning ship, it is continuing to sink, and it is about time the hon member spoke to his political party to say surely, we must ask the question why? Why are we not changing things? Surely, we should go and relook at our policies because just keeping on, keeping on is just making sure the Titanic is going to hit the ocean floor.

Then of course the hon Xego who raises the question as to whether I can speak, Madam Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon Dugmore, and of course I am not allowed to attack him personally. I mean his words to me is my reckless approach in dealing with COVID-19. Well, the hon Xego, absolutely far from it. Your reckless approach on leading marches during

times when we should have minimum numbers of people gathering and wearing masks, that is a reckless approach hon member, through you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I look at what he says about flooding in winter and that is a really good point and obviously he did not listen to a word of the previous debate when the hon Minister Bredell spoke about warnings of people settling in floodplains and warnings of people settling below dam walls which are likely to break this season, sending out whatever message we can: please do not illegally occupy this land and put yourselves at risk. So much so, in the last Cabinet meeting we have to actually take a decision as Cabinet now to go to court, to ask the courts to give us support in evicting people that are sitting in those floodplains or under the risk of those burst dam walls because the last thing we want is to lose life now in this winter. People are openly defying these processes and illegally occupying land in these flooded spaces that he speaks about.

Then of course, the hon Christians and the hon Marais. This Province prides itself on trying out new medicines, trying out new ways of minimising risks, specifically over this COVID-19 period and I notice both of you speak about Ivermectin. Of course, exactly as you say, we always say every decision you make must be based on the science. I have seen and read many, many reports on Ivermectin, both positive and negative. I spoke about the one study that is happening between – not only Stellenbosch University hon member Christians, it is Stellenbosch and UCT together doing an Ivermectin study –

but you will also note that in actual fact any doctor can prescribe Ivermectin if they feel that they want to right now. I know that they wanted them to also play a part in the research and I can assure I have read lots of documents.

I have read documents of how it has been approached in other countries. I mentioned Peru and I asked you to go and search the documents from Peru. Peru in the first wave, last year this time, were approving Ivermectin by the Minister of Health as a use for dealing with COVID-19. Unfortunately, if you read the documents today, in their third wave, they are not as conclusive. So, we need to make sure we base whatever we do on research. But if it works for you, use it. Your doctor can prescribe it.

The same as Dexamethasone and we found the results of Dexamethasone were really good. No doctor today, if you go and see them, once contracting COVID-19, will not prescribe blood thinners because we know that blood thinners actually help you deal with this virus but so does oxygen, so does a hospital bed and so definitely does the Western Cape Health Department.

They have been outstanding in making sure we do whatever we can to save lives. So, to both of you, doctors can prescribe Ivermectin and so absolutely, it is there, it is available, and it can be used by all doctors in this province.

I think with that hon Deputy Speaker, I want to say thank you very much once again, lots of discussion perhaps around other things and not necessarily on the budget. Unfortunately, in our country at the moment we are under



severe pressure. We have less and less taxable income because we have lost so many jobs, specifically in this last year. But if I take you back to pre-Covid times, we were already in deep, deep trouble in South Africa.

Our corruption record, our mismanagement and bad policies have actually taken us over many years and specifically I want to say in the last 11 or so years, into a desperate space in our country where we have not got enough electricity to attract investors, where we are really putting the wrong policies in place around getting our economy and jobs going. We are counting beans while the Titanic is sinking.

We really have to have a look at a brand-new approach and I definitely need the ANC to stop being so divided. I mean let us just take this last weekend. We have not got anywhere in this last weekend with the divisions within the ANC. We need to deal with the corruption, we need to fix policy direction, or we just need to vote them out of power, one or other but of course the ...  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The PREMIER: ... budgets are really difficult to balance books at this time and I thank everybody for participating in this Budget debate and with that, Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you very much.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, can I just ask you to heed the call around frivolous interruptions because you are actually violating Rule 40 and please, once again if you have a proper point of order, you use your hand signal on your Teams application. I will not tolerate frivolous points of order or an interruption which we have agreed is a Standing Rule for these Votes. Thank you very much. The Secretary will read the seventh Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 7 Social Development - Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4 - 2021]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I recognise the hon Minister Fernandez.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, all hon members, residents of the Western Cape, good afternoon. Deputy Speaker, can I ask, can you hear me clearly?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you clearly, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is important that we recognise the impact of COVID-19 on our country and our province. The first and second wave required that we dig deep as a province to combat the consequences of COVID-19 in the social sector, a sector that has been pushed to the brink due to some irrational

regulations imposed as part of the Disaster Management Act, amongst others.

Deputy Speaker, it is important to acknowledge the contribution ... [Audio distorted.] society, the NPO, CBO and faith-based organisation sectors amongst others, as well as the many individual South Africans who have stepped up to assist with humanitarian aid throughout the pandemic. Deputy Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to mention the failure of SASSA to deliver on their mandate as specified in the Social Assistance Act. We have seen undue pressure placed on provinces due to their failure.

We have seen court challenges on hot food, non-payment of funds to NPOs and ECDs and sadly, the water bombing of the most vulnerable in wheelchairs in Bellville whilst awaiting the processing of temporary disability grants. Hon Deputy Speaker, I must also alert this august House to the termination of the social relief of distress R350 grant that will be terminated at the end of April, leaving some 400,000 beneficiaries in this province without any source of income. So, in a meeting with SASSA earlier today, I posed the question. They had 52 000 temporary disability grants to process. They cannot account for 12 645 beneficiaries. I have requested that they come up with a plan and provide us with that detail and I have also asked them what will happen after 30 April when the social relief of distress grant is discontinued, and they were unable to provide me with any plan at this late stage of the game.

So, Deputy Speaker, the future looks bleak. However, we must keep hope

alive and it is within this context that I rise to table the 2021/2022 Budget for Social Development. For the 2021/2022 financial year the Department's total budget is R2,663 billion which is R29,237 million less than the current financial year's Revised Estimates. Whilst the year-on-year comparison reflects a decrease in the 2021/22 Budget, it is important for the House to note the once-off expenditure received late in the current financial year. This was in the form of an ECD Stimulus Grant of R53 million and a once-off allocation of R51 million for food relief which is not provided for in the new budget.

So, the major shifts, Deputy Speaker, taking our lead from the Western Cape Recovery Plan, specifically the wellbeing and safety priorities, the Department's focus during the 21/2022 financial year will be on maintaining delivery of statutory and court ordered interventions. This is our core business. We will continue to work on the institutionalisation of the integrated Isibindi Programme and as such R14,375 million has been allocated to the expansion of the Isibindi Programme.

We remain acutely aware of the food crises that we are facing in the city and in the province and country as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impact thereof. Hon Deputy Speaker, providing humanitarian relief support to communities remains a key priority for the Department as we continue to mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As such a further R25 million has been allocated by the Department for social distress to vulnerable families that includes, amongst others, allocations towards food

distribution centres and community nutrition development centres.

The support we are providing to homeless citizens has increased. We have already funded 500 bed spaces as well as the accompanying reintegration services and these 500 additional bed spaces will be in homeless shelters that are situated outside the City Metro area to assist homeless citizens who require accommodation, psycho-social support and are residing in rural areas. We prioritised the homeless by providing R35 million to 27 shelters which will now be providing 2,499 bed spaces each day.

We are cognisant of the crucial role that these shelters play in ensuring that this vulnerable grouping is treated with respect and dignity and having their basic needs met. DSD assists the homeless by fully or partially funding NPOs that work directly to get people who are homeless into their centres to empower them with skills training, uniting them with their families and integrating them into communities.

We have allocated R23 million towards combatting gender-based violence. Just last week Friday, I launched the Marigold Safehouse in the Central Karoo, which is the first of six shelters that the Provincial Department of Social Development, with the support of its non-profit organisation partners, plan on opening throughout the year. I am also pleased to alert the House today that the Marygold Safehouse is also the first to be opened in the country following the respective properties made available by Minister De Lille from the Department of National Public Works for gender-based

violence safehouses in all the provinces. Once again, the Western Cape leads.

The Department with the support of a Government GBV Transversal Committee established a process to finalise the province's first ever Gender-based Violence Implementation plan, which is guided by the National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide.

Hon Deputy Speaker, addressing violence, in particular gender-based violence, requires a clearly defined set of strategies that mobilise the resources, knowledge, creativity and concerns of various stakeholders in society. Therefore, if we are going to be successful in our efforts to address this shadow pandemic, all spheres of government and all of society must come together.

We also within the Department, focus on the provision of PPE to both funded and non-funded NGOs. The Department has reprioritised funding to ensure that all our services and facilities, both funded and unfunded, are equipped with the necessary resources to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. As such, an amount of R11 600 million has been made available towards the provision of PPE to NGOs working in the older persons sector, persons with disabilities and child protection sectors through Covid related assistance.

Many NGOs, businesses, faith-based organisations and international government entities have made donations to the Western Cape Government, as a whole, and in particular to DSD. Donations have included personal

protective gear as well as the decontamination services. These have been distributed amongst vulnerable groups particularly in COVID-19 hotspot areas. These donations have supplemented the extra support given by the Department of Social Development to facilities showcasing the difference a whole of society approach can make in addressing COVID-19.

The Department also has a Sanitary Dignity Project and we have allocated R10,509 million towards that project and it entails the provision of sanitary products to female learners. We remain aware that more work is needed to fully understand the stigma associated with menstruation to effectively break the silence and to advance work towards realisation of women's rights and an understanding of gender equality that enables women to succeed. As of February 2021, 554 508 packets of sanitary pads have been distributed amongst up to 90,000 female learners. We will continue to honour the dignity and wellbeing of as many female learners as we can through this great initiative.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organisations who continue to donate essential sanitary resources to those in need and in so doing help us in our fight to address the plight of female learners who are vulnerable and cannot properly manage their menses every month whilst attending school.

The provision of R20,910 million towards our Social Worker Graduate Programme is also there. We are assisting 143 social work graduates because as a department, we know how important this opportunity is for ensuring that

graduates are provided with experience in the field.

Deputy Speaker, DSD is a department that deals with the most wounded, the most vulnerable and the most broken in society and it is only through a whole of government and a whole of society approach that we can assist those who most need the support at this difficult time.

So, in conclusion, I wish to say that the road ahead is indeed a challenging one, but the task or challenge is one that we can overcome if we work together. I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, the hon Bosman, for doing an excellent job in chairing the Committee. I wish to thank all the Committee members for their robust, transparent, yet dignified engagement that we have enjoyed over the years.

I also wish to thank Dr Macdonald and the senior management team for displaying ethical leadership, the transparency that is so required from Parliament in terms of oversight and accountability and more importantly, I would like to thank every single official who forms part of our DSD family. We have just over 2 500 employees and they all have made a difference. Sadly, we have lost nine staff members during this last reporting period to COVID-19, and I wish to convey my condolences to the family members of the nine staff affected.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Head of Ministry, Miss Ananda Nel, for running a tight ship and every single staff member in



the Ministry who works tirelessly 24/7 to ensure that I am able to give effect to the work that I need to do. I wish to thank them, they are indeed the wind beneath my wings. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Fernandez. I now call on hon Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you loud and clear.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Minister, hon Premier and [Audio distorted.]. I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to decline support for the Budget Vote. Any Budget Vote that fails to cushion the frontline services from budget reduction can never be supported. The Equitable Share allocation for the Department has decreased from R2 574 billion in the 2020/2021 financial year to R2 524 billion in 2021/2022. This comes against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the economy which increased demands for services from this Department. One example of this is the commitment by the Department to provide support to residential facilities for older persons in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many NPOs had to downsize, close or retrench personnel for financial reasons. The Cape Peninsula Organisation for the Aged closed down its

facilities in Bonteheuwel, Heideveld and Bishop Lavis. This decision has affected many elderly people who are frail, blind and disabled. During the COVID-19 pandemic these elderly and frail people will be taken to other facilities thereby at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19. Workers at the closed facilities are set to lose jobs and livelihoods.

The MEC and the Department have failed to intervene, and this budget is silent on the matter. The Provincial Government would rather spend money on the failing vaccine programme than to prioritise the elderly citizens. Hon Deputy Speaker, this Department has identified as its focus areas to support homeless people, provision of PPE to its staff, NGO's combatting GBV and humanitarian relief in poorer communities who continue to struggle with rising unemployment and heightened levels of food insecurity and safety levels.

The saying that talk is cheap, but action is expensive rings true in this DA budget. For instance, the DA spokesperson for Social Development rushed to the media to spread false and misleading statements that this budget [Inaudible.] renewed effort to combat GBV and homelessness. Rates of GBV and femicide in South Africa are amongst the highest in the world with the Western Cape coming second in the list of GBV hotspots with [Audio distorted.] in GBV hotspots. Delft tops the list GBV hotspots in the country, Mitchells Plain, Gugulethu, Kraaifontein, Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Mfuleni and Bellville form part of the top 30 hotspots. Since 2019, the ANC has demanded more resources and shelters in the working-class communities

where the majority of GBV victims reside.

The MEC must tell us how much of the R17,9 million for services related to violence against women will be spent on those communities in the top 30 hotspots. Whilst the Standing Committee Chair rushed to [Inaudible.] six additional GVB shelters in the province, he omitted to mention that these were donations from National Government that were given to the Province in March 2020 and the Provincial Government has failed to get them operational to this day.

This Government does not take the fight against GBV seriously. National Government fights against GBV with the implementation of the Cara Programme, in partnership with the NTA, to participate with NGOs to ensure that GBV survivors have improved access to care, support, prevention services and quick access to the justice system.

Deputy Speaker, the Department noted that job losses and growing unemployment during lockdown heightened the risk of food insecurity and hunger in the province. In response to the looming food security crisis the Department only allocated R14,6 million for food relief, food distribution centres and community nutrition development as well as an additional R25 million to strengthen food relief measures. The amounts are too small and the strategy to dish hot meals and food parcels is not a sustainable strategy [Inaudible.].

In a groundbreaking experiment in the Canadian city of Dauphin, it was proven that basic annual incomes for everyone could completely eliminate poverty. It is for this reason that we call on the Provincial Government to support the National Government's effort to bring about a universal income grant. We commend the National Government for the R6,3 billion allocation to extend the special COVID-19 relief of distress grant up until the end of April. We also appreciate the R3,5 billion grant to provinces to improve access to ECD. We are also thankful for the National Government's ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund to help the ECDs to recover from the loss of income due to COVID-19.

Deputy Speaker, children in the province face a high risk of violence, sexual victimisation and murder. The budget fails to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children. Between January 2020 and February 2021 there were 121 children murdered with 26 of these due to gang wars. This shows the urgent need to support the Office of the Commissioner for Children to fully function. Children's safety and wellbeing must be made a priority.

Lastly, Deputy Speaker, due to the impact of COVID-19 there is a marked increased demand for psycho-social support amongst children ...  
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: [Audio distorted.] ... calls for the employment of

more social workers in schools and educational [Inaudible.]. The ANC does not support this budget ... [Interjection.]

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

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank you very much. Thank you, hon member. I now recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N BAKAMBA-BOTYA: Deputy Speaker, the Premier once mentioned that everyone in the province, despite their bad circumstances, can live a life of true value but as the EFF we find this shocking under a government that dispatches police to use water cannons to disperse the most vulnerable people in our society, a recent incident that happened at the SASSA offices in Bellville where elderly, disabled, sick people and hungry people were attacked.

The Department has no plan to deal with matters of gender-based violence. We have so many unresolved cases of gender-based violence and people living with disabilities that have nowhere to go when they are faced with issues of being victimised at their homes due to the shortage of safe houses in this province. At least today, the Minister has now mentioned that the Department is in partnership with the NGOs to establish six safe houses this year and that is very progressive, Deputy Speaker.

The Department continues to have shortages of social workers in the province which also has a direct impact in dealing with or the finalisation of gender-based violence cases. We are also very tired of hearing the DA administration, throughout today's debate telling us about the ANC National Government's failure to deliver.

The DA in Western Cape is actually the government; therefore, they must man up as government or step aside. The Minister when she started her speech mentioned there is even a budget cut at national level. From the Premier to the last Minister, we only hear horror stories about National Government instead of the DA telling us how they intend to change their apartheid arrangements in this province.

An HON MEMBER: That is not true.

Ms N BAKAMBA-BOTYA: The EFF, Deputy Chair, does not support Vote 7 on Social Development. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Please no interjections. I recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I know that the National Department of Social Development is providing very little in subsidies to homes for the aged, but we are now facing the closure of three homes: Bonteheuwel, Bishop Lavis and Heideveld in hot crime areas. Could the

Minister of the Department not assist with those vulnerable, blind, frail, disabled people and people suffering from mental issues? Those people are vulnerable and now those people were protesting not to close those three aid homes. What is the Minister going to do with these people, those vulnerable people in these communities? I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I recognise hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, thank you very much. I am going to throw you a curve ball, Minister. Welfare is a function of both national and provincial governments, concurrent powers. Now when I was Minister of Social Services in 1997 and 1998 there was no SASSA, we handled our own pay-outs, we had our own system here, where we involved the community organisations and we paid out peoples' pensions and grants and it went flawlessly.

Then came SASSA and since then nobody has ever slept because it is a disaster. I think you should really, in terms of the DA's policy of subsidiarity, tell your Premier and the Cabinet to engage with national, they must again give back the Western Cape's powers to pay out our own social grants. We do not need National Government to pay out social grants. We can do it ourselves. So, if we really talk subsidiarity or federal autonomy, why do you not engage in terms of cooperative government? Engage with National Government to say give us the authority and powers and we will pay out our own social pensions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Well timed. I recognise hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The decrease in the Budget of the Department of Social Development will lead to many crucial needs in communities not being taken care of. Communities are faced with high unemployment, food insecurities and increased cases of gender-based violence. How is the Province going to budget for the victim empowerment projects? The budget should be aimed to uplift gender-based violence victims by assisting them with skills and to become self-sufficient. The additional shelters for gender-based violence victims should be fully equipped to empower these people. The budget is not sufficient to address humanitarian relief in the province. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker and good afternoon colleagues and the people of the Western Cape. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am speaking to you today and as I am speaking there are vulnerable, desperate and hungry residents destitute across this country waiting for National Government to fulfil the most basic of needs, the need for dignity.

Deputy Speaker, as of today we are aware of 10 741 outstanding temporary disability grant assessments that still need to be completed in the Western



Cape. This is out of more than 200 000 that were outstanding as of December last year, so I cannot imagine what the figure looks like across the rest of the country. But the shadow MEC for Social Development comes here to tell us about ground-breaking experiments when her comrades cannot even deliver the most basic of services.

It is unfortunate that the hon shadow MEC for Social Development does not want to support a budget that fills some of the gaps left by her comrade, the National Minister of Social Development, Minister Zulu.

Hon Deputy Speaker, last week I reminded this House that there are shadows on the Opposition benches attempting to deflect from the humanitarian crisis we face as a result of the SASSA backlog; the SASSA backlog, not just in temporary disability grants but also the much-anticipated R350 relief of distress grant, where our people are queuing outside post offices every day. I want to again remind this House that SASSA, under the National Government, is the lead agency charged with providing social support to the most vulnerable and yet despite this Minister Zulu is more preoccupied with grandstanding, shopping and standing by whilst the most vulnerable citizens are being water-bombed by the South African Police Service.

Hon Deputy Speaker, today I am proud of the work being done by every single civil servant in the Department of Social Development under the leadership of Minister Sharna Fernandez and Dr Robert Macdonald who have chosen to work in partnership with many NGOs and community-based

organisations to ensure that the most vulnerable are treated with dignity.

This is true to their mission which is to ensure the provision of a comprehensive network of social development services that enables and empowers the poor, the vulnerable and all those with special needs across our province. With that said, I want to categorically state that the Democratic Alliance supports this Vote.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this budget shows us that the National Department of Social Development cannot provide from cradle to the grave, but the Provincial Department of Social Development can. Although this Department sees their total receipts decreasing by just over R29 million, they still maintain a high level of service that cannot be compared to the eight other provinces in our country.

This decrease is part of the result of National Government not setting its priorities straight. Instead of cutting the Waste and Vanity Project, they shamelessly cut the Early Childhood Development grant allocations to this Province. It should be born in mind that this Department's core functions include providing a social welfare service to the poor and vulnerable, in partnership with all stakeholders and civil society, and to provide a community development service that provides sustainable, developmental programmes which facilitates empowerment, the focus being on empowerment.

Even with a reduced allocation for Early Childhood Development, this Department is able to do more through innovation, hard work and the sheer dedication, which has been exceptionally displayed during the Department's response to COVID-19. This budget sees monies being allocated for increased support for Early Childhood Development at a time when there is a massive uncertainty over the move of moving ECD functions to the Department of Basic Education. This, accompanied by the flawed public participation process, which has compromised the Children's Amendment Bill, is a clear display of the ANC's best efforts to fail at the most basic parts of service delivery.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I should remind this House once again and I want to specifically remind our colleagues on the opposite side that there are still many ECD centres across this country, waiting for their promised allocation from the National Government. Young people in this province, Deputy Speaker, form a large part of the focus of this Department, as they make up a large portion of the population of this province.

With 2,4 million people aged between 15 and 34 living in the Western Cape, it is only right that the Department of Social Development recognises the pathologies that affect this group of citizens. These pathologies include substance abuse and gang related violence, and we thus welcome the Department's allocation towards programmes dealing with violence, substance abuse and social issues, which seek to help the people of the Western Cape and which seek to help young people from falling victims to

these pathologies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as this House knows, the Department has statutory responsibilities and has a big responsibility in ensuring that young people in conflict with the law are supported, trained and rehabilitated. A large part of this work is done through the Department's Child and Youth Care facilities, a service that has now been successfully insourced, after the ANC-run BOSASA crumbled under the weight of corruption and theft.

Childcare and the protection of children remain a constant focus in this Department and from the allocation from the Provincial Equity Share, we see that social worker employment grants have gone just over 15 million. And in addition to that, as the Premier mentioned earlier, we are the only province in this beautiful country with a Commissioner for children, actively working with children, making sure that their voices are represented in the decision that Government makes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, gender-based violence as a scourge, does not only have an emotional and physical impact on victims, but it also has a ripple effect on the Government spending on core services such as health, policing, social development and specifically, the welfare of children. We note the comments made by President Ramaphosa on the impact of GBV on the economy and we are grateful that the President is able to pay some attention to this issue because he has devoted very little action and time to it.

The R603 million allocated by the National Government to mitigate the social effects of HIV, gender-based violence and substance abuse is a drop in the ocean compared to the magnitude of the gender-based violence problem, the HIV problem and the substance abuse problem. And it is especially paltry, considering that there are no real programmes in the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, including the National Department of Social Development. The only real item in the fight against gender-based violence is the proposed National Council on GBV and Femicide.

This National Command Council is adding another list to the many command councils that our National Government uses to run a democratic government. The operative word here being proposed because nothing of substance has been done to mitigate the effects and support victims of gender-based violence. The only thing this Government has done is to propose a National Command Council on GBV and Femicide.

In contrast to National Government, the Provincial DSD has provided an allocation of more than R20 million to sustain the employment of social workers, particularly in areas of gender-based violence, substance abuse and issues effecting children. Unlike National Government, this Western Cape Government does not spend money, time and energy on continuous talks about gender-based violence that leads nowhere, but we put our money where our mouth is.

This week, Minister Fernandez opened Marigold House as part of the six new

rural-based shelters for victims of gender-based violence. This means the Western Cape has the highest number of dedicated shelters for victims of gender-based violence. That is 26 shelters for gender-based violence. I would love to know how many we have in the other eight provinces.

Hon Deputy Speaker, during this dark year, many of our citizens have lost their jobs and livelihoods. The poor and vulnerable have been the hardest hit and as a result of this, the need for food relief programmes have intensified. This Department has stepped in through the allocation in this budget and they have been able to further make provision for the influx of hungry citizens. The food relief programme supported by this Department is aimed at feeding the most vulnerable through the allocations of food distribution centres and community nutrition development. We hope that SASSA will meet its basic obligation of relief of distress, as this Department stands ready to support by adding an additional R25 million to strengthen food relief measures in support of the Western Cape Government's recovery plan.

Deputy Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition has not informed his shadow MEC for Social Development, that the Cape Peninsula Organisation for the Aged has signed an agreement with IHATA Shelter to chart the future for the three old age homes that the CPO cannot sustain, due to this private NGO's budget pressures.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the year ahead is going to be a difficult one. Many more people are living below the poverty line. The fiscal stress is further

constrained and we are putting added pressure on the human capital in this Department. I want to thank each and every member of the Department of Social Development, for going above and beyond the call of duty. And I want to extend my thanks to the Committee and the Procedural Officer, Ms Nomonde Jamce, and all the members of the Standing Committee for their hard work. Once again, thank you to the Minister of Social Development, the HOD, Dr Macdonald and the senior leadership team for always coming to our Committee, very prepared and ready to engage and be accountable.

I sincerely hope that in the next year the members of the Committee from the Opposition, are actually going to read some of the answers that they get from the Department, they are actually going to study some of the submissions, and that they are going to ensure that SASSA shows up when this Committee invites them because it is important that we follow the example that has been set by the Premier and by our Ministers today, that we all lead the fight against poverty, hunger and we ensure that we create a Western Cape that is sustainable, safe and has healthy citizens when it comes to their social development.

Deputy Speaker, with that, I would like to again state that the Democratic Alliance supports this Vote. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Allow me to express my thanks to everyone who has participated in this debate this afternoon. I have listened very carefully and attentively to the questions, and I will attempt to respond. Some of them are not premised on fact and it is incumbent on me to set the record straight, so I must express my disappointment that the Budget will not be supported, which means that effectively, the very sectors that we are fighting for – GBV, ECD, and all the other related sectors – do not enjoy the support of all the members.

I would like to firstly, member Bakubaku-Vos raised some interesting questions and I think it is important for me to just address the budget implication question, the one that talks to the Equitable Share. So, to the hon Bakubaku-Vos, through you, Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform the member that the Western Cape DSD budget is entirely funded by money from Provincial Treasury, which in turn, receives all its income from National Treasuries tax collections for the year.

The cuts to the DSD budgets are the direct result of enormous budget cuts to all provinces made by National Treasury, due to the current economic crisis in South Africa, combined with poor financial choices at a National Government level, such as the SAA bailout, state capture, the gutting of SARS and rampant corruption. Fortunately, this cut to DSD's Budget was kept to 1,09% year-on-year because the Province was able to dip into reserves and support the Department. If the Western Cape Treasury did not find additional funding from the savings and reserves to protect the



Department from the National budget cuts, the reduction could have been as much as 18%, as it is across other provinces.

Member Bakubaku-Vos talks to the implosion and MPOs that have been affected. Sadly, there is an economic fallout. We are experiencing donor fatigue in the social services sector and many MPOs have been forced to downsize and possibly, even close. But we must understand that MPOs are privately funded institutions. They are reliant on DSD. They submit applications for funding, and we try and fund as many as we can. I think in this province, it is probably – a would hazard a guess, but I would think it is more than 5 000 MPOs that we fund.

Member Bakubaku-Vos, your statement regarding the closure of the CPOA and that of member Christians, are not exactly true in that the CPOA has not moved a single resident. And it is quite an indictment that when the hon Dugmore was involved with the CPOA, we saw lots of protests and all sorts of things. We worked with the CPOA since they announced that they were in economic distress. We had Zoom meetings which I attended. We also had meetings with the SA Human Rights Commission, and I was aware that on 1 March a potential investor made an offer to the CPOA to assist them.

Bearing in mind, the CPOA, like any other old age home, is a privately funded institution, so we cannot allocate funding to the CPOA. But what has happened, as the hon Gillion has said, there has been a media release to indicate that they have, in fact, found a partner who is well-versed in the

running of old age homes and we as a Department have committed to ensuring that we will provide all the necessary support. So sadly, once again, the ANC has chosen to make meat out of something that was not exactly true and up until today, the hon Dugmore has not informed you of developments in this regard, member Bakubaku-Vos.

When it comes to GBV, I would like to encourage the hon member to read the report of the CGE. The Commissioner for Gender Equality released a report and it is a scathing report. It talks to how dysfunctional National Government is in implementing and coming up with a GBV plan. It tracks it all the way back to the summit in 2018 that the President presided over and there are certain findings, and I will make sure that the report is shared with the hon member, but there are findings and one of the findings, if I could just read that, is that:

“The DSD, as a result of lack of”

And this is National DSD:

“Lack of diversity in the consultation audience, also held consultations in the Western Cape and targeted a more knowledgeable audience.”

Now, that is an indictment, hon Deputy Speaker and the recommendations, the CGE, the recommendations are there for you to read, but it actually tells us that what National has done has not quite met the mark. I represented this

Province on 12 March and I was tasked by the Premier and we provided an overview of what the Western Cape Government is doing in terms of GBV.

I could talk to the fact that we have a transversal Government working group, we have a steering committee, we have task teams working through the templates around the six pillars. I could talk to our Safety Plan where we are focusing on interpersonal violence, which includes GBV. I could also talk to social cohesion and it is very interesting, hon Deputy Speaker, we were complimented by both the hon Sylvia Lucas, as well as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Lechesa Tsenoli, for the work that we are doing that is, in fact, quite progressive compared to the other provinces.

The hon member Bakubaku-Vos talked about CARA funding. I would like to ask the member for her support to try and find out why CARA funding is disproportionately allocated to this Province and the hon member herself stated that we have the second highest rate of GBV. I would want to know what happened to the six Audis the German Government donated. If the Western Cape is so high on the GBV agenda, why were we not afforded an opportunity to utilise one of those vehicles? But I can tell you, hon Deputy Speaker, those vehicles are standing in a garage gathering dust. Their licenses have not been renewed. So again, it talks to a National Government that is failing its people.

ECDs: The ECD sector was virtually decimated because the National Minister was tardy after Level 4 and 5, to declare and provide regulations that talk to

ECD carers going back. And as we know, most ECD carers are women. More than 100,000 women lost their jobs as a result of the delays in providing regulations. So, if we talk about caring for women and caring for children, then we need to place the responsibility squarely where it needs to sit and that is at a national level of DSD.

To the member of the EFF: I have tried my best, hon Makamba-Botya, to assist. Your councillors call me directly on my phone. We have had a situation where we provided a place of safety and sadly, I heard that the victim did not take up the place of safety because the victim was provided a place of safety at the Parliamentary Village. So, I need to understand is the Parliamentary Village considered to be another place of safety that we can add to our 26?

So, I am concerned that we are trying to all achieve an objective, but we use the shortcuts and we try not to be as truthful when it comes to the real situation. And the reason I found this out, one of your hon members asked me for a food parcel and when I asked where should I deliver the food parcel, to the Parliamentary Village, I was told 'no-no, you cannot do that'. So, I would recommend that you speak to your councillor and find out what is really happening in that case.

It is sad that National budgets determine what provinces get and as I said, our Provincial Treasury really went the extra mile. We engaged extensively to ensure that we could protect the most vulnerable in our society. And like

you, I agree that we do need more social workers, but we need more social workers across the country, not only in this province. And I think that our social workers are doing sterling work. We have 30 social workers assigned to GBV work and we have brought in 143 graduates in the Social Worker Programme. And we work very closely with the National Women's Shelter and the Western Cape Women's Shelter Movement.

And to the hon Bakubaku-Vos, I must clarify another misunderstanding. On 4 March 2020, I attended a media *presse* with Minister de Lille and Minister Zulu. However, the National Department dragged their heels and the MOU was only signed at the end of October. And the reason for the delays in opening our shelters is that National Public Works was responsible for security and certain works – pieces of work that need to be done. So, it was not for lack of trying on our part. We have the opened one in the Central Karoo and I am certain that we will make work of the next five, so we can get them up and running as quickly as we can.

The hon Christians, I note your concern around the aged. They are a vulnerable grouping. And as I have responded, hopefully the arrangement with the new partner will kick in, which means no-one will be put out where they will be subjected to being on the street or catching Covid, but they will all remain in their CPOA homes. And we will support both the CPOA and the onboarding partner to ensure that we maintain the dignity of the elderly.

The Freedom Front: Minister Marais – to the hon Marais, yes, as you say we

can use our powers, however it is not easy because the Social Assistance Act and the management of social grants would require a constitutional amendment. And you are a well-seasoned politician. You know what the numbers are that are required to affect a constitutional amendment. I must say that I meet with SASSA every week – every second week, on a Monday at 2 pm and they account to us on everything that is happening in this province. So, rather than oppose SASSA, I choose to work with them and ensure that with greater collaboration, we can assist the most vulnerable in this province.

To Al-Jama-ah: Member Brinkhuis talked about critical needs not being met. Member Brinkhuis, we work with a budget which is very similar to what we had last year. However, we do try and find innovative ways to meet the needs of the poor, but the global fallout of COVID-19 will put this Government and all eight other provincial governments, as well as National Government, under undue pressure. And unless the National Government gets its ducks in a row, it stops stealing, stops plundering the public purse, we would have enough money to build schools, to build hospitals, to build clinics, to build treatment centres, to build shelters. So, sadly, we are at the mercy of a system, but I remain committed with my team of just over 2 500 staff members, to provide services to the most vulnerable.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, in closing I once again want to thank the hon Gillian, the administrator, Ms Jamce, and the Committee for a very transparent and robust engagement. But I do think it is important to familiarise yourself with the facts before coming to Parliament and

presenting questions that are unfounded and not premised on fact. On that note, hon Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote. I am going to ask that Mr Poggenpoel to read the eighth Order of the Day.

The ACTING SECRETARY: [Mr Poggenpoel]: Debate on Vote 2 – Provincial Parliament – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4 - 2021].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, I now recognise hon member Mnqasela and Speaker of the House.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the consular corps, the Chapter 9 Institutions, Commissioner for Children of the Western Cape. Hon Deputy Speaker, to the members of the Fourth Estate, our media, distinguished guests in the virtual gallery, fellow South Africans. It gives me a great honour to present the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's Budget for the 2020/2021 MTF period.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent declaration of the State of Disaster have had a great impact on the traditional operations of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The safety of the hon members, staff, personnel and the stakeholders was of paramount importance, whilst we

continued to deliver on the constitutional mandate of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the pandemic required swift action from the executive authority and the support structures in the administration. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's budget has increased by R10 180 million and that is from R203,6 million, including a direct charge, to R213,8 million. It must be noted, however, that in the 2021/2022 financial year there was a baseline reduction of R14,676 million forthcoming from Vote savings identified, as the result of provincial response to the fiscal constraints placed on the country by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this was surrendered to the Province Treasury during the 2020/2021 Adjustment Estimate process. The WCPP will continue to provide procedural and related support to the House and committees, in order to conduct our business of law-making and effective oversight. The Provincial Parliament will also continue to promote public participation in all our parliamentary processes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it would not be correct for Parliament to continue to work in the same process and leave the people of this province behind. So that is why it is important that whatever we do, we bring people to the centre of the business of this Parliament. You know, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, as well as I do that COVID-19 brought about limitations in how we bring people to the work that we do as Parliament because data is expensive.



We want them to participate, but we do not have the means to enable them to join us, except for those who can afford to participate.

That is an area that we continue to investigate and the Secretary to Parliament, working with the SITA and other State agencies, to enable this particular work of this institution, enabling facilities for the hon members and political parties have their appropriate resources in order to ensure that we perform the constitutional obligations. This will be continually reviewed and assessed on an annual basis.

Madam Deputy Speaker, other focus areas which will be driven from a strategic level include, but not limited to institutional governance, inter and intra parliamentary relations, capacity building, innovation, modernisation and use of technology.

Madam Deputy Speaker, allow me to present a high-level summary of what this 2021/2022 Budget means and the detail thereof.

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament receipts increased with R13,707 million from 2020/2021, a Revised Estimate of R152 million and obviously, R152 000 to a total Budget of R165 859 million in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this equates to an overall percentage of 9%, which is a quantum which has increased our budget, at least from the 2020/2021 Revised

Estimate. So, it is not a significant amount of money, but it is something. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament's own revenue for the 2021/2022 financial year: R75 000 is mainly sourced from revenue items which is R75 000, you know, things that we sell here like the items that we sell downstairs – also including the interest. So, that is the money that members will see, that it reflects in our budget, but also, some of the commission earnings that we have received and of course, the meals that we sell in Parliament.

I remember other hon members were asking 'you now have a commission from where? [Laughter] You have interest from where? What are you selling?' So, these are some of the things, including the parking that we have retained, which then we lease to the staff members and various interest groupings.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, the 2021/2022 Budget for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the programme is as follows. Out of the four programmes the breakdown reads as follows.

Programme 1, which is Governance, Leadership and Administration is R73,4 million, which is an increase of 13,0%.

Programme 2, it is Parliamentary Support Services, which is R22,741 million, which is an increase of 18%.

Programme 3, which is Public Engagement, is R11,6 million, which is a decrease of 10,47%.

And lastly, Programme 4, is Member's Support which is R58 million, and it is an increase of 5%.

The summary pay economic classification is as follows. Compensation of Employees will increase with R13,1 million, which is a 17.9% increase from the Revised Estimate of R73,4 million to R86,6 million in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this increase relates to the funding of vacant positions from 1 April 2021, which is this week later on, and the provision of salary adjustments for the 2021/2022 financial year. We have agreed, hon Deputy Speaker, with the unions that for 2021/2022 financial year we are not going to do performance increases where we sign performance bonuses, and that is because the union understands as much as we do that people have lost jobs and some have lost not only jobs but have lost property. People have died during COVID-19, but at least we still have jobs and that is what the members of staff in this Parliament say, that we still have jobs, and we appreciate that. Therefore, we do not have to go into a debate about bonuses. And that, I think, was very important and of course, we thank the unions, and we thank the staff members of this Parliament for understanding the tough economic times that we find ourselves in.

Currently, Madam Deputy Speaker, there are 116 funded positions for the 2021/2022 financial year. Of the 116 positions, 14 are vacant and we anticipate that we will be able to fill up all of these positions, starting with the eight in the first quarter, three in the second quarter, and of course, the last three in the third quarter. And that will then bring us to a very good number if you look at where we are.

In some areas we have been struggling. The Director for Parliamentary Services, we struggled to fill a position. It took us almost two years just to fill one position. And I am glad that with the help of the team, the panel and the recruitment agency that we are able to work together to find a candidate, Mr Lubabalo Stemela, that is starting to work on 1 April. So, we are very grateful that we have managed to fill this position.

Also, we have a challenge now and of course, we all know that the former Deputy Secretary passed on, Mr Royston Hindley, may his soul rest in peace. That position, we have then decided to change the position and make it a director post, then have a secretary and five directors in this Parliament. And in that way, we have got a dedicated director that deals with strategy, monitoring and evaluation. And just to be able to deal with the nuts and bolts of the entire system but reporting directly to the Secretary with some element of again, permanency because directors are permanent. And I think in that way we are going to fill this vacancy quickly because we have seen that there has been an appetite of more than 300 people that applied, and we have been able to have a very good short list of more than 50 people, and we

are going to soon come up with the best candidate for that position.

And I think, hon Deputy Speaker, one of the most important things is that we need to spend our budget and I think we have been doing that. We spend the budget on what it is intended to.

The Goods and Services Budget shows a decrease of 1,95% from R23,4 million in the 2020/2021 Revised Estimate to R23 million in the 2021/2022 financial year. Hon Deputy Speaker, in the Goods and Services Budget, provision is made for the continued maintenance and licensing of the Enterprise Resource System, which is the ERS with R500 000 and of course, the Business Intelligence System with also another R500 000. The provision has also been made for Training and Development of R724 000 and a further R164 000 for Bursaries, Deputy Speaker.

Due to the current situation, the overall catering budget has been reduced because, hon members, now they sit and eat at home. You know, they are not here. They drink coffee at home, they are not here. It is only myself here and the hon Deputy Speaker, and hon America and obviously the Premier were here as well earlier, and hon Meyer.

Now, if I may, hon Deputy Speaker, let me quickly go to some of the pertinent areas that I think are important. Due to the current situation, we have reduced our budget by 21,93% to R1,125 million and that is the budget for catering. So, there is still budget, so members can still come in. You can

still enjoy our muffins and you can still enjoy our scones and cheese, but very safely – very safely.

Audit Fees have also increased with 11,69% to R3,964 million and of course, this is a budget item that we have to spend money on, hon Deputy Speaker, in order to be compliant with the legislation. Included in the Goods and Services Budget is an inflationary increase for the members' enabling allowances and that is to ensure that the hon members, as per the expectation of us that you would go to our constituencies and do the work that you are elected here to do.

So, a total provision of R900 000 has also been made, provided for SOPA. It is R900 000 just to have a figure in order to ensure that we keep taking Parliament closer to the people. And that is for me, something that members have obviously, in various platforms, it has been celebrated as one thing that the Sixth Parliament has been doing well. So, we were in Genadendal now, it was beautiful, and we have spent far less than what we thought we could spend. And we were in Mitchells Plain here before and it was beautiful, and we will continue to take this Parliament out to the people.

With the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's continued commitment to the health and safety of its staff and the hon members, a minimum provision has been made, hon Deputy Speaker, for the procurement of the further PPE as quite a number of expenditures took place in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Furthermore, Deputy Speaker, there is still an uncertainty with regard to the portfolio of Travel and of course, provision has also been made for the rollout of the International Relations Framework, and a budget of R812 000 has been provided for foreign travel. I know one might say it is not enough, but we do not know how much we are going to open up for international travel, but in case we do, the important thing is to have a bit of budget in order to enable this particular element of travel because we do pay subscriptions to a number of organisations. I am sure members will understand that.

A total domestic budget has been made available of R3,762 million in order for the committees to do their work and also, in order for the hon members to do their work. And also, the Public Outreach Programme has been allocated R2,89 million for members' travel in terms of the enabling allowances.

So, what is important here I think that I need to highlight, hon Deputy Speaker, is that the R3,7 million is to make sure that the committee work continues, that our essential Public Outreach Programme continues. And then, the R2,8 million, we have made sure that it is for members' travel in terms of the enabling allowances. And I think that is important because we have seen that members, even though it was lockdown, continued to go to constituencies and they continue to need the travelling as part of that.

The provision for transfers and subsidies is further broken down as follows. There are no increases in the departmental agencies, hon Deputy Speaker, and

the accounts, therefore, are mainly for the provision for payments of television fees and licenses, and that is important because otherwise our TVs will be switched off here.

Under Foreign Government and International Organisations, R312,000 has been allocated for the payment of subscription fees to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. So, we pay these R312,000 and there is no way we cannot travel with that R800 000 if an opportunity arises that we go to these events because it is CPA International and it is CPA Africa, and it is important that we do participate because we pay the subscription.

There is a net 2,6% of R1,2 million increase from R48,620 million in the 2020/2021 Revised Estimate, to R49,9 million in the 2021/2022 financial year in the Transfers to Political Parties. I hope that the political parties are still connected in this virtual session, this hybrid session because this money is the money that goes to political parties in order to take care of the secretarial and constituency allowances. So, in light of the new Political Party Funding Act we are compliant and we will continue to fund political programmes in terms of enhancing the work that the hon members are doing, specifically on the secretarial and constituency allowance. And that way, hon Deputy Speaker, it enhances the work of democracy that this Parliament has to do.

The percentage increase reflects a lower than inflationary increase as the Revised Estimate includes the once-off allowance paid to political parties to



provide support during the COVID-19 declaration. I am sure the hon members will remember we transferred about R24,500 to each and every hon member, which then made up the R50,000 that became the pool that hon members could use. And there is still money that has not been spent in that category and we would like to encourage that in future, we really expedite the expenditure insofar as these are concerned.

Under Households, a budget of R1,869 million which is a provision has been made for the payments of the medical aid contribution for the continuation of members, as well as a nominal amount thereof for the payment of the incentive rewards to your qualifying staff. The big decrease from the Revised Estimate is as a result of a once-off gratuity, hon Deputy Speaker, that was paid to an employee that passed away in the 2020/2021 financial year. This type of gratuity is not budgeted for. We do not know when people will pass on. We know that when that happens it becomes an unfortunate incident, but there is no way you can keep the money that is owed to the individual as they have accrued as a gratuity to them, and of course, monies that should be going to their relatives, otherwise this will be a pain to this Parliament. But we do not have money that we budget for this. It happens as nature dictates to us.

The Capital Expenditure Budget for 2021/2022 increased with 14,9% from the 2020/2021 Revised Estimates, to R4 million, hon Deputy Speaker. Provision has been made for the payment of finance leases for the Government Motor Transport vehicles and cell phone contracts, as well as an

amount of R510 000 for the purchase of another machine and equipment for the employees that will be appointed during the new financial year. It is things like laptops, Deputy Speaker and also the refreshing of the system in terms of the Asset Management Policy. So, it is just to capacitate the internal capacity for the tools of trade and to ensure that the new members of staff are able to get the equipment. We hired them, but they need the tools of trade when they come to work. So, that is important.

Provision has also been made under Capital Assets, for the reconfiguration of the 7 Wale Street entrance. An amount of R312 000 as well as the Office 365 licensing fees for the MS Teams, which amounts to R600 000, and that is the platform that we are using now. And that is important that we keep enabling it, otherwise we will not be able to function and have these meetings freely here.

As I conclude, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament would like to thank the hon Minister of Finance and his team. You know, the HOD, Mr Savage, and the entire team Finance for their continued relationship of engagement and assistance around the compilation of this budget. And a special word of appreciation to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee under the leadership of the hon Chairperson, hon Wenger, for the role she plays in ensuring and maintaining oversight over the financial management of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, in terms of FAMPLA. And of course, I would also like to thank all the members of the Committee for the work they do collectively, to hold us to account as this

Parliament.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank all stakeholders and assurance providers, like the South African Auditor-General, without whom we cannot really produce the quality work that we see here. This Parliament continued to receive clean audits and that is because we pay attention to detail, the team works hard, but there are assurance providers. The Audit Committee is part of that. The Internal Audit Committee is part of that. So, we thank them for their continued oversight and advisory services.

Lastly, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank you for your support and for your continued leadership in the Office of the Speaker, to ensure that some of the tasks get done – I just give you a call, you jump. You do not say ‘Speaker, but I have got too much work’, but thank you very much very much for that because it is not easy. This is a new team, this is a new term and you have got new ideas, and we continue to be innovative and thanks for your leadership in that regard.

And thanks to the Secretary to this Parliament, Mr Romeo Adams, for your leadership, for your strategic support and, of course, for your continued wise counsel to the Speakerage and especially to myself as the executive authority. Sometimes it is tough and the Speaker says, ‘We need to do this’, the Secretary must find alternative solutions, but sir, thank you very much for your support to the SMT, which is our Senior Management Team here, and every employee of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Thank you very

much for your support, contribution, commitment and obviously, your diligence and understanding the tough environment. To the Office of the Speaker, thank you very much for your leadership there. And to the Parliamentary Advisor: Jannie, you are difficult, but you are very nice because you make us do what is right in terms of the advice. You do not take wrong advice, we always come with good advice because of Mr Uys who is my parliamentary advisor and to myself, and the Deputy Speaker and the entire office of the Speaker. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yoh! Yoh!

The SPEAKER: †Baie dankie [Thank you.]. May God bless you all, thank you. [Applause]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I now recognise Hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Am I audible, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are audible. I think you were audible before, but you are audible now.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ANC rejects this budget Vote. The Constitution of the Western Cape reads that:

“Our Province is founded on a [Audio distorted.] responsible and accountable government.”

Section 114 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa states that:

“Provincial Legislatures must provide for a mechanism to ensure that all provincial executive organs of state in the province are accountable to it; and to maintain oversight of the exercise of provincial executive authority in the province, including the implementation of legislation; and any provincial organ of state.”

The reality is that this Provincial Legislature has simply become a rubberstamp [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, point of order?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, yes, I can hear. Hon member, give me a second please? I think it may be coming from you. I do not know if you are in a noisy environment. If you could, perhaps, just close the door because it is echoing quite a lot – there is quite a lot of feedback when you are speaking. Are you in with lots of people?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Oh!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, I hear – I see. One minute, hon Lekker. Hon Marais, your hand is up?

Mr P J MARAIS: You addressed the issue, Madam Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: It is a hell of a lot of noise coming...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Hon Lekker, are you managing to sort that out?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, Deputy Speaker. I am actually outside with ... [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, you may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I apologise, I cannot hear you now.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, you need to [Audio distorted.]. I

cannot hear you. I cannot hear you. We cannot hear you at all.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I think you need to be closer to the Wi-Fi, wherever you are, so you are way out of range.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.] ...rubberstamp for the Provincial Executive and what the DA consistently criticises the ANC for in National Parliament [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I am apologising. We cannot hear you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker? Can you just mute it. Hon Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I have muted you for a second. If you could just stop for one minute, please? I just want to say I recognise hon Fernandez – one minute. [Audio distorted.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon [Audio distorted.], if you could just mute hon Lekker for a minute? Hon Fernandez, is this relating to the sound?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, the [Audio distorted.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I really apologise, but your sound is so bad we cannot continue with your remarks. I am going to move over to hon Xego. If we can change it, I will come back to you. I am going to ask the IT staff to connect you via phone. In the meantime, I am going to move over to hon Xego. Hon Xego, are you ready? [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Background noise.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon [inaudible – speaking simultaneously] Lekker, if you can just mute? There we go. Hon Xego, are you there?

Mr M XEGO: [No audible response]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not hear hon Xego. I am going to move over to hon Christians.



Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Audio distorted.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I just want to take this opportunity to say that the ACDP supports Vote 2. We also want to say thank you to the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the staff for an excellent service rendered. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, I just want to also say that I concur with hon Christians. I support this Vote and I think you will have to go very far to get a more efficient Speaker and somebody who is always there with an ear to listen. And I think he is really an asset to this Parliament. So yes, well done and I support the Vote.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon Brinkhuis, are you going to deliver some remarks?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. No, thank you very much. I am covered, Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you, hon Brinkhuis. Just quickly going back to hon Xego. Is he here online?

Mr M XEGO: [No audible response]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I am going to then ask hon Lekker. Have you got a better line?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I think I do, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is much better. You may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Alright, we remain concerned when critical posts remain vacant, when people turn down job offers after enduring an entire recruitment process, and what seems to be the lack of cohesion in the functional announcement project. Indeed, we will return to the Parliamentary Oversight Committee to request a comprehensive report on the functional announcement project to understand why the resources are so unequally deployed in the Provincial Legislature and why recruitment remains an ongoing challenge that simply seems not being able to [Audio distorted].

A further constitutional value that is enshrined within our democratic order is the notion practice of public participation. As ANC, we would be surprised if a single committee heard from a single member of the public, during this budgetary process, yet the box has been ticked. There is no being proactive or asking deeper questions as to why the people of the Western Cape are not participating in our deliberation.

The response to SOPA had 58 views on our YouTube channel, 719 views of the SOPA out of the province of nearly 6 million people and only 538 views of the Budget whereas before, we could invite people to sit in the gallery. We rely solely on YouTube these days and people are not watching, even though the reach is far greater than the gallery.

We are informed that no digital tools are being procured and this explains the decrease in the number of the Public Participation budget, but it does not explain why the digital tools that we already have and which are far simpler, are not working. We remain concerned that the leadership programme of this Parliament is bloated and therefore continues to take the largest chunk of the budget. As a result, the core business of this Parliament, holding the Executive accountable in public participation. Key issue of nurturing [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker? Hon Lekker? I apologise. Hon Fernandez, Minister Fernandez, your hand is up?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: My apologies, Deputy Speaker. I shall take it down.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think I am going to, as a result, cut you short there, hon Lekker. We just cannot hear. You have completely disappeared. Alright, I am going to take that decision. My apologies, I know that you have got connectivity problems. I now call on

hon Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Just give me one moment. I am applying the correct background. There we are. [Laughter] And we are off. Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament is set in this Budget to receive an increase of R13,7 million, equating to a 9% increase from its R152,2 million 2020/2021 Revised Estimate for a total budget of R165,9 million in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Three of the four programmes of the Institution are set for a budget increase. The Governance and Administration Programme of this budget grows by nearly 14% due to savings found, as a result of the baseline reduction in 2020/2021. We will, therefore, continue to see the Legislature capacitated with a full staff complement provided for the support of members and the WCPP as an institution.

Parliamentary Support Services is the second programme of the budget in question, sees an increase of 18%. Again, as a result of baseline reductions imposed during the outgoing financial year. This increase will see to bolstered support of committees' and House proceedings. However, unlike Opposition legislatures, this Parliament does not bloat its administration and so, the number of staff remains consistent with the needs at hand. The Member Support Programme sees an increase of slightly over 2,8 million or roughly 5%. This will support members' allowances and overall support to represented political parties.

The WCPP continues to innovate and adapt in line with the needs of virtual and hybrid sitting. This includes public participation and renewed vigour towards taking Parliament to the people. However, this will rely on innovation and making full use of technology and engagements, which maybe achieved through a capital expenditure increase of just over 6% for required additional software, as the Speaker has already mentioned. And this is very important to the Public Engagement Programme's decrease of 10,5%.

The Parliamentary Oversight Committee has engaged extensively with the institution on this proposed budget and we will continue to do our work in terms of the financial management of Parliament and Provincial Legislature's Act, to monitor both the operational performance and financial performance of this Institution.

Deputy Speaker, over the last few days I have heard a lot of criticism levelled by the Opposition against this Budget Appropriation Bill. In particular, certain departmental budgets have been criticised and the DA has been accused of getting our priorities wrong. It is important, however that we look at budgets holistically and how tax rands are used. Are they used to make a change to better the lives of residents of this province? Are we looking at the budget in its entirety, at the full pie and how it is sliced and divided? This Parliament has a lean budget of R166 million. Let me repeat: R166 million. Hon Lekker wanted to talk about bloated, so let me put this budget into context by way of a provincial comparative analysis.

The Gauteng Legislature for the upcoming financial year has a budget of R791 million. Gauteng has a population of double the size of the Western Cape, but the budget of their Parliament is not double ours, it is not even triple ours. It is four and a half times more. The Eastern Cape with a comparable population – well, their Legislature gets R554 million. The North West with 2.8 million less inhabitants gets R467 million, and Mpumalanga gets R376 million for the upcoming financial year.

Well, this might explain why. The new North West Legislature building now boasts a spa, a sauna and a gym. In Mpumalanga, members are given houses and meals, and are entitled to quote their standing rules to overseas travel. A lot of perks, but not a lot of oversight. In Gauteng, for example, the annual reports of various entities are late, with some arriving after debates. Motions of the Opposition are redacted by the Programming Committee for no valid reason. Very few COVID-19 expenditure reports from the Provincial Government have been received and those that are, arrive on a sporadic basis.

Amazingly, it appears that during the hard lockdown, the Gauteng Legislature spent its catering budget even on cooked food, in spite of the ban – the roast chicken scandal. Replies to written questions are not timeously provided and no extension letters or requests are given to MPLs. Often, only an oral explanation in the House is delivered with no written reply. Limpopo has a whopping R396 million budget this year yet cannot even manage a hybrid in-person virtual system for its plenaries as their Chamber does not have proper cameras.

Through you, Deputy Speaker, one should therefore ask of the Leader of the Opposition, what alleged quote “renewal” he was referring to on Friday when he spoke of reforms in his party? Residents and taxpayers are yet to see any such benefit. Instead, from a legislative perspective, this supposed new dawn seems to be nothing, but a façade for business as usual. And by that I mean the bloating of structures, the lining of party pockets and provision of exorbitant budgets for a political elite.

By contrast, this Parliament, the Western Cape Parliament, with a third of the budget of the Eastern Cape or KwaZulu Natal Legislatures, is one of the most efficient and well-run Legislatures in the country with the least number of staff per member. It was one of the first in the world to get online and go virtual. During the hard lockdown, we were hard at work while everyone else was still figuring out what to do. We are the only Legislature to have a COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee and ours is the only Legislature to have published COVID-19 expenditure reports.

Despite what hon Lekker would have you believe, this is the only province with interpellations and the only province that has questions to the Premier without notice. All other Premiers’ question time is with notice only. So, we do more with much, much less and we do it because it means that literally hundreds of millions of rands can rather go to children, to the poor, to the vulnerable and to the sick. We do not allocate our budget for houses for members and saunas for the Speaker.

Deputy Speaker, this brings me back to my earlier observation. We must look at this Budget Appropriation Bill in its entirety because this shows you exactly where our priorities lie. The words of Mahatma Gandhi ring true:

“Action expresses priorities”

And that action is not found in corruption or self-aggrandisement. It is found in opening opportunities and providing care.

The Democratic Alliance, therefore, supports the Budget for Vote 2 Provincial Parliament. We support funds towards the leading regional Parliament rooted in Africa, innovative, relevant, forward-looking and in touch with all its people. We thank the Speakership, the Secretary, the senior management of this Parliament and all staff members that work so hard and diligently to ensure proper oversight. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Wenger. I now recognise the Speaker, hon Mnqasela.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, I must be standing here with pride and great humility to hear the kind words by the hon members who spoke. Hon Marais, hon Christians who really appreciate the work that we do. It is not easy to sit there, hon Deputy Speaker. It sounds like [inaudible.] take someone and put that person there. Then, they realise that it is not a joke, but let alone to work with political



parties – seven political parties with differing philosophies and ideologies, but we work with them. We work with them in any case. And that is why I am standing here, Madam Deputy Speaker, with that great humility and of course, the great sense of gratitude for what has been shared here with us.

We have got in this Parliament the Speaker's consultative board, consultative forum, and that is something that we have done in this sixth term of Parliament, to ensure that the political parties' leaders have a place to come and ventilate and air their views without feeling that they must wait for the Rules Committee, for the Programming Authority or wait for here, only. They are able to go there and to engage with us as leadership of this Parliament and we have been doing this since the first time we started engaging with political party leaders. We said we must have this forum and this Parliament made it a forum that became semipermanent for this institution.

So, it is a very good thing that the hon members are appreciating that. And beyond that, hon Deputy Speaker, when we say we want to go out with SOPA, we engage with members, they make suggestions. Sometimes we compromise because we want to work together. But some of the things that you hear, it makes me wonder. I hear hon Lekker was speaking, but I would have wanted to hear what exactly she wanted to express so that as a matter for course we are able to hear her views.

But at the POC we go there all the time, monthly, bi-monthly we are there to

engage with the POC and share reports. The IYMs, quarterly reports, everything is in the open. There is nothing hidden here. We speak, we are able to engage with the systems that have been provided by the Rules, so that we are able to account to Parliament, to the Standing Committee that has been created for this purpose, which is the POC.

Now, I can say that the hon the Chief Whip of the ANC, I would have wanted to hear more from her and in fact, I am still welcoming an opportunity for her to write to me or see me in person in my office. Then we can see how the issues that she wanted to flag, we can deal with, hon Deputy Speaker. But it is very clear in terms of ours that the organisational enhancement programme, the redesigned programme, it is something that has been going quite well. I mean, some of the positions are vacant because we just could not get the person. [Laughter].

It took us long since Mr Jabu Nkabinde's passing to get somebody to fill that vacancy because it is a specialised position. And we have said it here many times, we have said it before in the POC. Even here, in the last annual report period that it is not an easy kind of an exercise. But what I appreciate is that now we have got a director in that position.

There is also something that hon Lekker said before she got cut off, which I think is important to flag here and provide some responses to that people accept positions and then, they renege. There is only one instance where that occurred under my watch and that is because we had no control over this. I

mean, the gentleman accepted the position and then realised something greater somewhere exists. Now, why would you stop somebody for that? You cannot. A person says, 'I want the position' and really, they appear exceptionally well in the interview. They perform above and beyond. Now afterwards then, the person says, 'I actually got another offer to pay me double' or something. Now, why would you keep that person, Madam Deputy Speaker? We cannot. We encourage people to move on and get even greater pastures. I think that is important.

Lastly, I just want to say to the Chief Whip of the majority party and of course, the Chairperson of this Committee, of the POC. Thank you very much, hon Wenger. You have said it all. What you have said here, you are able to articulate the essence of the work of Parliament that when this Parliament was exposed to a disaster that nobody has ever seen, we were in a state – we were in a situation of, that is defined in the books of organisational institutions in a VUCA world. We are sitting in the VUCA world and we have a state of volatility, a state of uncertainty. No organisation would know how to behave there. A state of complexity and a state of ambiguity.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, this Parliament, as the hon Wenger said to the Chairperson of this Committee, employed systems that enabled us to be agile and we are able to employ agility on our iCity, agility on our staffing. The staff members of this Parliament worked at night, hon Deputy Speaker. They answered calls from the hon members at night. Our iCity worked overtime

not because they were going to be paid for it, they worked because they wanted this Parliament to work. But members say, 'No, I do not support this budget, it is a terrible budget, people are not working.' I think it is an embarrassment and it is sad that you can say that to all of these staff members of this Parliament who have been working extremely hard, even neglecting their families for this Parliament, for these hon members to succeed in the work they do.

I will be very ashamed as an hon member not to support a budget that seeks to continue to do the work we do, being the number one Parliament in this region, number one Parliament in Africa and in fact, I think we are number two in the world after Estonia. And then, we are the first Parliament to showcase.

I remember when we attended the training – myself, yourself Deputy Speaker and the Secretary. It was a training of the Africa CPA. They were teaching people about how to have Parliament online. We were saying, 'No, we have done it last year' and they were saying, 'Can you come train us?' But we are told at home we are weak, we are useless. It is a sad story, but I would like to hear more from hon Lekker because I do not think she meant what she said.

Maybe it is the disasters of the systems where she is connected from, but again, it should not be for this Parliament to say then, when members are at home, they chose to sit at home, not to come and sit here. But now, we must

also try to move them where there is connectivity. I think the least you could do is to connect them where they are, through the MST, the MS Teams that we have here as the system. So, let us work together.

Again, thank you very much to the hon members who spoke and thanked us, and they are willing to partner with us through this journey and I thank them all and thank you, Deputy Speaker once more, and all the members of this Parliament, and of course, the staff members here. Thank you, may God bless you. [Applause]

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. That concludes the debate on this Vote. I am just going to wait. I think the Secretary needs to read the next Order of the Day. We will just give him a minute to get into the House. Are you ready, Secretary? Thank you very much. The Secretary will read the ninth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration and finalisation of the Western Cape Museums Ordinance Amendment Bill [B5 - 2020].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and that the parties who wish to do so, will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the Bill, for a maximum of

three minutes, if they so desire. I will now afford parties an opportunity. I recognise the ANC. ANC, are you making a declaration? I am going to assume not if I have not heard anything. I call on the EFF? No!  
[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The ANC is not making a declaration.  
[Interjection.]

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. EFF?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Deputy Speaker, we are not doing any declaration, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. GOOD party, are you making a declaration?

Mr B N HERRON: No, thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Freedom Front Plus? I assume not. Al

Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, Deputy Speaker, no. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member and the Democratic Alliance? No? Thank you. [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Madam Deputy Speaker, the DA will be making a declaration. I believe hon Allen is on mute.

Mr R I ALLEN: Are you able to hear me, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can, thank you very much. Thank you, Chief Whip for alerting me. I can now hear you, hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much. The technology is still working. Deputy Speaker, the Museum Ordinance Amendment Bill seeks to ensure good practice within the museums' governance environment. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Audio distorted.]

Mr R I ALLEN: The Amendment Bill also aims to align the Museum Ordinance with contemporary terminology and government structures. These changes will alleviate the Auditor-General's financial burden on conducting annual financial audits on Province-aided museums which are supported by

the Department, as well as the Auditor-General.

Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their commitment and hard work with ensuring that we finalise the process before the end of this month. Many of our cultural institutions have suffered immensely under lockdown restrictions and the Bill will go a long way towards alleviating some of the pressures on museums. Deputy Speaker, museums are key to the cultural discourse in a diverse society, such as the Western Cape, which enjoys many rich histories. I am therefore delighted to announce that the Standing Committee unanimously agreed on the Museum Ordinance Amendment Bill without any amendments. And I call on this House to vote in support of the report. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. That concludes the declaration on the consideration and finalisation of the Bill. Are there any objections to the Bill being finalised? Any objections?

HON MEMBERS: No objections. No! No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks very much, hon members. Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Museum Ordinance Amendment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. The Bill will be sent to



the Premier for assent. The Secretary will now read the 10<sup>th</sup> Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Rules Committee on the Review of Rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved there would be no list of speakers and that parties who wish to do so will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the report for a maximum of three minutes, if they so desire. I recognise the ANC. Will you be making a declaration?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. In the Western Cape there are several examples whereby the Executive members undermine and pollute the Legislature, including instances where MECs would miss committee meetings or sittings of the House. The reason we agree that from time to time the Rules must be reviewed was so that we can strengthen an oversight rule and effectiveness of the Legislature.

Secondly, we have to move with the times and to adapt to present day

challenges. For instance, the amendments to Rule 1 to insert a Rule 1A that the House may sit or committee may sit with its members in a remote attendance by electronic means, was necessitated by the emergence of COVID-19, which forced us to conduct our business away from the Legislature precinct.

Deputy Speaker, it is good that we have Rules that allow members to move a motion of no confidence in the Provincial Cabinet. I wish the rule would be extended to allow for motions of no confidence against MECs. Deputy Speaker, we have noted there were instances where MECs would post a video on social media, enjoying holidays in Limpopo while healthcare workers were battling with COVID-19.

Deputy Speaker, I also want to warn that there may be the first victims of the resolution to remove the Speaker, as the Speaker you have the mandate, many MMEs in the powerful places in the DA. We welcome the clear distinction of powers of the Speaker and those of his subordinates. It is now clear who is the boss. We will no longer be subjected to subordinates trying to undermine the office of the Speaker.

We welcome the proposed amendment to Rule 55A to give more voice to the Main Opposition as the Leader of the Opposition will also not be restricted in regard to the length of time they may speak.

Lastly, the proposed addition to Rule 196 on admissibility of questions and

interpellations must also not be rejected and therefore, we can be able to have MECs to take charge of questions and interpellations to other MECs. I so move. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I ask on the EFF: will you be making a declaration?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Deputy Speaker, the EFF is not doing any declaration. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you very much. To GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: Deputy Speaker, no, we support it. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. Freedom Front Plus? I take that as a no. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: No, Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The Democratic Alliance?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can, you may proceed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you. Thanks, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, a subcommittee on the review of the Standing Rules of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament was established by the Rules Committee on 16 August 2019 with a brief to assess and review the efficacy of the Standing Rules, if and when deemed necessary and to make recommendations to the Rules Committee in this regard. The Rules Committee appointed the following members who served on the subcommittee: hon Wenger, hon Baartman, hon [Audio distorted.]. Hon Deputy Speaker, there is the background noise. If you can?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I just check? Hon Lekker, can you please mute your microphone? There we go, you may proceed, hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Rules Committee appointed the following members to serve on the subcommittee: hon Wenger, hon Baartman, hon Lekker, hon Makamba-Botya and myself as the convener of the subcommittee. Notwithstanding the mentioned members as part of the review process, various internal WCPP stakeholders and all political parties represented in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, were invited to submit proposals for amendments to the current WCPP Standing Rules for consideration by the subcommittee on

the review of Rules.

The subcommittee met, Deputy Speaker, and deliberated on every single submission made. Deputy Speaker, I would like to highlight that during the consultation process, we continuously provided the opportunity to all political parties to make submissions and at times, extended the initial timelines to ensure that the processes followed are as inclusive as possible. These Rules, Deputy Speaker are, after all, all our Rules.

A meeting of the Rules Committee then took place on 4 December 2020, having considered the proposed amendments to the Standing Rules and adopted the proposals made by the subcommittee. Deputy Speaker, the Rules report with the proposed amendments was ATC'd on 10 March 2020.

And Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the subcommittee, the administration and every single member who made a proposal for a possible amendment. It is with that said that I table the proposed amendments for adoption by the House and trust that the House will support the recommendation. I think you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the report being adopted?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, Deputy Speaker. No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, I take it that there are no objections. Thank you very much, hon Lekker. No objections? Agreed to. Okay, thank you. My apologies. The Secretary will now read the 11<sup>th</sup> Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Rules Committee on the Presiding Officers' Manual.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. Are there any objections to the report being adopted?

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

An HON MEMBER: No objections from our side.

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. No objections. Agreed to. Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will be exited from the meeting and the sitting. The House is adjourned, thank you.

The House adjourned at 18:05.