
THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Hon members, I trust that hon members are familiar with the Standing Rules that govern our Sittings and I will refer hon members to the appropriate Orders.

I will now see the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy

Speaker, I move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 18, the hours of the Sitting on Tuesday, 3 June 2025, and Wednesday, 11 June 2025, shall be: 10:00 until adjournment. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections. Agreed to.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 197, we will now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Order Paper, and I recognise the hon Minister for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, who is online. hon Minister Bredell.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr D W Bryant to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(a) What collaborative plans are currently in place between his Department and municipalities to ensure winter readiness, particularly in the light of the increased risk of flooding, and

(b) What measures are being implemented to mitigate the impact of such events on vulnerable communities and infrastructure?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you for allowing me to be online. Thank you to the hon Bryant for the interpellation.

Planning plays a pivotal role in ensuring a rapid, effective and coordinated response to any major emergency incident that occurs. The Department of Local Government, through the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre, coordinates the planning efforts between provincial departments and municipalities in the Western Cape Province.

For the current winter season the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre commenced planning in February 2025, whereby local municipalities were requested to ensure the necessary planning is carried out and plans were duly submitted to the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre. These plans were collated and submitted in turn to the National Disaster Management Centre. So we work as three spheres of government on the same plans and same responses. The Disaster Management Centre does have a Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan which speaks to generic responses to incidents and emergencies, which include a flood response.

The National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry bears primarily responsibility in the case of riverine floods or dam management. Preparedness and response to urban flooding is the responsibility of local municipalities, therefore the City of Cape Town and municipalities have the

necessary flood contingent plans in place, either forming part of their Winter Readiness Plan or incorporated into their Disaster Management Plan.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a Disaster Management Learning Programme has been developed and is being rolled out to capacitate municipal officials in the various aspects of disaster management. These programmes are in the form of 16 short courses, of which five have taken place. These courses are designed to provide officials with practical ways to implement disaster management in their municipalities, for example in April, a short course was provided to 50 officials on early warning to teach the officials how to establish early warning mechanisms in their municipalities; and in June a course on awareness and training will be facilitated to teach municipal officials how to develop and implement awareness and training programmes in their communities.

The provincial mitigation and preparedness measures include the following: early weather warning systems provided by the South Africa Weather Services ensure flooding awareness and targeted information, and through this we help and safeguard our communities, because early warning systems allow us to go into communities and get them out of harm's way.

Impact based severe weather warnings received from South African Weather Services are also distributed to all our municipalities. Flood awareness material has been developed to educate communities about what to do before, during, and after floods.

A community resilience building training programme has been developed, partnering, and financially supporting the National Sea Rescue Institute, as well as Lifesaving South Africa; partnering with NGOs and volunteer organisations, such as SARZA, the Search and Rescue South Africa ...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, kindly conclude.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Chair. Funding was also distributed to Garden Route to help them with their swift response on water related issues. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I see the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for the response. Hon Deputy Speaker, floods are a harsh reality in South Africa; and in Cape Town in particular in the Western Cape, and this is made worse by climate change and rapid urbanisation.

But while many parts of our country are caught off-guard time and time again, the Western Cape stands out. Not because it does not flood, but because we know how to respond. Under DA leadership the Western Cape has developed and implemented some of the most advanced flood mitigation

strategies in the country. Municipalities like Cape Town invest in early warning systems, regular drain maintenance and risk assessments long before disaster strikes, and when the floods do come, and we know they will come, the response is swift, it is coordinated and it is transparent.

So let us look at the 2024 storms as an example. Within hours, disaster management teams were deployed, shelters were opened and affected communities were assisted. Roads were cleared and communication with residents was constant and clear. Contrast that with other regions where people are often left to fend for themselves and infrastructure collapses without warning. All we have to do is remember the devastating floods in Durban and eThekweni, and the impact that had due to failing municipal infrastructure that was already in place.

One of the key reasons the Western Cape does better is because it takes our infrastructure seriously, whether it is upgrading storm water systems, relocating vulnerable communities, or ensuring proper zoning laws are enforced. The focus is on long term planning and not short term fixes.

More than anything that sets the DA-led Western Cape apart, is accountability. Budgets are used where they are meant to be used, and that is why we can defend our municipal budgets, even those of the City of Cape Town, because we know the money is going to be spent in the right places. There is oversight, there is delivery, and above all in the DA-led Government there is political will. When the people at the top care more about service

than slogans, results follow, and the Western Cape proves that.

No government is perfect, hon Deputy Speaker, but when it comes to dealing with floods, the Western Cape shows what is possible when competence, planning and leadership come together. If the rest of the country adopted even half of the Western Cape's approach, countless lives and livelihoods could be protected. I thank the hon Minister for his response. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bryant. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, afternoon to the House and also to the people of the Western Cape. We are at the beginning of a brutal season for our people, winter is here by now, we all have seen and felt the impact of it. We know it is going to get worse, and those who will be negatively affected expect this Government to be able to be there at 8:00.

We had heavy rains last year in July 2024. According to the Western Cape Disaster Management about 15 000 people have been affected. Thousands of homes were flooded in informal settlements across the Western Cape. Roads were closed, schools and clinics were damaged, and some areas were cut off by flooding. Families in Malema, Siyahlala and Graveyard Pond, informal settlements in Philippi, had to abandon their homes and had to seek shelter with relatives. Even formal houses were affected by the rain.

What are the preparations for informal settlements that are along the riverbanks and wetlands? Beyond the winter readiness and beyond, what is the Department's long term plan for flooding in informal settlements, because it can be that you are always reactive. We know winter readiness is directly linked to Human Settlements, Social Development and other departments that provide humanitarian support. Is there an interdepartmental plan that has been made for winter readiness? As the African National Congress we would love to see it and see where we are as a province in terms of the readiness. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stoffel. I recognise the hon Petrus.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): It will be my colleague, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Goeiemiddag aan die Huis. Agb Adjunkspeaker, met die winter wat voorlê is dit noodsaaklik om die Wes-Kaapse se gereedheid vir die seisoen se uitdagings te bespreek. Die provinsie is bekend vir die vatbaarheid van ernstige winterstorms, oorstromings, en die bykomende gevolge van beurtkrag. Die Departement van Plaaslike Regering het meer as R10 miljoen toegeken vir die vermindering van ramp risikos hierdie winter. Hierdie fondse ondersteun noodreaksies, verligtingspogings en die voorsiening van tydelike skuiling vir geraakte gemeenskappe.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon to the House. Hon Deputy Speaker, with the winter ahead it is necessary to discuss the Western Cape's readiness for the season's challenges. The province is known for the susceptibility of serious winter storms, floods and the additional consequences of load shedding. The Department of Local Government has allocated more than R10 million to the reduction of disaster risks this winter. These funds support emergency reactions, relief efforts and the provision of temporary shelter for affected communities.]

†Ook, agb Adjunkspeaker, die installering van meer as 13 000 rookalarms in sulke nedersettings is geloofwaardig, maar die breër kwessie van die beskerming van infrastruktuur is kommerwekkend. Verder het die Departement aan die munisipaliteite voorsiening gemaak vir die aankoop vir kragopwekkers om kontinuïteit van noodsaaklike winter water- en riooldienste tydens beurtkrag te verseker. Die doeltreffendheid van hierdie kragopwekkers tydens langdurige beurtkragperiodes moet egter noukeurig gemonitor word.

[Also, hon Deputy Speaker, the installation of more than 13,000 smoke alarms in such settlements is praiseworthy, but the broader issue of the protection of infrastructure is concerning. Further, the Department made provision to the municipalities for the acquisition of generators to ensure continuity of necessary water and waste services during load shedding. The efficiency of these generators during long load shedding periods must still be monitored carefully.]

†Gegewe hierdie oorwegings rig ek die volgende vrae aan die *MEC*:

- In informele nedersettings, watter spesifieke strategieë is in plek om die informele nedersettings teenoor oorstromings en brande hierdie winter te versterk en te beskerm.
- Infrastruktuur-gereedheid – Hoe beplan die Departement om te verseker dat kragopwekkers en ander kritieke infrastrukture langdurige beurtkrag kan weerstaan.
- Gemeenskapbetrokkenheid – Watter inisiatiewe word onderneem om gemeenskappe, veral in hoë risikogebiede op te voed en te betrek by die rampvoorbereiding en reaksies.
- Monitering en evaluering – Hoe gaan die Departement die doeltreffendheid van sy wintergereedheidsmaatreëls evalueer en watter meganismes is in plek tydens hierdie gebeurtenisse. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Given these considerations I put the following questions to the MEC:

- In informal settlements, which specific strategies are in place to strengthen and protect the informal settlements against flooding and fires this winter?
- Infrastructure readiness – how does the Department plan to ensure that generators and other critical infrastructure can withstand long load shedding?
- Community involvement – What initiatives are undertaken to educate and involve communities, especially in high risk areas, in the disaster preparation and reactions.
- Monitoring and evaluation – How is the Department going to evaluate the efficiency of its winter preparedness measures and what

mechanisms are in place during these events?] [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time to conclude.

†Mnr N CONSTABLE (PA): Agb Adjunkspeaker, ons kollektiewe verantwoordelikheid is om die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap, veral die kwesbares, te beskerm en ons doen 'n beroep op die Minister om sodoende gemeenskappe te betrek by enige aktiwiteite. Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, our collective responsibility is to protect the inhabitants of the Western Cape, especially the vulnerable, and we call on the Minister to involve communities in any activities. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to just ask the hon Minister two questions. Before I ask the two questions, let me just ask the following. I know the hon Minister and his team had a briefing in April 2025, and also to the South African Weather Service, there is a prediction that we will not have, we will have less rain now than previous seasons.

So that is why the planning is so important, because now you have rainfall, and after rainfall you have water shortages. So if the hon Minister can just

elaborate, what they are doing if we are receiving less rainfall than previous years, and of course they were looking at previous seasons and then they determine the way going forward.

But the other question I want to ask and a very pertinent question is, I know last year also we were sitting with, the Western Cape has applied to National Government for funding to recover from past disasters, and that amount, I do not know, it ranged, when I read it, it ranged between R3,5 billion to R6 billion because of unprecedented disasters.

So I want to ask the hon Minister now, did they receive the money from National Government, and what is he going to do, because if there are disasters and we apply and we wait forever for the money, it of course affects services, so even that way thinking forward I would like the hon Minister just to tell us what is his thinking around funding and applying to National. Is there another strategy they are going to use to get the money sooner rather than later, because like we say, flooding and all those things happen. We can be how well prepared, but it happens and you need the money at the end of the day. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to all of the other speakers from the other parties. I think

everybody shares the concern particularly during this time for those people who are already struggling, because when floods hit they do not only damage roads and buildings, they devastate lives, especially the lives of the most vulnerable. In South Africa that often means people in rural areas, the poor and the homeless. But here in the Western Cape we have shown that we do care, not just with our words but also with action.

The DA understands that rural communities in particular face unique challenges. Roads are very far apart, resources are stretched, and help can often feel a world away during a crisis, which is why in the Western Cape our Government has invested in strengthening disaster response in our rural municipalities, all the way from Mossel Bay to the Central Karoo, and we have seen some of those steps that have been taken in places like Beaufort West, over time.

Local disaster teams are trained and equipped. Our agricultural support services are on standby to assist farmers whose land is flooded. But most importantly communication lines stay open, because the early warnings that have been mentioned by the hon member Christians, and the fast responses in response to that, can save lives and livelihoods.

But I think it is important for us to pause for a second and just remember the homeless. In many cities the homeless are left out of disaster planning altogether. In Cape Town again, we are not perfect, but I know that the DA has introduced safe spaces which do provide warm, secure shelters, where

people can go during storms in particular, and these are not just places to sleep, they do offer meals, showers, social workers and pathways to jobs and housing.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, I think in summary, when the rains do come, the DA and the DA-led Western Cape Government do not wait to react, we prepare, we respond and we rebuild, and that is the difference real leadership makes, and it is the kind of leadership the Western Cape will continue to deliver under this Premier and the hon Minister Bredell. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon Bryant. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chair, hon Deputy Speaker to my Chairperson, thank you very much for this debate, it is a crucial debate. The accolades, we must also thank the whole of Government approach. Yes, we do planning, yes we coordinate and, and, and, but with the repair and the restoration even during disasters, I mean Infrastructure Development, my colleagues in Health, in Safety, in Social Work, all step up and support the whole of Government's system, so that we can support the whole of our society, which is affected during any kind of disaster.

We are not perfect; we understand that we want to do more. We keep on learning internationally from best practises, we keep on doing research, but

obviously our budget is under pressure right through the country, and we all know that. So we need to understand that, as I sit here I am also really nervous, because you never know what is going to hit you, and people will criticise us, but we try our utmost best to support and to safeguard our families.

Obviously the informal settlements are very close to our hearts, therefore we have first of all the smoke alarm system, because it affects, we have got a very good system in the rural areas to deal with fires, but the informal settlements, there people lose their lives or their livelihood, and it is very important to get them out of harm's way, and therefore the smoke alarm project is a very successful project.

But then also with people staying, hon Stoffel, next to the rivers, the hon members of Parliament must also help us, we need to move people into safe spaces. People in low laying areas, they are going to be affected, and unfortunately – and we need to recognise the problems that were escalated through Covid, the immigration, the amount of informal settlements that just overwhelm the system at the end of the day. People live in dangerous areas, and to communicate with them is very difficult, and we need everybody's help to talk to those communities.

On the collective responsibility, †ja, dit is so, ek het dit voorheen gesê, dit kom van 'n munisipaliteit, u ken die bekommernisse, u ken die probleme in 'n munisipaliteit, die winter lê voor, en ja, ons beplan altyd vir die ergste en

dan hoop ons dit gebeur nie. Ons het R10 miljoen gekry waarvoor ons baie dankbaar is, maar ons is bekommerd oor ons informele areas, en dit is 'n gesamentlike verantwoordelikheid wat op almal van ons se skouers lê, soos wat dit 'n gesamentlike verantwoordelikheid is om ons mense te beskerm, en ek dink dit is wat ons regkry, dat departemente werk uit hulle silo's uit met mekaar om ons gemeenskappe te dien.

So ons probeer, met ons uitreikprogramme gaan doen ons kursusse in ons gemeenskappe, behalwe met die munisipaliteite wat dit ook moet verder uitrol, gaan ons ook self in oop parke en ons gaan doen met studente opleiding oor brandgevaar, oor hoe om jouself te beskerm met water, etcetera. Dit is die tipe inisiatiewe wat ons neem. Ons beplan met ander departemente sodat ons nie oor mekaar se verantwoordelikhede werk nie maar dat ons saam met mekaar werk. Ons evalueer gereeld die sisteem, ons nooi mense na die rampbestuur se sentrum toe sodat gemeenskappe die sisteem verstaan aan die einde van die dag en dit help ons dat mense regtig saamwerk, so ons is baie dankbaar.

Agb Christians, ja, ons verwag 'n langer winter, of 'n later winter, wat beteken daar kan meer water gelyk kom later, maar op hierdie stadium is ons eintlik bekommerd oor die verlengde brandseisoen dan want ... [Tussenwerpsel.] [yes, it is so, I have said it previously, it comes from a municipality, you know the concerns, you know the problems in a municipality, the winter lies ahead, and yes, we always prepare for the worst and then we hope it does not happen. We received R10 million for which we are very grateful, but we are

concerned about our informal areas, and it is a joint responsibility on the shoulders of all of us, as it is a joint responsibility to protect our people, and I think that is what we succeed in doing, that departments are working out of their silos with each other to serve our communities.

So we try, with our outreach programmes we go and do courses in our communities, apart from the municipalities who also have to roll it out further, we also go into open parks ourselves and we go and do training with students on fire dangers, on how to protect yourself with water, etcetera. Those are the type of initiatives we take. We plan with other departments so that we don't work across each other's responsibilities but that we work with each other. We regularly evaluate the system, and we invite people to the disaster management centre so that communities understand the system at the end of the day and it helps us that people really work together, so we are very grateful.

Hon Christians, yes, we expect a longer winter, or a later winter, which means there can come more water simultaneously later, but at this stage we are actually, concerned about the extended fire season then because...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time to conclude, hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: ... want ons moet ons hulpbronne geskuif

het en nou skielik het ons 'n baie langer brandseisoen. Ek is baie dankbaar vir die kapasiteit in ons sisteem en ek vertrou dat ons 'n goeie seisoen sal hê. Baie dankie. [The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ... because we had to shift our resources and now suddenly we have a much longer fire season. I am very grateful for the capacity in our system and I trust that we will have a good season. Thank you.] Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. We proceed to Interpellation 2 as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Minister Simmers.

2. Mr M K Sayed to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

(1) Whether any social housing units have been built on Morningstar Farm no 141 in Philadelphia; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) What are his Department's plans to build social housing on this land?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Sayed for the question. In terms of the first part of the hon member's question, no, no social housing units have been built on Morningstar Farm No. 141 in Philadelphia. The hon member needs to understand that Morningstar Farm No. 141 is privately owned by

Communicare. The land portion is currently zoned as agricultural and has no development rights in place.

Furthermore, the land parcel currently falls within a discouraged development area in terms of the City of Cape Town Municipal Spatial Development Framework, and therefore the City of Cape Town will not provide required bulk services to allow any form of development. In addition, the land parcel does not fall within a Gazetted restructuring zone for the development of social housing.

The second part of the hon member's question, is that my Department has no plans to develop social housing on this land, as the land is not owned by the Department, but by a private company, vis-à-vis Communicare. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and I thank the hon MEC Simmers for the response, but also, he is also the hon leader of the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape and I want to commiserate with him on the DA just losing Matzikama Municipality just a few minutes ago, so, commiserations. But I want to thank the ... [Interjection.] [Inaudible – Speaking simultaneously]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I want to congratulate the GOOD [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... the EFF who have worked closely together in taking this municipality. But I want to thank the MEC for confirming that for 54 years not a single social housing unit has been built on Morningstar Farm No. 141 in Philadelphia, despite over 500 hectares of land under the control of Communicare. I hear his reasons, it does not make sense. A body meant to serve the public interest, Communicare has been established to serve the public interest. Provincial Government has jurisdiction over Communicare. The Western Cape Government, and in particular MEC Simmers, has failed in its oversight mandate. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: This land could have made a meaningful dent in the housing waiting list that now sits at over 600 000 families. Instead the land remains barren while thousands remain homeless, or live in undignified conditions. What is worse is that MEC Simmers has not demanded Communicare's asset register to verify what was transferred to them after 1994. This is crucial to establish whether social housing stock has

been illegally converted into private rental stock, because he says they are a private company, particularly under subsidies like Goodfind Properties.

Why has the MEC's Department not intervened? Where is the compliance with Section 26 of the Constitution - the right to adequate housing? If Communicare has failed to deliver on its mandate, will the MEC support placing them under permanent administration, because there is a forensic investigation underway currently led by the National Department of Human Settlements. We demand accountability. We demand answers and we demand action, because empty land and empty promises do not build homes. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. I see the hon Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I must express my confusion regarding the purpose for this interpellation. Morningstar Farm No. 141 is privately owned land. The ANC knows that full well that Government cannot build on land that it does not legally own. To pretend otherwise is not just misleading, it is dishonest and it raises false hope among desperate communities. This is not a matter of politics but of legality and process.

Sadly, hon Deputy Speaker, Mr Sayed and the colleagues seem far more interested in the political theatre, than in practical solutions. Hon Deputy Speaker, if the ANC truly wants to talk about housing delivery, perhaps it

should start by explaining the complete failure of National Government in places like District 6. Decades after promising restitution, hundreds of rightful claimants are still waiting, they are still waiting to return. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): In 2021, the Western Cape High Court has even declared the National Government's delays unconstitutional, yet progress remains painfully slow. That said, hon Deputy Speaker, the DA understands the urgent need for affordable housing in areas like Philadelphia, that is why I ask, hon Minister, are there any current planned social housing developments in or near Philadelphia? [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order!

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are we able to maintain the decorum of the House? If you wish to speak, speak through the Chair. I now recognise the hon Jacobs. [Interjection.] Order members! Hon Jacobs, you may proceed.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Inaudible.] I greet you all in the name of the most high. Hon Deputy Speaker, today we

speaking about Communicare and we speak about land that Communicare owns, but the land in Morningstar, today we can see that Communicare is one of the modern day mafia companies, and the Western Cape Government finds it is in order and allows them to exploit our elderly pensioners.

I had a meeting with the Communicare management not long ago, and we were told they cannot build houses there; they first need to establish a human settlement environment. But the MyCiti passes there; Table View and Melkbos lie just next to it, what would stop the Department from building houses there and to alleviate the housing crisis that we have within the Western Cape?

Hon Deputy Speaker, as we speak the residents of Ruyterwacht and Brooklyn are fighting battles in court to avoid evictions by Communicare, while they are selling off land and rental stock to investors and developers. Why can the Department not make use of the land? Hon Deputy Speaker, as the NCC we are therefore very concerned that the Department of Infrastructure will fail again to push Communicare to build houses and to develop residential infrastructure in Morningstar.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we see that the Western Cape, the land of the Khoi and the San and the land of our Coloured mothers and fathers is systematically being sold to those thinking that the Western Cape is a safe haven. My question is why does the Department not take the land without compensation? This land lies barren while people are increasingly becoming backyard

dwellers and homeless, and the Department of Infrastructure sends back unspent funds for 2023-2024. The Department must give surety that when there are houses built in Morningstar, it must go to the intended beneficiaries, the Coloured people of the Western Cape. It is very important for the Department to take action against Communicare, because that land does not belong to Communicare, it belong to the people that it was stolen from. I thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I did quite a bit of research when I wanted to look at Farm No. 141 in Philadelphia, Morningstar. It was very difficult to get some information there, and it seems to me some of the hon members do have information from this farm. But let me just say a couple of things.

Maybe, hon Deputy Speaker, some of our hon members must be coached to what social housing is, who are the beneficiaries; and when I looked at the list of properties and projects of Communicare, I would have thought that if you are informed you will take the Department to task to say, listen, this is an area for housing development and nothing is happening. But now we are discussing a farm that does not belong to Government. We are discussing a farm that is not for social housing.

So we all know there is a need for housing. We all know it is a desperate need. But the right procedure will be to look at where there are housing developments, where did the Department fail, where did they not execute the mandate? But to take Farm No. 141, and make that a political issue is unacceptable. We cannot politically grandstand. Let us get the issues right. Housing is a problem, but let us keep the hon Minister and the Department accountable, not to come with private land that belongs to Communicare and that we can get nothing out of it.

So hon Deputy Speaker, I think the question is wrongly worded, I think if it was better worded the Department and hon Minister could have given us a better reply to say, where are the problems we are facing and what is he doing? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, if I am able to remind the hon members that the political parties have duly allocated hon members to speak on various topics. I will trust that hon members will afford other members the respect when they are ultimately giving their input, as each party is adequately represented to give input. I now see the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Let me firstly start by thanking the hon Christians, for yet again amplifying the role that he plays as the SCOPA Chair, but the SCOPA Chair was biased ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... biased in favour of the Executive, and now we know the real reasons as to why ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Cannot be trusted.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... he was given the SCOPA Chairmanship. So just on that note, let me also thank the hon Jacobs from the NCC really for highlighting a case study [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, I think I will, yeah.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you able to take your seat? Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING PARTY: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on Rule 59, which the former Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC that was demoted to ceremonial leader of the Opposition knows he violated. He cannot reflect negatively on the integrity of our hon SCOPA Chair by calling him biased, especially when his members sit in those SCOPA meetings.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we have Rules that govern our Sittings. I will request that hon members refrain from any comments that will impugn on the dignity of another member. So hon member Sayed, I trust that you will continue in that particular fashion.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So I want to thank the hon Jacobs, I think he has underlined the clear case as to where expropriation can take place. So social housing is not for profit, we must remember that, it is for the people, and yet under the watch of this Government, we see allegations that Communicare has offered incentives, income, it has offered incentives to low income tenants to vacate units. I have met with those tenants personally, only to convert these into private stock through a for-profit subsidiary, known as Goodfind Properties. Now this flies in the face of the Companies Act, the Social Housing Act, and common decency.

I would like to ask the MEC, did Communicare transfer state funded social housing to its subsidiaries, because he wants to run away from responsibility. The hon member Wessels wants to absolve the MEC and Government. But yes, state funded social housing to its subsidiaries without SHRA approval. If so, where were the tenants moved to, who authorised this and what has the MEC done?

The ANC demands a forensic audit of all state funding received by Communicare since 1997. We want to know how many properties were funded with public money, how many have been transferred into private

hands, and how this Government let it happen? Let us be clear, Communicare only applied for SHRA accreditation in 2010, so how did they continue to receive public funding before that? MEC Simmers, enough evasion. He needs to act now, or will he remain complicit in the privatisation of our people's homes?

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to all the various hon members for their comments and questions. But I think I just need to reiterate again, there is social housing which is a rental only option. The hon member Sayed referred to the Social Housing Regulatory Act which defines what social housing is, but seemingly the African National Congress and the NCC seek to confuse social housing, which is a rental programme, against the BNG programme, which is an ownership model, through which the transfer of a subsidy vis-à-vis through a housing opportunity into a title deed happens.

†Maar niks verstom my nou eintlik wat ek nou tans gehoor het nie, agb Adjunkspeaker. [But nothing actually surprises me that I have heard now presently, hon Deputy Speaker.] We need to understand and the hon member asks why I do not act, and he alleges that I am failing in my oversight, and I need to make the hon member clearly understand, Communicare is a social housing institute. He himself has just said they registered in 2010 as an SHI.

The body tasked with accreditation and oversight vests in the Social Housing Regulatory Authority, or SHRA as it is now commonly called. This is an entity of the National Department of Human Settlements, hence again; the hon member is actually answering it himself. The National Department of Human Settlements, as he rightfully says, initiated a forensic investigation.

But hon members of the House you need to understand. As Province, we concur with what is a restructuring zone that is Gazetted, as I outlined in my original response to the hon member, the National Minister signs on that, and social housing development, which is the rental option, I need to reemphasise just so that the hon members do not confuse this again, social housing as a rental option, is only allowed in Gazetted restructuring zones, and that Gazette I can avail to the hon members to fully understand which areas are earmarked for future expansion in terms of social housing.

So I am not running away, hon member. The law, the Act prescribes who is responsible for the oversight and who is responsible to ensure that the SHI carries out their mandate. But we are all well aware that the social housing sector is experiencing massive financial constraints, which is a matter which is due to be discussed at MinMEC. We also further need to understand, hon members, that because of the zoning, we need to respect the role of Local Government, in this case the City of Cape Town, I need to reiterate that Farm No. 141, not only just being a privately owned piece of land, also falls outside the urban edge for development in terms of housing opportunities, because it is classified as a discouraged development area, given that its

current zoning is agriculture.

Then, hon Deputy Speaker, the closest project in terms of human settlements development, which is funded through the Human Settlements Development Grant between my Department and the City of Cape Town, is the Fisantekraal Housing Project in Durbanville, which is currently at an implementation stage. We need to understand and all hon members need to understand, human settlements and the implementation of the BNG programme do not focus on a ward based approach, but on how to effectively, through various programmes, integrate various communities, and it speaks through that mandate by developing projects, such as the Fisantekraal project in Durbanville to address the housing waiting log in terms of the date of application.

That is something that the ANC and the NCC needs to understand, and I so wish these hon members actually attend the Standing Committee of Infrastructure to fully understand, but I am quite willing to afford them 'n vinnige blitskursus, [a quick rapid course] if I had more time, because this is why people are invading land because of such utterances without having been equipped with the knowledge of what is developable and what is not, what is in a development zone and what is not. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon Minister.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. We now proceed to Interpellation 3 as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the Premier.

3. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

With regard to the applications submitted by Ndifuna Ukwazi on behalf of communities occupying public land under the authority of the Western Cape Government, in terms of the State Land Disposal Act, 1961 (Act 48 of 1961), and the Joint Team established by the President of the Republic, which includes the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, the Department of Human Settlements and the Housing Development Agency (HDA), to engage with the organisation on the applications:

(1) Whether the Western Cape Government has been requested to attend or to participate in meetings convened by the HDA on behalf of the Joint Team;

(2) What progress, if any, has been made with the applications that have been made in respect of public land under the authority of the Western Cape Government?

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

(1) The Department of Infrastructure informed me that they have not been

approached and therefore have not participated in the activities of the Joint Team.

(2) The applications received, responses and progress as informed by the information received from the Department of Infrastructure are detailed in the table below. I will take you through it. As of 2023 there are seven:

1) The first one is 43 Fezeka Street, Gugulethu. The applicant is the Housing Assembly, Barcelona Community, and I have got all of the detail which we will obviously send to you, but it is the erf size, etcetera, and the progress to date. The property, or the portion therefore has not been relinquished by the WCED, because the allocation is a WCED property and under the control of the WCED and the SGB for the portion that has been requested to be relinquished.

2) Then also in August 2023, this is the Siyahlala Community. This is adjacent to the Nomsa Mapongwana Primary School. It is in Khayelitsha. It is also a WCED property and SGB managed, and the same is, we are still waiting for the relinquishment.

3) 2023 August as well, this is the third one; this is Indibano also in Khayelitsha, also a WCED property, exactly the same thing.

4) The Social Justice Coalition, the community of the [Inaudible.] Malukene section, this is in Faure Road. The property is unlawfully occupied and is still so, so that is an issue that has to be dealt with.

5) The Housing Assembly of Barcelona Community, this is Athwood Road in Newfields. This is also the same as the other, as the WCED and

the SGB.

6) The Housing Assembly of Parkwood, this is in Plantation Road, also WCED and the Governing Body.

7) Then Reclaim the City, this is 1 Beach Road. The property is unlawfully occupied, that is the blockage at the moment.

Then in 2024 there are six applications:

1) The first one is Singabalapha in Oranjezicht. The property has been identified for the purposes and is not surplus to Government needs. That is obviously the hold-up.

2) Then Iglungu, this is also in Khayelitsha, the property is a WCED SGB issue.

3) Then [Inaudible 0:46:33] in Khayelitsha, also again a WCED property that is being applied for.

4) Then the 4th one is Reclaim the City in Sea Point, Milner and Herbert Road. This is ERF 1675 Sea Point, and is not a stand-alone cadastral property and forms part of ERF 1424 Sea Point East, which is not surplus to the Government's needs.

5) The Kraaifontein Community, Old Paarl Road, Bloekompos. This property is unlawfully occupied at the moment and that is the hold-up.

6) Then six, the Housing Assembly [Inaudible 0:47:20 – Speaking simultaneously]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ... and this property is not surplus to Government requirements.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the Premier for the answers. With regards to the first question, in April 2024 the President in reply to a question in the National Assembly indicated that he would establish a Joint Team with the Department of Public Works or the hon Minister of Public Works and the hon Minister of Human Settlements.

That team has been established, I am informed, led by the HAD. Public Works, National Public Works is participating, National Human Settlements is participating, the City of Cape Town is participating, but apparently the Provincial Government is not. So if there is a breakdown in communication that they have not been invited, then we need, I think as a Government to fix it, and if I can help I will certainly do that, because it is important that the Province is part of those discussions.

Moving on, hon Deputy Speaker, obviously WCED land is still public land and if it is not being used for public, for WCED purposes, then we must consider it for release or for other purposes. A week ago in this House I

welcomed the 353 on Main, or the Tafelberg site project, it is an important moment because it proves that public land can serve the public good, and that affordable housing in well located areas is not a dream and it is entirely possible.

But it also proves something else, hon Deputy Speaker, that progress only happens it seems when communities fight for it, because the project was not a gift, it was a result of tireless organising, legal battles and public pressure, and that is why I stand here again today, not just to acknowledge what was done, but to ask why is this the exception and not the norm? Across this province thousands of people live on publicly owned land in informal settlements that have existed for years. In 2024 this Government managed to upgrade just one informal settlement, only one. So this is not a capacity crisis, it is really a crisis of political will.

There are currently, as I am informed, 14 applications under the State Land Disposal Act, five of these relate to land currently occupied, not invaded last week, but settled on for years and years and years. There is ERF 59787 in Khayelitsha where nearly 3 500 people are living; mostly women led households, and have lived on that land since 2020. The land was empty, it was unused, and it offered real potential for formalisation and development. The application was denied and the official reason given was that it belongs to the Education Department and is not surplus.

But let us be honest, if that land has not been occupied for years, with no

plans for development, is it really surplus, and if this Government has no capacity to upgrade at scale, and we have seen they can only do one informal settlement upgrade a year, then surely the answer is to transfer ownership to the people already living there through a trust or community owned entity, so that they can build their own future. This Government loves to say the communities must take ownership or work in partnership with this Government, and here is a chance to show that you actually mean it, to step aside to allow communities to formalise, to secure tenure, and begin development ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ... because this Government clearly is not keeping up. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Despite the establishment of the President's joint committees, and they are myriad, like those tasked with addressing challenges in the Johannesburg inner city, and the national energy crisis, tangible outcomes remain extremely limited. The Johannesburg inner city continues to fall far short of its potential, posing significant risks to an already struggling urban economy. Meanwhile Eskom's on-going constraints appear to hinder the development of integration of green

energy solutions. The so-called joint committee set up to deal with municipal debts to Eskom, has also failed for half a decade, to make any difference at all, and has not to the best of my knowledge ever met.

Notably the City of Cape Town, acting independently of such a committee, has made substantial progress, including the release of land capable of accommodating over 12 000 housing units, underpinning a clear strategy and implementation plan, and which the Premier has discussed in this House last week and now 5 minutes ago as well. Efforts to develop affordable housing in well located areas often encounter excessive legal and procedural obstacles. Examples such as the prolonged occupation of the Helen Bowden Nurses Home and the Woodstock Hospital have significantly delayed progress in delivering inner city housing and continued to delay such implementation.

As we have already seen today, the truth is that the ANC and their sidekicks refuse to abide by the rule of law, refuse to understand the Rule of Law, or simply want to grandstand, in which case I may rather suggest a TikTok account. Furthermore, hon Deputy Speaker, with the hon member Sayed now railing against the privatisation of people's homes, may I remind him that this is actually ANC policy, because title deed delivery is in fact a national indicator of delivery, so they might be surprised by his view.

In light of these developments, is the Premier of the view that a joint committee of this nature can realistically resolve the housing crisis given the limited outcomes thus far and the complex legal and administrative

challenges involved? [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van Minnen. I recognise the hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is a known fact that in January 2025, the Western Cape Government used to cut off the contested Tafelberg site in Sea Point for affordable housing. The MEC of Infrastructure, the hon Simmers outlined plans for the site, and part of the site would be used for services and part for affordable housing. Can the MEC share those plans with us, and our fear comes from noticing that the patterns of unspent grant allocation are very much open for everyone to see.

For the Urban Settlement Development Grant USDG, the City of Cape Town is allocated R1,4 billion for the 2024-2025 financial years. In addition to the approved rollover of R56 million, the total available funds increased to R1,148 billion after the reallocation of R50 million by National Treasury, and as at 28 February 2025, R1,041 billion has been transferred to the Metro, with reported expenditure of R578 million, which is equivalent to 56 of the transferred funds and 50% of total available funds for the Informal

Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant. The Metro is allocated R592,9 million for the 2024-2025 financial years. As at February, R409,5 million has been transferred with R166 million spent, which is then equivalent to 40% of the transferred funds, and 29 of the total available funds, and therefore maybe we should ask, what is the update of the unspent monies that has been allocated. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lekker. I see and recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think this is a valid question asked by the hon Herron. You know, you drive through the city and you drive through certain areas and you see the unlawful occupation of land. I understand sometimes the people's frustration, and when you talk to some of them, you know they will tell you that they have been on the waiting list, or some of the people are unemployed. There is a lot of, when interacting with them, a lot of different things they say.

But I want to ask the Premier maybe just the question, hon Premier, do you if you, if all spheres of Government are working together, that it will assist by looking at, at least, land that is public land under the Western Cape Government, that that land, other land, city land, even national land that is in the Western Cape; if all spheres of government work together, will that make the process going easier than at the moment that it is going?

That is an important question, because sometimes, like I always say, people do not understand, many of the people do not understand the difference spheres of government, they are not interested if it belongs to National Government, Provincial Government or Local Government. All they want is affordable suitable housing, they want to be housed, and now that we are facing again the rainy season, it is just going to be a massive, massive problem. So Premier, do you think it will assist if you joined this committee and see how you can resolve these people that are frustrated out in the cold wanting just a roof over their heads.

So I do not agree with illegal occupation, I do not, the ACDP does not agree with that, and proper procedures must be followed, but we also look at the frustration of people. How do we short circuit all this red tape to make sure that people are housed? I thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I think just to respond to hon Van Minnen's comments. Here is a committee that is actually currently functioning and the only difficulty is that the Provincial Government is not present. But we have heard from the Premier that the Provincial Government has not been invited and that must obviously be dealt with, because the hon Minister of Public Works has already made a public

commitment to using public land for public purposes.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, let us continue and maybe consider that occupation is not necessarily a barrier, and it could also be an opportunity, a starting point for land reform. So the question is not just why the Province is not acting, but why is the Province standing in the way. I have already raised the issue of five parcels of land currently occupied by desperate communities, and this Government refuses to release using occupation itself as justification for inaction.

Now I want to speak about the nine remaining sites, they are not occupied, they are not in use, they are vacant, underutilised, and in some cases decaying, yet every application for their release has been denied. Civil groups such as NU and IYM have made the legal case, the moral case, the developmental case. But the Province hides behind technicalities like it is not surplus, it is reserved for future plans, it is not feasible. These are not reasons; these are really excuses for paralysis.

We are told the Government wants to work with communities but at every turn it appears that they block the very actions that would empower them. This is not land reform, this is stagnation, and in a city battling housing backlogs, mass displacement, and on-going legacy of apartheid planning, stagnation is not neutral, it is a choice, it is a choice to protect the status quo. Even without the disposal of the State Land Act, the Premier still has the powers and responsibility to dispose of provincial land, including through

donation, under the Western Cape Land Administration Act.

The law provides the tools, what seems to be missing is the will. If the Province cannot deliver upgrades at scale, and the 2023 and 2024 numbers show that it cannot, then it must consider innovative solutions, like donating occupied land to community trusts, like partnering with those already living on the land to build viable dignified futures. It is time to stop pretending that these proposals are radical. What is radical is letting public land lie idle while people live without secure tenure, without water, without electricity, or without safety. One successful project is not enough, hon Deputy Speaker; it is time to hand over the other sites. If 353 on Main is possible, so are the others and we do not need performance of reform, we need real redistributive action. Thank you.

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

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and once again thank you to those that took part in this mini debate. I think I will start with the hon Van Minnen, and you know you mentioned Helen Bowden and Woodstock Hospital, in other words illegal occupations, and I will come to that because I think the hon Herron also mentioned occupation is a means to an end, and we need to really talk about that quite seriously.

The real thing is I really do hope that a joint working group does work. I hope it really does get traction and starts to bring about change, and it is

quite sad if we have been left out and not invited, I mean that really is unacceptable. But when I look at the other cities and they are streaking ahead and really sorting it out, I say to myself, “wow”, but it is actually not the case, it is exactly the opposite.

I also think that the hon Lekker when she says, “will the MEC please share the information”, I would suggest that perhaps she attend these open public sessions, especially on that piece of land. The hon Herron was referring to it, he went along to those open sessions, and I thank him because he did recognise what we are trying to do there, and he said that he welcomed it.

The hon Christians as well, obviously it makes sense to try and find each other and work together, but that is when we need to also have honesty and integrity in the system to say, well, if you were not invited, who picked up the phone and said, you are not here, you are not talking about it, please make sure that we get along, that we are joined up in this process.

But then I must come back to the hon Herron, and you know we were dealing with a very similar question two weeks ago. I was wondering whether he was going to verge on the edge of illegal occupation, which was much of the debate in the last time we gathered, but he did, he said it, occupation is a means to an end, and of course there are legal occupations, and we have got to find a way in which to deal with it. I think his political party was very much involved in an illegal occupation of a place called Knoflokskraal, and it is a huge conundrum of how we are supposed to deal with it, there are cases

lodged with the police where people were selling some of this land, and there was a definite political lens to what was happening there. That cannot be the means to finding legitimate ownership and legitimate process. We have got to run through the rule of law and legitimacy.

But I must say that luckily I brought my folder yesterday from what was launched by the hon Minister Simmers and our Infrastructure Minister, and we have got a 2050 Infrastructure Strategy, we have got a Infrastructure Framework 2050, and we have got the Infrastructure Implementation Plan, and if I pull out of this document, and specifically the identification of property that we want to take to the next level, and thinking about what happens in other metros at the moment, via this joint meeting, this is actually how you start to move forward.

Now he has welcomed the Tafelberg site. We have already seen the launch of the Leeuloop site; that is just short of a billion rand property. We have got the Founders Garden site that is a R2 and a quarter billion worth of property, also right in the middle of the centre. There is the Oude Molen Precinct which is now in process at the moment, that is another R2,5 billion worth of development. There is the Sanddrift mixed housing development that is in the planning stages, these are in evaluation ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude.

The PREMIER: ... the Stikland space in evaluation. There are a hang of a lot

of pieces that this Department is busy with in those processes of delivering exactly what the hon member is talking about.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members that is the end of Interpellations. We will proceed in terms of Rule 202, and I wish to advise hon members that once the hon Premier or hon Minister has started a reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility that is online, or raise their hand within this particular precinct. There are four opportunities for follow-up questions and the hon member who posed the initial question as printed on the oral Question Paper will have the first opportunity for follow-up. Thereafter other hon members may use the remaining opportunities. I see the hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

1. Ms A Cassiem to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

(1) Whether the members of the Executive have ever been subjected to lifestyle audits in their capacity as Provincial Ministers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) Whether lifestyle audits will be conducted of Provincial Ministers in the Seventh Administration; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I just want to

double check that I am answering the first question. Yes, I am. Thank you very much and so to the hon Cassiem which I presume she is online, thank you very much for your question.

(1) Question 1 of the two parts of the question, the first part, whether the hon members of the Executive have been or subject to lifestyle audits in their capacity as Provincial Ministers; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? So the answer to (1) is yes. But perhaps if I can flesh out with regard to this question because I think it is a really pertinent question. I think in a country like ours which is plagued by corruption, it has been so for decades, lifestyle audits are a tool in the fight against corruption, and if we are to restore public trust in elected representatives, we have got to make sure that we put these kind of mechanisms in place.

This is an assertion that I feel very strongly about, but also one in which has been echoed by the President on numerous occasions in recent years. However in many parts of our country the follow through has not been reflected in a statement of intent, it is not actually happening, and that is really terrible. I mean we being asked this question here, we need to make sure, and I am pretty certain the hon member's party is going to be asking the same questions in all Legislatures, and exactly the same thing at a national level.

To the best of my knowledge, hon Deputy Speaker, the President first raised this about lifestyle audits of the National Cabinet in 2018. It has been

repeated since then a few times and that audits were underway, etcetera, but we have not heard any finality on lifestyle audits. In many of our South African provinces we see the same story play out, both David Makhura and Premier Lesufi said exactly the same thing of lifestyle audits of the Gauteng Cabinet and I am not aware that any of those Cabinets have had lifestyle audits.

Earlier this month we were told that 37% of senior officials in the Gauteng Provincial Government have failed their lifestyle audits. Imagine running a Government where nearly four out of every 10 senior officials are subject to suspicion of unethical entrenchment. In other provinces the story is the same or worse. The ANC promised lifestyle audits in KZN in 2020 and to my knowledge nothing has happened there. In the Free State lifestyle audits were announced in 2022 and said to be underway in 2023, but I have not seen any results there either; and of course in Mpumalanga, Limpopo and North West, it seems to be no effort either, and not even a cursory one, or a Premier saying something about it.

While the lack of a lifestyle audit does not automatically mean someone is guilty of wrongdoing, they must also note that there are many senior Government officials and elected representatives in our country who live in mansions, drive luxurious cars and live of a diet of only the most expensive food and drink, all while earning taxpayer funded salaries, and one wonders where the gap is and how that is funded.

In the Western Cape things are different. As the hon members are likely to be aware, I commissioned lifestyle audits of hon members of my Cabinet when I first became the Premier in 2019, and I repeated the process as we transitioned to the new parliamentary term last year. When I last answered the question on this matter in the House, lifestyle audits had been completed on all provincial Ministers, aside from the three newly appointed members of the Cabinet. I have been informed that these audits are completed, were completed last year, and that lifestyle audits of all current members of the Executive serving as Provincial Ministers, as well as their spouses and life partners were conducted and concluded in 2024.

The scope of the lifestyle audits was to analyse and verify financial and other relevant information to provide an opinion on whether the individual's lifestyle is commensurate with his or her income. The audits also sought to determine whether any such income or any interest held could cause a possible conflict in his or her role as a Cabinet member.

The information analysed includes the following:

- Total income and source of funds of the individual,
- Large and or significant expenditure transactions and funding thereof,
- Business interests and resultant dividends, profits, distribution or of any other related income,
- Personal investments and resultant interests, including shares and or bonds,

- Assets of the individual,
- Liabilities of the individual,
- Declaration of any transfer of assets to family members, family trusts and other persons or entities,
- Credit information,
- Income tax compliance and disclosure,
- Foreign travel,
- Hospitality, and any other benefits of a material nature, and
- Verification of the highest qualification.

The audits did not identify any potential conflicts of interest, lifestyles were found to be commensurate with the incomes, where income or remuneration was earned. In short, no member of this Cabinet has been found to live above or beyond their means, or to have unduly enriched themselves. The Western Cape has a hard won reputation as a province that is vastly less corrupt than any other, or that of National Government and we intend to do everything we can to uphold this reputation and to ensure that there is a full transparency and accountability of how taxpayers money is spent in the Western Cape.

(2) Lifestyle audits of the Provincial Cabinet and of the Seventh Administration have already been completed, and please refer to what I have noted above, and perhaps just the last point, what we do as a practise, you have a lifestyle audit at the beginning of your term, and then at the end of the term your lifestyle audit is done again to see if anything during that term is raised from your income versus your assets and liabilities that might raise

any flag, and then of course as I said if there are new members then they would actually start the process, but again, the full Cabinet would have lifestyle audits at the end of this term again. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to the Premier for that response. I just wanted to check, for both the previous and the new term, what is the process of appointing the service providers to conduct these audits, and then whether the final outcome reports of the Executive, including yourself, Premier, will it be made public? Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you, thank you very much for that follow-up. So first of all it is put out to tender, and it is obviously put out to tender across South Africa. I must say at the end of the day when the tender was awarded it actually ended up with a company called Nexus out of Gauteng, and in actual fact I was quite happy, you normally want to offer these kind of contracts to local companies, but I thought it was actually quite good that it was outside of our province, so that in itself means there was less of a conflict, or a possibility of a conflict from a service provider coming from our province.

Then, you do not make lifestyle audits public. In actual fact the lifestyle audit outcome is not even given to me. What happens is at the end of the lifestyle audit the responsible auditor then signs off in their opinion on that specific audit. They then would raise a flag, if there is a flag to be raised,

that would then be raised with me, because then I need to deal with that flag and then we need to then obviously call in that member, we need to interrogate what that flag is. If there is an anomaly, you say that you do not own a Ferrari but there is a Ferrari in your garage, what is going on, where did you get it? That would then be raised, that then gets triggered, and from the trigger a few things could happen. A charge could be laid, a dismissal, etcetera.

But that is what happens in the audit outcome. All of those audits are then completed, put under lock and key, and that is kept in the HR components in our Government, so that if there would be a charge laid in a Court of Law, that audit could be called for evidence, etcetera. But it is only triggered once there is a problem identified in the process, and that would receive investigation, and none of the triggers were triggered, and then of course it is not made public, lifestyle audits are never made public to the public, you would not want to go into that depth.

But of course, if the hon member wants to see what the asset base is of any member, the best place is to go and have a look at our Register of Interests, it is all there, and when a lifestyle audit is done, they look at what they find in your bank account or any of the other investigations, and they actually look at what we declare as public representatives to see if there is also an anomaly there. So pretty much if the hon member wanted to see what was asset bases and any other income declared by any of the members in this Cabinet, it will be in our members interest, and the reason I can quite confidently say go and

have a look there, because that is where it is able to be public, or parts of it are public, and of course if there was an anomaly it would have been raised with me to say that the member who has declared their interests is different to what we were picking up in the investigation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Considering the allegations against the EFF leader, Julius Malema, and his apparent links to Adriano Mazzotti and the VBS scandal, I want to ask through the Speaker how important it is that lifestyle audits are sufficiently comprehensive of not only the subjects thereof, but their families as well. I thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and that is a really good question, which the hon member who posed this question, it would be interesting to see what she would say if I could reverse the questioning to say to the questioner, “can you answer that question”, because it would be asking exactly the same question of her leader, and of course we know that all sorts of investigations are happening.

Perhaps that is also a pertinent question around political leadership and whether elected members of Parliament should also be subjected to lifestyle audits, especially if they are in any position, way – or could hold any sway as a political leader over perhaps areas where their party is in Government in any way, because one would wonder. But of course not all of what is in the

question that has just been asked is directly linked to a party political leader who perhaps has levers within a power position, because they do not hold those positions of power as in a Mayor, or a Minister, or a MAYCO member, etcetera.

But of course corruption is corruption and we need to find whatever means possible of investigating it, especially if you were a person that stands up in front of a judge when you get elected to the start of your political term and you swear allegiance to our Constitution, as every one of us did as members of this House, and of course as members of the National Assembly as well.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and obviously, hon Deputy Speaker, we welcome the lifestyle audits and the various components that the Premier shared with us, but I wonder if the Premier could share with us what criteria or considerations he used in selecting the members of the Executive from the governing parties caucus. Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I really do not think that is the kind of question you need to ask, or that I am going to answer in a lifestyle audit space, but perhaps we are going to get to the next question which starts to deal with how Ministers are reported on, but I think that that is not the kind of question that I am going to answer in this House. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Let me ask another good question too. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier was saying earlier here that nobody followed through in the life audits, including himself, when he was speaking of follow through; but at the end of the day their finding was that there were no problems. I just wanted to check from him if it would extend to senior management as well, this life audits. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, yes, it is a very interesting question as to, how do we make this as part of our senior management across the board, how do we make it as part of our entities and board members and people serving in positions where you are perhaps at risk of using your position to benefit yourself through procurement processes, etcetera, etcetera, and I absolutely support the rolling it out.

Obviously it goes even further than that; it is, how does it work across all facets of South Africa. I started off by saying that in a country where we do have corruption and we do have endemic corruption, we need to find all tools possible to start to deal with ending this scourge, we have to be able to find ways in which we really start to get to positions in our country that trust is much stronger, and these are the kind of mechanisms that build trust.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes Question 1. I again

recognise the Premier.

2. Ms T Lithakong to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

(1) Whether he assesses the work performance of all his Ministers; if so, what criteria or systems are used;

(2) What measures are taken against Ministers who are underperforming, especially when it comes to service delivery;

(3) Whether the Western Cape Government has a platform where residents can lodge complaints against specific (a) provincial departments and (b) Ministers?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and to the hon Lithakong, thank you very much for the question. The question is in three parts: (1) whether he assesses the work performance of all of his Ministers; and if so what criteria or systems are used; (2) what measures are taken against Ministers who are underperforming, especially when it comes to service delivery, and (3) whether the Western Cape Government has a platform where residents can lodge complaints against specific (a) provincial departments and (b) Ministers?

So thank you very much once again for that question, I thank the hon member, and I note its similarity to an oral question asked by the very same hon member during the Sitting of 19 September 2024 on Question Paper 4 of '24. With this in mind I will take this opportunity to reiterate some of the

answers I provided at that time, and I am sure perhaps add one or two more items.

In respect of question (1) and (2), accountability is one of the six key values in which we base our behaviour as employees of the Western Cape Government and as servants of the residents of the people of this great province, the Western Cape. Everyone in our Government is expected to adhere to these values, including and especially our Provincial Ministers. Our Provincial Ministers and I are accountable through our reports to Cabinet; we are accountable to the Auditor General and to the executive authorities of our departmental budgets and spending.

We are accountable, in certain circumstances we may be partially accountable to relevant national bodies or National Government, and last but perhaps most importantly, we remain accountable to this House and its hon members through committee sessions, written and oral parliamentary questions, interpellations, appearances in the House. Even without my efforts we ought to be thankful that our national and provincial Constitutions ensure such a high level of honesty and accountability for our Executive, especially when the same accountability has often been sorely lacking in other provinces or at national level.

Over and above these measures, hon Deputy Speaker, I have instituted a formal accountability process to assess the work performance of all Ministers. All Ministers account on their quarterly financial and non-

financial performance on all the Budgets and Annual Performance Plans. Any risks on performance are discussed with the aim of finding corrective measures to ensure everyone stays on track with performance.

I have also instituted one-on-one engagements with each Minister to discuss performance of their Votes on an individual basis. These performance discussions also include the accounting officer of each of the Votes. The Annual Performance Plans and the Budget and the formal accountability instruments are the basis and the system used to assess the work performance of hon Ministers and their respective departments.

My most recent engagement with my Ministers took place roughly a month ago in late April. During these meetings, myself and the Director General met with each Minister in my Cabinet, as well as their respective Heads of Department and senior staff members. Our conversations primarily centred around their ministerial priorities and their contributions to the overarching objectives of the 2025/2030 Provincial Strategic Plan, of which I have a copy here, and I encourage every single hon member in this House to be proficient in it, because this is another tool in which this House, these Standing Committees can actually hold us to account on the Strategic Plan, of course within that then comes all of our departmental plans, APPs, etcetera, etcetera.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the House is aware, the Apex Priority of the Western Cape Government over the next five years is outlined in the PSP, it is to grow our economy in order to create jobs, and to equip our residents with the skills

and resources necessary to get these jobs. This is a mission and a priority that unites, not just this Cabinet, but every one of our dedicated staff members. Each of our Ministers has an integral part to play in making this vision a reality and a core part of our discussions on their progress in relating their work to our greater goal of economic growth and job creation.

Our Apex Priority is broken down into four portfolios namely:

- Growth for Jobs,
- Safety,
- Educated Healthy and Caring Society, and
- Innovation Culture and Governance.

Each portfolio supports economic growth and job creation by either directly driving opportunities or removing barriers that limit participation in the economy. That is considered the performance of the Provincial Ministers with regards to their contribution to their portfolios. It is important to note that many Ministers have mandates which cut across portfolios of the PSP, something which is a result of our whole-of-government approach to accomplishing our Apex Priority in brief.

The hon Minister Baartman is responsible for ensuring the fiscal responsibility of our Province, more than this, her priorities also encompass the encouragement of measures such as alternative and blended financing, and she further enhance Government's ability to spend effectively on services that matter to the Western Cape. As such her Department is heavily involved

with innovation culture and the governance portfolio.

As the executive authority, both the Department of Local Government and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the hon Minister Bredell has an exceptional mandate across all four portfolios. As our primary interface with municipalities, the Department of Local Government has a part to play by building municipal capacity and ensuring the water security of our province. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning also has mandates across all four priorities, which is primarily used for the Growth for Jobs portfolio, although its assistance with driving investment and helping transition to a growing greener economy.

The hon Minister Londt in the Department of Social Development is responsible for many of the outcomes under the Education, Health and Caring Society portfolio, but they also have a critical role to play in the Safety portfolio in terms of crime prevention and the Growth for Jobs portfolio by making it our drive to equip our residents with marketable skills.

Similarly the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport under hon Minister Mackenzie has roles to play, not only enhancing the social fabric of our society, but also in up-scaling our residents and employing the transformative power of sport and culture to assist in crime prevention. Our provincial heritage sites are also vital draws for tourism, meaning that DCAS has a direct part to play in job creation.

The Hon Minister Marais is obviously primarily responsible for the Safety portfolio and her Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Western Cape is safe enough to grow economically, and to reap the safety benefits that expanded job creation will bring to our citizens.

Under hon Minister Maynier, the Western Cape Education Department has the task of ensuring the education of our children with the skills that they need to get the jobs of tomorrow, a critical component of the Growth for Jobs portfolio. But the WCED also has a critical role to play ensuring that we build the educated healthy and caring society that we hope to achieve, and thus the WCED has a core part of that portfolio too.

The hon Minister Meyer is another Minister with whom we discuss the affairs of two departments, namely Agriculture and Economic Opportunities and Tourism, both of these departments make the core of our efforts towards economic growth, and therefore it is hon Minister Meyer who is perhaps more responsible than any other single Minister for the growth strategy or growth and job strategy of our province.

Hon Minister Sileku, who is another key part of the growth and job strategy in the Western Cape Mobility Department, plays a crucial part in ensuring our people can get to work and goods can move around the province safely, cheaply and efficiently.

The hon Minister responsible for building and maintaining the critical infrastructure we need to grow this province is hon Minister Simmers, and he is also a member of the Cabinet whose priorities primarily fall under the growth and jobs portfolio.

However, the Department of Infrastructure's push for even more affordable housing is also a key part of enabling an educated, healthy and caring society.

Finally, hon Minister Wenger and the Department of Health and Wellness are core components of building that society and ensure that the Western Cape Government's healthcare offerings keep pace with the breakout growth and greater prosperity we expect to see in our province.

In any instance of underperformance we will take action and the aim of supporting the respective departments and Ministers to find solutions and to implement measures to correct any underperformance.

As part of my own oversight I also undertake service delivery visits to assess performance of departments' findings to feed into the individual discussions with Ministers and also into Cabinet.

All of our Ministers have thus been assessed according to their progress in each of their portfolios, which I have described above. While we are always ready to find new ways to help our Ministers and departments perform better,

I can tell this House that the Ministers are performing well and working effectively towards their mandates in service of the PSP's goals.

At this time there is no need to act against any Minister for underperformance.

(3), the Western Cape Government Contact Centre serves as the primary point of contact for residents to log queries, file complaints and request Government services. Interactions with residents are governed by the Western Cape Government Digital Channel Management Protocol, which is designed to support both Western Cape Government business operations and citizen service delivery through digitally enabled channels.

The Contact Centre implemented and maintained high service standards to enhance its overall efficiency and responsiveness to residents. These would include:

- Answering 96% of all calls received.
- Answering 85% of calls within 20 seconds.
- Providing responses within 60 minutes during business hours.
- Resolving complaints within 36 business hours.
- Resolving 85% of queries on the first contact basis.
- Achieving a 95% resolution rate.

Residents can access the Contact Centre through 15 channels, each managed

according to our standard operating procedure, the Western Cape Government Digital Channel Management Protocol and the applicable service standards.

The Contact Centre follows a structured ticket life cycle:

1. The ticket creation. All residents' interactions are captured in a CRM system and ticketed, ensuring proper documentation and efficient management of responses and resolutions.
2. Ticket capture and first contact resolution. The Contact Centre aims for FCR by using annually verified FAQs from departments. Residents with a CRM profile can log their own tickets online through our website and monitor progress until resolution.
3. The escalations. If the Contact Centre is unable to achieve FCR, or if the ticket requires special attention due to its complexity or priority, it is escalated to the department response manager for further investigation and resolution. Residents are informed about the escalation process and provided with the expected resolution timeframes.
4. Resolutions and feedbacks. The ticket is updated according to progress and ultimately it is resolved, including evidence to that effect.
5. Citizen satisfaction. After a ticket is resolved, citizen satisfaction is

measured through a formal survey in the CRM.

6. Quality assurance. A percentage of staff engagements with residents undergo quality assurance checks to ensure that the Contact Centre agents meet acceptable performance standards and error thresholds.
7. Data and reporting. The Contact Centre complies with POPIA and provides departments with a regular report according to an agreed upon reporting schedule.

Tickets regarding HODs or Ministers are managed through the Priority Escalation and Resolution Management (the PERM) standard operating procedure, which also includes serious matters such as threats of life, allegations of corruption or abuse of power or systemic service delivery failures.

The Contact Centre office hours are from Monday to Friday, 07:30 to 17:00, weekends 08:00 until 13:00, and after hours the Contact Centre has a voicemail facility that is available outside of agreed operating hours and responses are made within 60 minutes of business hours' activation. Please call me SMS and emails are still received after hours and responses are made within 60 minutes of business hour activation.

Additionally, First Thursdays is another mechanism where residents are able to raise concerns and complaints. Every resident's case is registered by the

Contact Centre staff and their details captured, including the nature of the case with whom they came to see.

Every Minister and HOD of Department has a scribe that records the conversation and the nature of the case. That correspondence then is disseminated to the relevant officials or programmes as directed by the Minister or Head of Department. Each office will have their own prescribed way of managing and resolving those specific cases.

In the Office of the Premier all cases are logged on a CMAT system and given a specific reference number. Should any case from First Thursdays be related to another department and their mandates, an email will be sent from my office to the relevant Minister and department, which includes the case background, the request that the matter be addressed.

Furthermore they are requested to contact the resident to discuss the possible solutions of their concerns raised.

Once the matter has been referred to the relevant department and Minister, my office will send an email to the resident which will provide the background of the case, the resolution and introduce the resident to the office that was dealing with that case and will be copied into the email.

Last but not least. I am always excited to receive feedback from our residents and my office frequently responds to queries, compliments and complaints

received from residents. Any resident of the Western Cape has the option of sending me an email at premier.winde@westerncape.gov.za, or calling my office directly. These numbers are listed on our Western Cape Government website and are the contact details of any one of the Provincial Ministers.

Much of the information I have given in this reply is contained within the 2025-30 PSP document which is freely available on our website. While I would expect every hon member of this House to have read that document by this point and as part of their oversight duties, I would encourage the members of the public to read it as well.

It demonstrates the roadmap this Government intends to follow over the next five years and it is vital that the public knows how their Government intends to make the Western Cape more prosperous, safer, better and more innovative.

While the Cabinet of the Western Cape Government remains accountable to myself as Premier and this House as the oversight mechanism, all of us are ultimately accountable to the most important authority in this province, the people who live in it.

While we may not always agree I firmly believe that our Government, this House and the residents, we collectively serve, remain totally united in the vision of a better Western Cape for all of our residents. Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lithakong, is there a follow-up from your side?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon Premier did not answer my question.

However, in this Seventh Administration has the hon Premier received any complaints from either communities, members of the public or civil organisations against a specific member of his Executive or their departments, and if so, what actions did the hon Premier take or implement against them? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am really confused.

The hon member has just said that I did not answer the question and then the question that she followed to ask was not the question that is put on the Order Paper. I will just read it to her again.

- “(1) Whether he assesses the work performance of all of his Ministers, and if so, what criteria or systems are used?
- (2) What measures are taken against Ministers who are underperforming, especially when it comes to service delivery?
- (3) Whether the Western Cape Government has a platform where

residents can lodge complaints against specific (a) provincial departments and (b) Ministers?”

That is different to what she has just asked me right now, and she cannot say, “You have not answered the question,” and repeat a different question.

The hon member has now been a member of this House for quite a while and she should know that, that is a different question. If you wanted that answer you should have asked that question. I have just given – and I do not know, I almost feel like reading this answer all over again, but I actually will – should I? [Laughs.]

I feel like answering it all over again, but I do feel for the hon members and ...[Interjections.]

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): You can read it all again! You can read the whole day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lithakong, you... hon member Lithakong, do you have a point of order?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): He can read it all again for the whole day, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon Premier, please

proceed.

The PREMIER: So thank you very much. I would say the hon member actually knows how it works in this House, I would presume by now. If not, if I could request the Whips on the other side of the House to help her because we really need to make sure that we utilise the space.

This space is about oversight and of course that question, if she wants it answered she must please put it in writing to me, send it to me and we will, as I have just shown we will answer that question exactly to what she has asked of me. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

How does the Department assess the effectiveness of the First Thursday initiative where Ministers literally interact face-to-face with the people who live in the Western Cape? Thank you.

The PREMIER: So thank you very much for that follow-up. I mean I explained the process in my answer.

So we record every single one of those visits, it goes into the system, but the question is about effectiveness and so I suppose at the end of the day it is

whether the citizen is getting a satisfactory answer, and listen, I mean we must also be honest, not every citizen is going to be happy because sometimes the question that they ask is maybe not, we are not able to deliver on that specific question. It could pertain to a different government or perhaps it was something that we have to say no to.

I know the hon Minister Bredell always reminds me that no is also an answer. Sometimes they want to ask you something and you say, "Sorry, we are not going to be able to do that," and that is an answer, but then they might not, that might be not seen as an effective reply from the citizen's point of view, but we really do try to gauge those answers. We really do try very hard to get those answers through as quickly as possible and sometimes they are difficult.

They might not be a difficult resolution, but your question reminds me of a certain individual who used to come to First Thursdays. He came from Blackheath. He would come and he would visit myself, but he would also visit hon Minister Simmers. He would visit other people around his problem and his problem was the roadway had double lanes going both ways, and I think it had a right turn indicator to get through the traffic, but if you were coming from the other direction it did not have the indicator, so those vehicles never got through the traffic, and he would come and he had drawings. It was unbelievable. He had drawings of what needs to happen and this is so easy to fix, and then I would say, "Sure, this looks very simple," and I would go to Infrastructure, "Can we fix this?"

I promise you a month later I would see him coming in and I would go like, “No, we cannot fix this for you yet,” and he would come with his documents and we all engage with him again, and I think he came three times. It got to the stage where I would be mailing the team two days before First Thursday to say, “This guy is coming to see us. I hope we have sorted out the problem,” and †*wraggies waar* [lo and behold] I see him coming.

I had not got the answer yet and I see him coming into First Thursday, and I go, “Here we are, we are bust now again,” and he walked in and I said, “Listen, I do not know what to say to you.” He said, “No, I have come to say thank you,” and it was done.

So some of them are things that take a bit of time, but we really do endeavour to get to that satisfied citizen, that satisfied customer, and people bring real legitimate issues that – because you are on the ground, you see a problem and maybe when you are sitting in a desk in a planning department, you do not see that problem.

I mean that is why I am so excited about this programme. It has been running for years. I still do not know of any other government that does it, but it is about being accessible to the citizen. When they have got an issue they can come and talk to any of the Ministers or the HODs and we will see if we can find a resolution.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further follow-ups. We will proceed to Question 3 and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Baartman.

3. Mr B N Herron to ask Ms D M Baartman, Minister of Finance:

With reference to her reply to Question 7 of 8 May 2025:

- (1) *(a) When was the Province's 2024 Budget allocation subjected to "fiscal consolidation, a reduction of R6,4 billion over the 2024 MTEF" and (b) what was the source or cause of the reduction of R6,4 billion;*
- (2) *whether the Accounting Officer of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) provided the Provincial Treasury with a breakdown of the anticipated revenue and expenditure of the Department for the 2024/25 financial year in terms of Section 40(4)(a) of the PFMA; if so, what are the relevant details;*
- (3) *whether the Accounting Officer of the WCED complied with Section 40(4)(b) of the PFMA; if so, why did the Provincial Treasury find that the expenditure estimates submitted by the Accounting Officer of the WCED could not sustain the annual cost of employment estimates?*

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you for allowing me to be online for the Sitting. I just want to check if I am audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, hon Minister, you may proceed.

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

In response to sub-section (1). The fiscal consolidation of R6,4 billion was included in the allocation letter from National Treasury for the Province in respect of the 2024 MTEF Budget. These reductions were imposed on all provinces, of which the Western Cape's share amounted to R6,4 billion. The causes are described in the 2023 National Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

The Western Cape Government also published information on fiscal consolidation on pages 32 and 33 of the 2023 Western Cape Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

In response to sub-section (2). Yes, the breakdown of the anticipated revenue and expenditure of the Department for 2024/25 financial year was provided. This included a breakdown of the annual revenue amounting to R30,850 billion and also disaggregated on a monthly basis of the financial year April 2024 to March 2025, and also expenditure amounting to R30,850 billion comprising of:

- Compensation of employees, R22,308 billion.
- Goods and services, R3,463 billion.

- Transfers and subsidies, R3,683 billion.
- Payments for capital assets, R1,391 billion.
- Payment for financial assets, R5,116 million.

This is further disaggregated on a monthly basis of the financial year April 2024 to March 2025 to reflect the expenditure projections.

In response to sub-section (3). Yes, the accounting officer of the WCED complied with Section 40(4)(b) read in conjunction with Section 40(4)(c) of the PFMA, and submitted information on actual revenue and expenditure on a monthly basis in the prescribed format, namely the In-Year Monitoring or IYM reporting model.

As previously communicated, the Provincial Treasury was informed by the Western Cape Education Department, through the early warning system, in the July 2024 IYM report submitted in August 2024, that the measures put in place as part of their HR plan to curb spending was not achieving the desired result, putting pressure on the budget.

Subsequently the Provincial Treasury engaged on the information that was provided and measures were put in place to address this pressure through the 2024 Adjusted Estimates process. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for the reply.

If the fiscal consolidation arose in the 2023 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, how did the Provincial Minister of Finance table a budget in March 2024 that had not incorporated that consolidation and thus presented credible estimates of expenditure for cost of employment of educators? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The question is related to a period before my appointment.

However, based on the information before us, in terms of the fiscal consolidation the R6,4 billion was taken into account in the previous budget process. The member refers to March 2024. That was taken into account. This was published in the 2023 Western Cape Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement on pages 32 and 33, as I indicated in sub-section (1) of my response, which the Western Cape Government did publish. This was also described in the 2023 National Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement before that particular budget. So this information was previously published.

Hon Deputy Speaker, you will also know that there is always risks in the system and one of the risks at that time nationally was the fiscal

consolidation that was affecting all provinces, and the Western Cape share of that particular risk amounted to R6,4 billion. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, on 8 May the hon Minister said that the gap in funding that led to 2 407 educator posts being slashed, arose because of a fiscal consolidation of R6,4 billion.

If she is now saying that that R6,4 billion was included in the 2024 Budget that was tabled in March 2024, then how does that reply align to her reply to my question on 8 May where she says the consolidation arose, the gap in the Western Cape Education Department's cost of employment emerged because of a consolidation that took place in the 2024 MTEF?

In other words the Provincial Government was already aware of the MTBPS and so when they adopted the budget in March 2024 it is not possible for that to be the reason for the gap arising.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I cannot remember the full part of that previous answer, but

if I remember correctly I also mentioned the fact that every year we have been having increases in learners into our province.

In the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook previously, for example, we have seen that we have had a 19,6% increase in our population in the Western Cape and that is only for the past period, and we are also anticipating an increase in our population going forward.

I remember previously speaking in this House about the impact of migration across provinces to especially economic hubs, to urban areas and what that pressure is putting on service delivery in the various provinces.

I know provinces that are particularly affected by the population growth are provinces such as the Western Cape, it is provinces such as Gauteng, such as KwaZulu-Natal and what that does is when people really move towards service delivery you have to now start delivering for more people with less resources, and I do remember in this House speaking about what the impact of that pressure would be.

I also spoke previously, and if I remember correctly this was part of the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook, where we spoke about how that is also going to impact on municipalities and how that is also putting pressure on municipalities to be able to now deliver more with less and for more people, and while we do our best to be able to provide services for the people in our province, that comes at a cost. We hope that National Government will

take this into account going forward in the 2025 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

Something that I think the National Government, and particularly National Treasury, can take into account is how we can possibly even have a look at the review of the Provincial Equitable Share formula, and this is something I am quite passionate about and I have spoken about previously.

When we look at the Provincial Equitable Share formula you will notice that the weighting of the population in the formula does not account for the fact that we are the third biggest province at the moment. The result of the formula means that we are only getting the fifth biggest or the fifth smaller share.

So essentially in terms of that population data we really need to have a look at the weighting of the population data in that formula.

Another item in the Provincial Equitable Share formula that we can really have a look at at reviewing is the economic data. As the hon member may know the economic data only makes up 1% of the Provincial Equitable Share formula and when you look at the economies it means that your economic data hardly gets taken into account.

So the formula does not incentivise innovation, it does not incentivise good governance and when you look at sub-sectors into the formula as well, in the

health component, for example, home-based care is currently not taken into account.

So what ends up happening is provinces like Gauteng particularly and the Western Cape in particular, if you start innovating and you now start helping more people from home because you do not want the queues at the hospitals and the clinics to be long, what ends up happening is the metric in the formula does not count that as feet to the hospital or feet to the clinic.

So now what ends up happening is they then exclude that particular information that you are helping that person at home because you are trying to do your best to bring services to your people in your province, but what that ends up doing is we are losing money because that particular person did not specifically go to the hospital or specifically go to the clinic.

When we also look at the sub-data in the education component of the formula we will also see that, for example, we are getting the same amount of money per learner and it excludes whether the person qualifies for special needs or not.

So what ends up happening is if you are someone who requires special needs education you more than likely need up to six times the amount for a normal learner. Obviously, hon Deputy Speaker, it varies across different circumstances, but it is almost up to six times the amount that you need per learner.

So what ends up happening is if you are getting the same amount per learner then you end up having to subsidise the rest of the particular learners and when you look at the grant system, the grant system does not adequately essentially account for all the rest of the funding that is required.

So you will often see in some of these budgets where grants are essentially subsidising the information from your Provincial Equitable Share formula, that we even have to sometimes add some extra equitable share and even some extra provincial revenue funding to particular budgets in order to assist departments to be able to continue delivering.

I was having a look at how some of this fiscal consolidation is really affecting provinces and, hon Deputy Speaker, you would probably know that recently the National Finance Minister announced that there is going to be extra funding for health and education via this new budget process flowing to provinces.

The reason that there is new money flowing to provinces in terms of this particular service delivery is because of the lack of funding really that has been coming through previously.

I know some provinces have accruals and some provinces have really been struggling in terms of being able to pay for service delivery mandates in their province.

I know, for example, in the Eastern Cape with Education they are not even paying office electricity bills, they are not paying for school feeding, they are not paying for norms and standards in schools.

In the Free State, for example, they are failing to pay the medical aid funds that they deduct, that money that they deduct from the staff, to GEMS.

In Gauteng, for example, they are cutting funding to independent school subsidies and I just want to pause here with that particular part.

A lot of people think that learners that go to independent schools are all rich or something, but not every learner who ends up in an independent school has the ability to pay to be there and not every learner there is wealthy. Some learners really they worked hard and maybe they got in and they get bursaries and they are subsidised, and people work very hard to give the best quality education to their children.

So when you cut independent school subsidies it is affecting the poorest learners and the most vulnerable learners who go to those independent schools.

I mean Gauteng is also cutting funding to schools of specialisation, they are cutting learner transport and school feeding and delaying teacher promotions as well.

KZN I know is not paying norms and standards funding or staff pay progression.

Mpumalanga was reported that they are retaining posts, but they are not filling them and they are not providing textbooks or reader top-ups.

I think in North West they were not paying learner transport operators, and in Northern Cape they were failing to disburse transfers to schools, which affected the nutrition, the NSNP programme, the norms and standards and hostel subsidies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these items that I am mentioning, these are just what I can see via reporting on, for example, News24 in this past few months and the budget process has been very difficult because we try our best to really give effect to the mandate that is given to us in terms of the Constitution and particularly to be able to protect our frontline services, particularly in health, particularly in education, particularly in social development.

The hon member would also know that the fiscal consolidation previously really affected Health as well in terms of appointments previously.

The hon member would also know that, for example, what we saw in terms of the budget risks which we mentioned previously, that even Health saw a risk in terms of the inflation that increased, the medical inflation which obviously

always increases more than normal inflation.

What this ended up doing is like you then start seeing throughout the year that you have extra risks coming through the system, you have increased forecasted expenditure. Obviously, when we table these documents before the Budget Committee and we do so regularly in terms of how our mandates and in terms of the oversight that is required over us, that we table when we see forecasted over-expenditure coming, but we also need to deal with those particular risks. So, we try our best through the different budgets to deal with this particular risk, but we also table them because that is what we must do as a government. We must indicate what those risks are.

So, those particular risks that are described in the question before us that was described both in the 2023 National MTBPS as well as the 2023 Western Cape MTBPS at the time. We need to make sure that going forward as a country, that we need to be able to really budget for our service delivery in our country. So, I am really happy for the extra funding that is coming through from National Treasury and the National Government, for Health and Education later this year.

As you know, hon Deputy Speaker, we will then pass the finances along to the respective departments when it lands in our bank accounts, in order to assist with the real pressure on the ground that they are facing, especially because we, hon Minister Bredell always speaks about how we are going to have to build an extra city essentially, within the Western Cape and how

much water we need, how much electricity we need, how we need to upgrade our sewerage systems. This is because we need to be able to plan better for the future.

When we look at, for example, things like the increase for disasters. I mean, I am currently here at our Western Cape Government Smart Procurement Conference, and I can really, ...[Interjection.]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...there is a Mr Collin Deiner, a wonderful ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Is the honourable ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will stop the clock.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Is the hon Minister trying to run out the clock? She has spoken for 15 minutes without actually answering the question. Did the Executive take lessons in filibustering because it is not the first time we have seen hon Ministers talk for the entire question time without answering the question. Is the hon Minister trying to run out the clock? Can she just answer that question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Exactly!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot dictate to how an hon Minister will respond to a particular question. Are you rising on the same matter and we have two minutes and 58 seconds remaining. I have taken note of your point, and I sincerely trust that in terms of the decorum of this particular House, that hon Ministers will take their particular question time extremely seriously. But I cannot in terms of dictating how they should respond, but I am sure the hon Minister heard the last part of your question. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I wrote the follow-up question down and I just want to quickly repeat it to indicate like why I am I speaking about fiscal consolidation. Because the follow-up question spoke about if there was fiscal consolidation, why was it not incorporated at the time. Then, I started speaking about what the implications of that fiscal consolidation was, when it was reported, how it is impacting our province.

I am happy to repeat that particular part. I am hoping I am not going to be; I am hoping that it is useful information. I mean, I said in the first part of the question originally that the causes of the fiscal consolidation were described

in the 2023 National Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement and that the Western Cape Government also published information on the fiscal consolidation on pages 32 and 33 of the 2023 Western Cape Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement. I then attempted to go into more detail as to what this means in terms of where we need to go, in terms of what needs to happen, in terms of the current expectations on us as provinces from the National Government.

I mean, we are in a very difficult economic outlook at the moment, nationally, Since the first budget and the second budget that was tabled nationally, our economic outlook has worsened and so has business confidence. I am just really happy that the South African Reserve Bank has cut the repo rate a little bit. But I do take this very seriously and we need to make sure that we are able to look to the future and to try and see how we could better finance some of these mandates and some of these services in our province.

That is also why we see that we have a build infrastructure plan that we have put on the table, that we want to be able to fund through working with the private sector. We have seen that we have, as a government, adopted our Alternative and Blended Financing Framework and all of these documents together, we are really trying our best to make sure that we need to go out and go find extra financing.

Because when we look at the debt to GDP in our country, even if we look at

the money that is currently there or not there in this case, nationally, we cannot continue relying on the possibility of our Provincial Equitable Share formula amount increasing or that our grants might increase. We need to now start increasing our work with the private sector and find alternative solutions to some of the big issues that we are facing in our province.

One of those big issues that we are facing in our province is population growth. I mean, if you have a population growth of 19,6%, it is outpacing our GDP, it is outpacing our jobs growth, it is outpacing the gains we have made with the Gini coefficient and the HDI. So, we do need to plan for that. We need to prepare for that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I know I have indicated the respective figures, but I will obviously, with the question and the parliamentary Rules, obviously also submit the figures to the House as usual. Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That is the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

Before we proceed in terms of Rule 204, I have seen and heard some hon members indicating that they were unable to hear those giving input online. I wish to state that I could clearly hear, but if any hon member is unable to

clearly hear in the Chamber, if an hon member or an hon Minister is speaking online, you are more than welcome to use the headset.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 204, we will now proceed to Questions to the Premier without Notice. I wish to remind the hon members that there are two follow-ups by the hon member posing the question which relates to the original question. I now note the hon Kamfer. Just give me one moment, I have seen the hon Kamfer online. Okay, we will proceed to the hon Bryant. Hon members, we will commence the clock. We have 20 minutes for this particular section. I see the hon Bryant.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, my question to the hon Premier is: what is the current status of the water and sanitation environment in the Knysna Local Municipality?

[The Chairperson takes the Chair.]

The PREMIER: I heard the Chief Whip behind me say ‘what was the question?’ It is the current situation of the water. What is the current water situation in the Municipality of Knysna.

I actually was reading some documents earlier. Here. Thank you very much,

for that question. First of all, I believe that the hon Kamfer is actually not well and in hospital. So, please, I am sorry. That is the reason that he was not able to ask that question and please tell him we hope he gets well soon.

Thank you very much, for that question. It happened to be that two weeks ago that I was actually in that town in Knysna, in the middle of that crisis. So, at that stage there were massive protests happening in that town and in actual fact, the reason I said it was interesting that I actually received a letter this morning from the Mayor in Knysna saying thank you very much to the province for stepping in to help with engineers and water trucks, and things like that.

But an interesting thing was when I got to the town, we were not aware of the water situation. But apparently, there were parts of Knysna that had not had water for three weeks. Nine wards were affected altogether and in actual fact, on the second day that I was there, I interacted with the protestors because they were protesting in the Rheenendal area. They had not had water for two weeks. We had already had some water trucks coming from the district municipality, but thanks to the hon Minister Bredell and the Disaster Team, we got water trucks in from as far as the West Coast District Municipality.

It is an interesting situation in that town. They really do have a serious battle with keeping the lights on, keeping services going. Water is just one of their issues and the citizens are actually raising funds. I believe there is

something like 1 000 citizens that are putting money in, every single month, private citizens who are then going in and replacing the pumps or repairing the pumps which is quite scary in fact that citizens have to pay rates and taxes twice almost in that town.

I know that on the Saturday afterwards or the Friday afternoon, they put in new pumps, or I think it was the Thursday. They put in new pumps into the Rheenendal region. Messages were sent out that it is all going to be fine. They just have to fill the reservoir and the next thing the pumps blew up again. I think there is something like nine pumps altogether that have totally failed. They are in repair, but the repair shop will not release those pumps because they are not paying for the servicing or the repair of the pumps.

Now, I know that we as a province, have been called on time and time again to put in more and more money. I mean, you will know that three years ago we started by clearing up the rubbish pile. Then again, it eventually got to a stage where municipalities refused to send help anymore because they were not even getting thank you notes. It was just do not worry, other people will step in and sort out the problem. We were spending millions. Now it has got to the stage where even those millions, we will not release them. We will release them directly to the service providers because of the bad governance there at the moment.

But the water situation is critical. They have now managed to get some of

the pumps back in place so there is water supplied. But this is not the first time that it has happened. At the same time as that refuse pile was building up, we know that specifically in Hornlee, they had mud coming out of their pipes if they had anything coming out of their pipes and we know that was all at that same time when there was a dead body floating in the water reservoir. That was just atrocious. It had decomposed quite badly. It was very difficult to retrieve it out of the water system and people had been drinking that water for days and days and days. I think it was in there for 18 days or some quite crazy number.

So, ja, the water system is in a major crisis. It is not only when you say the water system: it is not only the drinking water system, the lagoon water system, it is the sewer water system. The whole component of service delivery is in total collapse. In actual fact, I saw the ANC's and I saw the hon Sayed who has just left, but I mean, he had a lot to say:

“ANC welcomes progress made on Knysna water crisis by the ANC-led coalition.”

He probably should not have put this out at all because, I mean, that is quite embarrassing. Do not recognise something that is in such total failure and decay.

But it was interesting because when you asked that question, I had actually received this letter from the Mayor, and I am looking at replying to the

Mayor. I have got a report on water quality. This is not water quality in the drinking system, this is water quality in the lagoon which is also quite key to their whole economy. You know, when you test water quality and you do the water testing, and I mean, this, you can see, this tests the water every single month and it has got a lot of red marks on it. Red is when it gets into the critical stage of water quality. I cannot tell you how many times the Green Scorpions have been called in to go. They have laid charges against the Speaker, against the Mayor, against all sorts of people.

But just to give you some context. There must be nought. The percentage of E.coli in the water to per hundred. If you have nought per hundred, that is potable water/drinking water. You cannot have any E.coli. I do not want to swear in this House, but you cannot have shit in the water, but you cannot have any of it. So, it should be nought per hundred.

If you have the levels of 126 per hundred: 126 per hundred. ...[Interjection.]

† ‘n AGBARE LID: Help die mense!

[An HON MEMBER: Help the people!]

The PREMIER: I will get to † ‘help die mense’ [help the people] now. If you 126 per hundred, 126 per hundred it becomes dangerous. That is when the risks start happening. At 1 000 per hundred, you actually then should not swim, you should not be involved in that or get anywhere near that water. So, remember the number 126 per hundred. That is kind of like ‘risk’. At

235 per hundred: actually, then it starts to go 'do not swim'. At 1 000 per hundred, that is kind of like at maximum: do not do anything with this water.

So, let me give you some of the indicators. So, I mean, they have tested Belvidere, Bollard Bay, Costa Sarda, Crabs Creek, Green Hole, Lake Brenton, Salt River, The Heads, the culverts at Bigai, Bongani, Cadre, Long Street, Queen Street and the train station. These are all the places that they do these tests every single month.

So, I said to you that critical number is 235. If anything is above 235, it is now do not swim. It is not so *lekker*. If it is over 1 000, this is a disaster. That is when Scorpions start laying charges. So, if I take and I mean, in actual fact, in the last readings over time, Belvidere and Bollard Bay have been okay: 21 per hundred, 67 per hundred. I mean, that is quite far off the 126 per hundred.

But let me highlight Costa Sarda: 520 000 to one hundred. Not 1 000, 520 000 to one hundred parts. Green Hole: 1 000. Okay, that says; no, that is wrong. Salt River: 15 000. Bigai: 37 000 to one hundred. Kada, that is the angling club: 15 000 to one hundred. I mean, it is amazing, 15 000 sounds like nothing, but that is 15 times over that 1 000 limit. But quite frankly, the one that stands out for me is Queen Street at 810 000 per one hundred. That was the January reading. In the February reading, we saw it come down to 8 500. So, only eight and bit times more. It has now gone back up to 11 000 and then, 27 000.

The other number that stands out is the train station which is 560 000 per 100. This is what the Scorpions are dealing with. But this is about a municipality where on this letterhead, African National Congress, it says:

“The ANC welcomes the progress made on the Knysna water crisis led by the ANC-led coalition.”

Remember, this is a coalition of the ANC, the Patriotic Alliance, the EFF. Where are they? The EFF is part of this coalition. I mean, it is horrendous. So, I have spoken about the potable water from bodies to no water, to pumps blowing up.

The sewerage system: the leakage of the sewerage system which basically ends up in these numbers. This is the sewerage system. If you go to Hornlee and you have a look at how the municipality have repaired the system in Hornlee. They just took a big hammer, and they smashed a big hole in the wooden sump where all of the main pipes come in. They do not clear the blockage. They just break a hole in it and then the sewerage just runs from there in front of people's houses. It is just totally, totally unbelievable!

So, the water situation is quite complex. It is potable water, it is sewerage systems and water, and then, of course, it is the driver of the economy: the lagoon water. So, it is horrendous. It really, really is horrendous! So, I really do not think that the African National Congress welcomes the progress

made on the Knysna water crisis ...[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: No, it is not progress whatsoever. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon member. Thank you, hon Premier. Hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you and thank you to the hon Premier for those very shocking statistics and information that has been provided. Hon Premier, as a son of the soil yourself, it must be a very difficult thing to witness this in Knysna in your hometown. We know that the things were starting to come right at one stage, and since this coalition of chaos has come in, there has been a terrible decline.

I just want to know, is there anything that can be done from the Western Cape Government's side between yourself, hon Minister Bredell and others to assist further and if so, what is that because at the moment, it just looks like a terrible, terrible disaster.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Bryant. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I mean, that is exactly the dilemma that we find ourselves in. I think we have had lots of discussions in this

House on administration and Section 139. We have gone through those processes, and it is in the process. It is something that all the Premiers raise to the President at the PCC is that when local governments fail, provinces cannot really step in quickly enough or properly. We need to change that.

There is a White Paper at the moment for comment on Local Government and we urge everyone to comment. We need to change Section 139. We will continue with our process. Treasury is in there all the time, trying to help them. At the same time, Local Government is there. That letter from the Mayor was saying thank you very much. We sent engineers. We have got water trucks from other municipalities. I go back to that refuse pile. We put money in to actually clear up that refuse pile. Not once, but twice.

The problem is and this is the dilemma: should a province just run the town? And we cannot do that. That is not how it works. You know, people vote. They choose a government and that government must run. When the government fails, then we must be able to step in and help, but we cannot run the government. Of course, we have got this dilemma. So, hopefully we do get to a stage with a 139 that actually ends up as a supported process from the ANC and the DA to say: let us actually fix this town.

So, I mentioned about the refuse removal and the help that we put in. At the moment, we really are trying to help get an alternate refuse site because if you go to that. I was there now. I went to the refuse site. Now, it has got a restaurant right next to the refuse site. The owner of the restaurant, and I

mean it is so sad. I mean, here you are trying to get specifically people who were previously disadvantaged. Now, here is this guy, he has opened a restaurant, and the rats are running through his restaurant. So, now he has not got any customers anymore and he owes debt to the bank. It is just, it is just so sad.

There are illegal people living in that dumpsite and they are violent. I mean, when I was there now having a look, I mean they all came up and they were threatening, and it is terrible. Then, the previous night before, they were telling me. I was actually speaking to the ladies who are the volunteers who do the gardens. So, I have told you about citizens and an engineering guy who actually fixed the infrastructure. So, these are people of the town that go and fix infrastructure.

Then, there are people of the town who go and repair the gardens, and I was chatting to them, I walked with them, I met everybody. I actually did some planting with them and then we walked across because they said they must and show. They were telling me about a tourist who walked past there the previous day and got robbed and stabbed. Then you go like where are the police? I mean, we should not have this and whose property is this? Get these people off this property. It is unhealthy and then the business's knock-on. It is just horrendous.

But I mean, you know what happened during this crisis: Gift of the Givers. they are always there. We really value the partnership that we have in this

province with Gift of the Givers. †Wraggies waar [Lo and behold] the people start attacking and stoning Gift of the Givers when they come to bring water and support. I mean, that is really unacceptable! That cannot happen! So yes, we and again I say, we are putting money in for pumps, we are putting money in for refuse. We actually got teams of engineers.

So, we are taking resources, and we are putting resources into a municipality that is totally failing. Now, one feels that if you put the resource in, you fix the system and now it works, you are quite happy. But our taxpayers will be angry to say well now, we have got to go and put it in again because now it has failed again. And do not worry, next month when they cannot meet their budget, we will go and do it again. It cannot be! There needs to be responsibility of this coalition to deal with it or step aside or step aside.

Quite frankly, the message at the end of the day is: voters make choices and choices are expensive when they fail or there are consequences that are very expensive when it does not work. [Interjections.] And it is really worrying that we actually have towns like this where the citizens are actually, there is so much contempt. There is so much disregard. There is so much actually abuse of your citizens when you cannot give them water, when you cannot give them refuse removal. All of these things have negative consequences to the economy of that specific town.

If ever there is a town in our province, a town in our province that has the wherewithal to actually become probably the most prosperous town in our

region. They have got an amazing environment; they have got great people. They have got a lagoon and a town, and the small villages and towns. When we cycled through that town the other day and you go up into the Karataras and the Rheenendals, it is amazing. It is beautiful! It really is! It is such a nice place. But quite frankly, the services to those residents and those citizens are just non-existent and failing, month after month after month.

So, we will continue to assist wherever we can. We will continue to support wherever we can, and we will continue, also, with our processes of the 139 interventions and sending Treasury in and sending the Department of Local Government in and sending our officials in to help where we can. And calling on National Government to do exactly the same thing. Quite frankly, we have got to do that to try to really alleviate this situation. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Premier and I am glad that you mentioned hope because I think there is a lot of hope for that community if they get things together. But I think at the moment, they are sitting with a situation where they are barely holding on by their fingernails and they cannot wait until the elections next year to vote that coalition out.

But between now and then, what would your advice be to the people of Knysna in terms of holding on until then and really sort of consolidating behind something new and fresh to take over and really give them back

proper hope again.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Hon Premier, if you do not mind, please take your seat. You had your hand up, hon member Petrus?

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

The CHAIRPERSON: Is that a point of order?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): No, hon Speaker. I am just concerned about the time. Are you going to take our question as the Patriotic Alliance, about the violence in ...[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. That is not a point of order, but we do have ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. We do have ...[Interjections.]

Mr B PETRUS (PA): We are abusing the process now.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Petrus. That is not a point of order. We do have allocated time to questions, allocated to Questions to the Premier. I believe in terms of the hon member posing the questions, having two follow-up opportunities and the hon Premier responding accordingly, one cannot dictate. You may proceed. Thank you, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and perhaps, I can say to the hon Petrus that obviously, if he has got a question, we are very happy to answer any question that they put to us. We have proper processes, but of course, we must stick to the Rules.

But we will continue to support where we can. We will continue to put funding aside where possible, to help this situation. But perhaps, this is where maybe even the Oversight Committee needs to get involved and visit. Quite frankly, I would say that this is the perfect place where without the proper Rules or the adjustment of our Section 139, that this is probably where the hon Leader of the Opposition should not send a letter like this.

He should rather say, 'let us actually get together.' Let us get together and agree to a proper administration process so that we can actually deal with this problem. As you said, the hon Bryant, people are going to wait for another election, and can you wait that long? I do not know. But ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Premier, can you please wrap up? Your time is up.

The PREMIER: Yes, I can. Thank you. But we need people to think very seriously. Your vote means something, and you need to think about it seriously when you make your vote. It has consequences. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon members, that is the end of Questions to the Premier. We now deal with Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145. Is that ...[Interjections.] hon member Petrus?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Premier, are you still willing to take the question?

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Petrus, we have now passed as per the Rules, as per today's order. We now find ourselves at Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145. There will now be an opportunity for Members' Statements and hon members do have two minutes each. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. Hon House Chairperson, today marks the commencement of Child Protection Week observed annually in our country to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding the wellbeing of our children. This year, as we unite under the theme 'Working together in ending violence against children', we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment for every child in the Western Cape.

Our Provincial Government has long prioritised the protection of our most vulnerable citizens. Through dedicated programmes within the Department of Social Development, we have strived to strengthen families and provide

essential support to children in need. Initiatives focused on prevention and early intervention; child and youth care centres and the tireless work of designated child protection organisations are all vital components of our comprehensive approach.

We recognise that child protection is a shared responsibility. It requires collaboration between government, civil society organisations, communities and every individual.

On a related and saddened note, hon House Chairperson, we note the sentence handed down today in a trial related to the disappearance of young Joslin Smith. The conviction of the accused on charges of kidnapping and human trafficking sends a strong message that such heinous crimes against children will not be tolerated in our society. We welcome the life sentences, and we trust that justice will be served in this deeply distressing case with the little child still missing. While this verdict cannot undo the pain and suffering endured, we hope it provides some measure of closure and reinforces our collective determination to protect our children.

As Child Protection Week unfolds, let us all be reminded of our duty to be vigilant, to report any concerns, and to actively contribute to building a province where all children can grow, free from fear and harm. The Western Cape Government remains committed and dedicated to this crucial mandate, working tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of every child ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, please conclude. Your time is up.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...within our borders.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. I recognise the African National Congress.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And, but it is fine. Thank you very much, hon Chair of this session. Today, I rise to salute and outstanding son of our province, coach Fadlu Davids, who is proudly flying the South African high on the African football stage. Born and raised here in the Western Cape, coach Davids has made history by leading Simba Sports Club of Tanzania to the final of the CAF Confederation's Cup. Their first appearance since 1993.

While no South African club reached the finals, a South African from our province was there, on the touchline guiding his team with vision, discipline and heart. It is under his leadership that Simba has become a dominant force in East African football and his success is shared by a technical team of fellow South Africans, many from the Western Cape. A true export of talent and tactical excellence.

Coach Davids' journey is one of resilience and excellence, from the dusty fields of the Cape Flats to trialling in Europe, captaining local teams and

coaching at the highest level. From Cape Town Spurs and Santos to coaching roles at the famous Orlando Pirates and Raja Casablanca in Morocco and now taking Simba to continental glory. His career proves what is possible when we invest in our youth and in grassroot sports.

His history is not just one of individual achievement, it is a reminder that in every corner of our communities, in Belhar, in Athlone, in Gugulethu, the next Fadlu Davids is waiting. Waiting for opportunity, waiting for recognition, waiting for support. To coach Davids we say thank you. You carry the pride of your club, your community ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please wrap up, hon member. Your time ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and our nation. You are a symbol of what the Western Cape can offer Africa and the world. We honour you and we wish you continued success. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Chairperson, hon members of the House. Today we note as municipalities raise to finalise the 2025/2026 Integrated Development Plans and budgets. We must pause and reflect on the concerning pattern that is emerging across the Western Cape. We are seeing

that the public participation meetings are sparsely attended. The ratio of attendees to the actual population in municipal areas is wrongly low. Community members are either unaware, uninformed or unconvinced that their voices in these processes will make any difference.

In many instances, advertisements for these engagements are minimal, last minute or completely absent. This leads us to a critical question: is the IDP truly a document of the people or has it become a tick-box exercise to meet compliance deadlines? If the people are not present, not heard and not meaningfully included, can we honestly say the IDP reflects their priorities? Can we say the budget being passed is one that meets their needs?

The capacity of municipalities to both facilitate and communicate these processes effectively is clearly under strain. The public participation process is at risk of losing its credibility and constitutional values unless we intervene decisively.

So, what can we, as the Provincial Government do? Hon members, we cannot allow the IDP to become just another tick-box or document stored away in municipal offices. It must be a living, breathing reflection of the people's voices and vision. Let us act now not only to restore ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member. Your time is up.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Not only to restore faith in the process, but to ensure

that the development in the Western Cape is truly people-driven
...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): ...citizen centric, and not paperwork. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON: I recognise ...[Interjection.]

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON: ...the Democratic Alliance. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon member, there is an hon member on the floor. [Interjections.] Please contain yourself, hon members. Please proceed, hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Acting Deputy Speaker. Earlier this week, the coastal community of Gordons Bay welcomed a rather unexpected guest, a southern elephant seal spotted ambling along Sir Lowry's Pass Road inspecting the traffic. And if reported to believe, eyeing out the local KFC with great interest.

Hon Acting Deputy Speaker, you may be interested to know that this enigmatic visitor is not a native to our shores. Southern elephant seals typically call the cold coasts of Antarctica and South Georgia home, not the

Helderberg. One can only guess why he was so keen to come ashore. Perhaps he was in search of a quiet beach, a mate, or perhaps just some well-salted *slapchips*.

Fortunately, this southern sojourner was found in good health, and I commend the swift action of the SPCA, law enforcement and the City of Cape Town for ensuring the safety of both our wayward traveller and the public. Hon Speaker, as of this morning I have been informed that this chunky fellow has continued his journey to Simon's Town and has acquired the name 'Gordy' along the way. The SPCA has confirmed that his new location poses no risk to himself or the public, and he is away from roads, and he is resting in good health.

It is heartening that when an elephant seal shows up in a residential suburb in Cape Town, local South Africans still respond with humour, kindness and a touch of curiosity. In the meantime, our seafaring heavyweight is in good hands, and I hope that soon he will find his way home. Here he is. We only have a black and white picture, but he is quite unique. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Economic Freedom Fighters. The EFF? I recognise the NCC. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Please proceed, hon member Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the NCC

risers today with the good news received from President Cyril Ramaphosa, in his keynote address delivered on 27 May at the Sustainable Infrastructure Development Symposium in Century City. Hon Speaker, the President announced that the Government will spend in excess of R1 trillion on infrastructure development in the next three years.

Now, hon Speaker, the Democratic Alliance is well aware of the housing list of 1994 that disappeared on their system under their watch. Nevertheless, of the housing backlog in the Western Cape, we are aware that there are more than 600 000 poor people on the housing waiting list. This development will surely go far in addressing the infrastructure nightmare in the Western Cape, not to mention the apartheid schooling infrastructure that is already starting to crumble.

Hon Speaker, with this money we need more schools, we need art centres, we need skill centres, we need proper rehabilitation centres, we need better sporting facilities. We need community centres where social cohesion can be fostered. Hon Speaker, at this moment we do not need infrastructure that draws on tourism. Tourism does not work in our communities. What we do need is we need infrastructure that will give us survival. Infrastructure to live a decent life.

As the NCC, we plead to the President to address the compensation of the forceful removals and speak to the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape, to compensate the victims of the forceful removals by building a totally new

city for the families who are still waiting to be compensated. Hon Speaker, in 2007, the United Nations declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People was signed and it speaks clearly on the ownership and the rights of land and other rights.

Those rights have never been recognised by the Government and as the NCC, we hope that the money will go towards addressing the issues since our forefathers and fore-sisters and mothers, and everything that was in the forefront who were forcefully removed by the National Party, now known as the Democratic Alliance.

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Ayesa.

The CHAIRPERSON: I recognise the African National Congress.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. We note the reported crime reductions in Quarter 4 and acknowledge the efforts of the police in the Western Cape, under the leadership of Advocate Patekile. Despite that, I make no apology when I say we are not being misled by the bourgeoisie media

claim which seeks to appease international media forces that the crime reduction was significant.

The bourgeoisie media has once again, spun a deceptive take, one that serves the interests of international capitalist forces who are ignoring the ...[Inaudible.] reality working class communities endure daily. The packaged crime stats as progressed when in fact, the lived experience of the working class tells a far more painful story. Violence, poverty, lawlessness are entrenched in Black working-class communities. They are not a coincidence as Rupert also admitted suggesting that the DA-run Western Cape is a crime ridden province.

Our ...[Inaudible.] remains as urgent and correct as ever. That is why I maintain arguments that crime in the Western Cape and particularly in Cape Town, is not just a passing issue. It is a direct product of deep-rooted systematic crisis of chronic underdevelopment. Unemployment, lawlessness, squatter camps and so on are the breeding ground of crime in the Western Cape.

The DA's obsession with market forces and their blatant neglect of Black working class has created what we call a tale of two cities. One safe and privileged on the one hand, and the other violent and ...[Inaudible.] on the other hand. Those of us who have a good habit of reading the reports will tell you that nearly every measure crime category and featured in 98% of the national top 30 here in this province. This is not progress, but a crisis. From

social offences, rape, assault and murder ...[Inaudible.] murder, carjacking.

The details you missed are that on drug related cases alone, 23 of the top 30 police stations are in this province. These are communities under siege ...[Inaudible.] by a system designed to protect the privileged. I argue in this statement that this is not just a policing failure, it is a political and economical indictment of the DA's new liberal project ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member, your time is up.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...is that of colonial dispossession ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. Please take your seat. Your time is up.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...[Inaudible.]. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Ngqentsu. Hon members on my right, I do not need your assistance. I do have the assistance of the clock to ask the hon member to conclude. Can we please maintain the decorum of the House. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Acting Speaker, the Western Cape has never waited for solutions to be handed down from the National Government.

[Interjections.] We have acted decisively, innovatively and with the clear backing of our communities. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): In no areas, this is more evident than in crime prevention. Through the LEAP programme, cutting-edge technology and community driven initiatives, the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town have pushed beyond their constitutional mandate to keep our residents safe and to save us from ANC failures. [Interjections.]

But while we step up, the National Government steps back. The SAPS has fewer boots on the ground here than in any other province per capita. Intelligence structures are in a shambles. Crucial units have collapsed. Community partnerships are undermined. [Interjections.] In some cases ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...the very institution tasked with protecting our people has become part of the problem, fuelling the violence with stolen firearms and compromised systems.

Hon Acting Speaker, the latest crime statistics show us the truth. When the province leads, lives are saved. But we cannot do this work with one hand

tied behind our backs. It is about protection, not about power, but about people ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): The very people that you are claiming that you are representing. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Devolution of policing is not a radical idea. It is a rational one grounded in our constitutional right to safety, service delivery and accountability. [Interjections.] The Western Cape has proven its capability. All we lack is the legal authority and resources that are possible. We are not asking, by the way, with a begging bowl, we are asserting the constitutional rights of our citizens in the Western Cape.

If the National Government cannot fulfil its duty, then it must make way for those who can. Let the Western Cape lead ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Your time is up.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): The time for devolution is now.

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

Freedom Front Plus. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.]
Hon members on my left! Please proceed, hon member.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Madam Chair. Hon Madam Chair, as was heard today, the construction of informal settlements is on the increase in the Western Cape, far outpacing the ability of this Government to provide formal housing opportunities. In addition to this challenge, we also have children living in these absolutely dreadful conditions, surrounded by absolute poverty. Children are especially at a higher risk of abuse and neglect as confirmed also in a journal entitled '*Challenges faced by learners who live in squatter camps.*'

As we enter this week of Child Protection, we are burdened with the pain of what happened to a little girl. Nelson Mandela once said:

“Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them, tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation.”

Hon Madam Chair, I remain hopeful that we can change things around in the province. Children need protection and I hope that the Children's Commissioner that will eventually be appointed, will have a greater mandate. We need to save children's lives, especially those who live in squatter camps, who live in informal settlements. That is my appeal to this House today. That was our child, and all children of this province are our children. I thank you.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as from Friday, 23 to Sunday, 25 May 2025, 26 murders and an additional 58 attempted murders occurred on the Cape Flats over these three days. In addition to this, there were 84 gang-related incidents, including 27 separate shooting incidents. Between September to 20 November 2024, 79 children have been killed on the Cape Flats, an area ridden with gang violence for years.

The month of May which is almost over, is known as Child Protection Month, highlighting the need to protect all children. Again, this province has failed to protect the children on the Cape Flats and townships, as they continue to become victims of gang violence, drug peddlers, physical and sexual abuse. Where are the police? Too busy spying on pro-Palestinian demonstrations and picketers, and the province blames the national police for inadequate resources and shortages of police. But one will see several police and private security at peaceful demonstrations in support of Palestine, while the gangsters are enjoying a killing spree on the Cape Flats. Imagine if this had to happen in the leafy suburbs.

The possession of illegal firearms increases while our communities continue to live in fear and local businesses are affected by gang violence. The

National Assembly Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police, Ian Cameron's advocacy for a decentralised model to empower municipal and provincial governments is nothing more than the DA's ambition to secede the Western Cape from South Africa.

What is needed is for the DA-run province to bring out all the resources ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member. Your time is up.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...like in this and in drug and pro-Palestinian marches to ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon members.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The CHAIRPERSON: I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Madam Chair. Hon Madam Chair, today is Ascension Day, a significant day in Christianity. It celebrates the bodily ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the God the Father.

Ascension Day is a fundamental part of the Easter season. It is not a

standalone for it completes the church's calendar of Lent, Holy Week, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His ascension. This day celebrates the conclusion of the Easter season. Christians celebrate the divine nature of Jesus Christ and hold fast to the strong traditions that mark the significance of Ascension Day. A diverse range of Christian denominations celebrate its relevance to the Easter season.

Hon Madam Chair, the removal of Ascension Day from the South African calendar in 1994, robs the Christian community of this essential holy day. This day calls for the celebration by all Christian congregations with hymns, prayers, sermons, in praise of our Redeemer.

The ACDP calls for the reinstatement of this day. It calls for this day to be added to the calendar by the National Government. We are asking the DA Government to be sensitive to Christians and grant them leave or time off when they need to go to church or pray. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the GOOD party. The GOOD party? I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I remember as a small boy, I was standing on the greens of Fancourt and I was watching Ernie Els and Tiger Woods putting in the dark, sharing the Presidents Cup for the first time in history. That was a moment that left a lasting impression on me. It was not about golf, but it was about the spirit

of sports, about unity and the world turning its eyes to the town that I called home.

Fast forward to the past weekend, hon Speaker, as I drove into George, I was not greeted by golfers this time, but by more than 2 000 runners from 46 countries participating in the George MUT by UTMB, an ultra-marathon traversing the Outeniqua Mountains. For 52 weeks of the year, the Outeniqua's lie still, watching over George, but this weekend, it came alive. It showcased its tenacity and beauty to the world.

These athletes took on 160 kilometres with a lady that won the women's race, Nicolette Griffioen finishing in the time of 26 hours and 33 minutes. But this event was not about the runners, it was about so much more. It was about more than 300 local volunteers who gave their time, energy, knowledge, proudly displaying their love for George. At the finish line, traditional dancers welcomed the celebration of Africa Day. It reminded us that this was more than a race. It is a cultural showcase, a celebration of unity and diversity. It is a moment when the community, culture and nature come together in harmony.

Hon Speaker, the George MUT by UTMB is more than just an ultra-marathon. It is a catalyst for economic growth. It brings tourism, jobs and international exposure to our towns supporting local businesses and fostering deep community pride. In a province where we celebrate diversity, natural beauty and excellence, sport continues to cross boundaries uniting ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member. Your time is up.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): ...and places George and the Western Cape firmly on the global map.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON: That brings us to the end of Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present, an opportunity to respond to Member Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. I see the hon Minister Londt.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I will try and respond in two minutes, but I do need to take time just at the beginning, to wish you a very happy birthday for your birthday yesterday. ...[Applause.]

Hon House Chair, we are in Child Protection Week, and the Western Cape Government has been celebrating Child Protection Month. And we call it a celebration because there are so many people that do amazing work in trying to safeguard the most vulnerable in our province. However, it is a crisis that faces not just our province, but the country as well. What I am incredibly proud about is what this Government is doing to safeguard the most

vulnerable in our province, the children.

Just yesterday, this Cabinet of the Western Cape Government, adopted and accepted that we roll out SWIMS across the Western Cape Government because that means we can track the interventions of every child that knocks on the door of the Western Cape Government. Hopefully, in the future on every single NGO so that the ball does not get dropped in our services that we provide to those children. So, we are not just all talking, we are putting this in action.

I want to thank the hon Premier and everybody that has worked on this and we will just see how the success in the rollout works. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Londt. There is still some time left. I recognise hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Acting Deputy Speaker. I could not help but noticing based on the statement by the hon Benson Ngqentsu, help noticing that he, as we all know, is a member of the bourgeoisie, of course, masquerading as a revolutionary. So, it comes as no surprise to me that he knows so much about the bourgeoisie media. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Interjections.]
Order, hon members ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): What do you know about bourgeoisie, wena?

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon member Ngqentsu. [Interjections.] Hon member Ngqentsu! [Interjections.] Order, hon member. There is a hand. Is that a point of order? Hon member Sayed, please proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: On a point of order, hon Chairperson. The hon Minister is casting aspersions because to say 'masquerades' is similar to how I was cautioned by the hon Deputy Speaker when I was speaking about hon member Christians. This is casting an aspersion to say that he masquerades as a revolutionary. That is casting an aspersion. Thanks.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. We will revert to Hansard and revert back. Hon Stoffels, you had your hand up.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Imagine ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Imagine what Hansard ...[Interjection.]

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Agb Speaker, ek wil

net *allude* op die toespraak van agb *member* Marais in terme van die ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I just want to allude on the speech of the hon member Marais in terms of the] [Interjections.]

†Die VOORSITTER: Agb *member* Stoffel, dit is nie 'n punt van orde nie. Kan u asseblief u sitplek neem, dit is nie 'n punt van orde nie, agb lid. The [CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Stoffel, it is not a point of order. Can you please take your seat, it is not a point of order, hon member.] It is not a point of order.

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Agb Speaker, agb Speaker, ek was op die minute wat u gegee het as enige een iets wil sê.

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, hon Speaker, I was on the minutes that you gave if anyone wants to say something.]

The CHAIRPERSON: No, hon members. The Rules ...[Interjections.] Hon members, order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): We are Ministers.

The CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon member, please switch off your mic. Thank you very much. I just wanted to say that the Rules make provision for hon members of the Executive in terms of Rule

145(6). Thank you very much, hon member. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. I see hon member Walters. You had your hand up. Is that a point of order, hon member?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, I am happy with your ruling. I wanted to ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Hon member Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, thank you very much. No, hon Chair, I raised my hand because I was concerned. The person who is heading our Education does not understand classes in society. In particular ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...what does it mean to be a bourgeoisie and who is a bourgeoisie and because ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): So, that person is responsible for Education in the province, yet ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Ngqentsu, that is not a point of order.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...this grass of class ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat, hon member. Thank you very much. I am not going to entertain any further points of order on this matter. Hon members, there is still some time left. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is still some time left for the hon members of the Executive. Please go ahead, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Chair. A number of or well maybe, first of all there. Hon Benson does seem to protest of too much. I think bourgeoisie was a nerve. But can I say that in the absence of the hon Marais as she is in Saldanha Bay at the moment, with the announcement now of the sentencing in the Joslin Smith case. In her absence and a number of hon members have raised issues specifically about crime, crime linked to children, crime in general.

So, I wanted to just perhaps reply on the crime stats. These are the crime stats and of course, you need time to work through this and obviously, I presume the Standing Committee is going to do it. But if I look at Quarters 2, 3, and 4, each of those Quarters I saw a reduction in murder: 4% in Quarter 4, 7,9% in Quarter 3, and 8,7% in Quarter 2. That bodes well, but what we really need to do in this House, is we need to agree that it does not matter which political party you come from. We have to deal with crime in our province, no matter what.

I mean, we always use apex statuses on murder, but quite frankly, I mean, if you look at these statistics on drug-related crime. There are 30 police stations with drug-related crimes. Only five of them are in another province. Every single other one of those crime-related crimes to drugs is in this province. Number one, Mitchells Plain, number two, Cape Town Central, number three, Delft, number four, Kraaifontein, number five, Hermanus, then Lenteguur, then Steenberg, then Gugulethu, then Khayelitsha, then Worcester, then Strand, then Kleinvelei, then Manenberg and so it goes on.

Quite frankly, whether it is murder, drug-related crime, gangsterism, and what is happening to our kids. It is absolutely unacceptable. I want to make a call to every political party in this House that we actually need to stand together. Let us work out a plan because the current system is not working. The policing system is not working, the criminal justice system is not working, the courts are not working and we actually ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): And the R1 billion did not work.

The PREMIER: ...I mean, we call for devolution of power. We ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat, hon Premier. Hon members on my left! [Interjections.] Hon Ngqentsu, you are now in contravention of the Rules. Can you please contain yourself ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): The one billion of Safety Plan did not work.

The CHAIRPERSON: Can you please mute the hon member online.
[Interjections.] Hon members. [Interjections.] Please, hon members. Thank you very much. Hon Premier, please proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So, we have heard for devolution, but I am not saying that that is the ultimate solution. We must devolve some of those powers and we need to get agreement in this House that we need to ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Can you please ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...push for this because we cannot carry on ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ...with the same system. National Government running the policing and the criminal justice system. It is failing the citizens of this province. We have to do something differently ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

The PREMIER: ...and devolution, I believe, is one of the answers.

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Premier. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. That is the end of Member Statements.

MOTIONS

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

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the latest budget speech delivered by the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana; notes that there has been much debate regarding this budget process, an unprecedented process in our democracy; and notes that we find ourselves in precarious waters, where there is a need to stimulate the economy to generate jobs and growth.

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the latest crime statistics; notes that the statistics of the South African Police Service for the first three months of 2025 show that the number of murders in South Africa dropped by 12,4% to 5 727 murders since the beginning of the year; notes that this is a vast improvement from the same period in 2022, 2023 and 2024, where murders totalled over 6 000 for the period; notes, however, that the Western Cape had the second-highest murder rate at 14,2; and notes that this is a concerning factor as it has a ripple effect on all aspects in the province – the crisis of chronic underdevelopment in working-class communities remains the dominant source of the problem.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we now move to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 27 May 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority Meeting of 27 May 2025, political parties did submit the names of the hon members in the

desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this Sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members names who have accordingly been submitted and have been approved by the Programming Authority.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon L Van Wyk, hon L Van Wyk, hon M Booysen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon B M Van Minnen, hon M P Masipa, hon P Johnson, hon M K Sayed, hon R Windvogel, hon A P Bans and the hon P Z Lekker.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Christopher Collier-Reed and Adam Gibbon, two learners at the Pinelands High School, on winning a gold medal at the prestigious Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition for their innovative project titled "Flies to the rescue: Innovating food waste management using black soldier fly larvae"; further notes their inspiring message to fellow young scientists to persevere in the face of failure and to keep striving for success; and commends them for their excellence in science and for proudly representing the Western Cape on an international stage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the outstanding achievements of Western Cape athletes at the 2025 National School Sports Championships Autumn Games held in Bloemfontein; notes the exceptional performances of Aidan Erasmus, from Curro Mossel Bay, who won gold in both shot put and discus throw and broke the national records in both events, as well as being crowned LSEN Field Victor Ludorum; further notes the impressive accomplishments of Faith Jacobs, from Florida School of Skills, who claimed gold in the 100 m and 200 m sprints, who contributed to the record-breaking 4x100m relay team, and who was named the top LSEN track athlete; and commends all Western Cape learners who competed for their dedication, talent and for making the province proud.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House recognises the vital role that nurses play in shaping the success of healthcare systems; extends our heartfelt gratitude to every nurse for their unwavering commitment to building our healthcare

system, in the light of the recent commemoration of World Nurses Day; and acknowledges their dedication by showing up every day despite the many social challenges in our communities and the often-difficult working conditions they face.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Tatum Hector of the De Kuilen High School on her selection to the Junior City Council 2025; and acknowledges and commends the dedication of young leaders, such as Tatum, who initiate impactful community projects that promote change and uphold dignity in their immediate surroundings.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Huis Soeterus on its 75th anniversary; recognises the invaluable service that it has rendered to its residents over the years; and acknowledges the vital role that care homes, such as Huis Soeterus, play in supporting and strengthening communities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates participants, organisers and volunteers of the Harbour2Harbour Open Water Swim event held at False Bay; notes the dedication, sportsmanship and community spirit displayed during the event; and commends the initiative for promoting physical fitness, environmental awareness and tourism in the region.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep appreciation the extraordinary work of Caroline Peters, a nationally recognised African feminist and human rights defender, who has dedicated over two decades of her life to the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in the Cape Flats and beyond; further notes that Caroline began her community activism at the founding of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Manenberg in 1999, and has since played a pivotal role in various organisations, including Ilitha Labantu and the 1 000 Women Trust, tirelessly advocating for women and children's rights in some of South Africa's most marginalised communities; acknowledges her instrumental contributions to national GBV policy through submissions to Parliament and her efforts in training magistrates, clinic staff and community

leaders on survivor-centred, trauma-informed approaches to sexual violence; recognises that Caroline, as the founder and Executive Director of the Callas Foundation, Coordinator of the Cape Flats Women's Movement, and Provincial Coordinator of the South African Women in Dialogue, continues to lead from the front by providing court support to survivors of GBV, by facilitating legal empowerment through the Women's Legal Centre by and partnering with international agencies, such as the UNODC, on restorative justice interventions; celebrates her trailblazing efforts to reclaim public and sporting spaces for women, notably by founding the first female-led running club in Cape Town in 2014, and empowering women through physical activity, solidarity and hope; applauds Caroline's courage in turning her own experience of trauma into a powerful instrument of advocacy, prevention and healing for women and girls across the Cape Flats; further welcomes the launch a campaign against GBV in the Cape Flats by Minister Londt to support the efforts of civil society; and congratulates Caroline Peters on her continued leadership, her steadfast commitment to human rights and her unwavering pursuit of dignity, justice and equality for all women and children in South Africa.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House commends the work of the Prince Albert Municipality

for the good progress in the upgrading of the stormwater channel that runs through the village of Klaarstroom; notes that the channel had become blocked and, due to erosion, posed a risk to the residents for this reason; notes that the municipality prioritised redirecting the stormwater channel away from the structures to reduce the risk of flooding, especially during winter months; and congratulates two of the local ward committee members, Ms Rose Fister and Ms Carina Botes, who represent Klaarstroom on the Ward 2 Committee who raised this problem regularly during committee meetings.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates President Cyril Ramaphosa on his state visit to the United States of America to reset trade relations with the US; notes that the US is one of our biggest trading partners; and notes, as we look to stimulate economic growth, it is important to strengthen that relationship.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the players of the under 20 team for

winning the AFCON, particularly the Western Cape players; and notes that the Western Cape has a long history of producing players who perform well on the world's biggest stages and in leagues.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with sadness the passing away of Lungi Mnganga-Gcabashe; and sends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Lungi Mnganga-Gcabashe.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with sadness the passing away of Titi Gomba; and sends heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Titi Gomba.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections, hon members? No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes

of Proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual hon member's name as if that hon member had read them aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity for hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that the 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d) will start now. I recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Al Jama-ah, I move without notice:

That the House notes that on a farm known as Nantes on the R45 in Paarl in the Drakenstein Municipality, farm dwellers are living under shocking conditions; further notes that the seven families are fenced in on their portion on the farm and forced to use a narrow alley to enter and exit the property; further recognises that the families have waged a three-year battle for their rights to clean water, refuse removal and for the removal of the fence; further recognises that the long, uneven and narrow alley is causing great harm to the lives of the families. I further move and acknowledge that under such conditions, the families are unable to park their vehicles on the precinct of their dwellings and neither can emergency vehicles enter the property; further acknowledges that this narrow alley gets flooded during winter and prevents children from going to school as they cannot access transport; notes that the

elderly, sick and people with disabilities often miss their hospital appointments as they find the walk down the alley too challenging, especially during winter. I further note and call on the House to condemn the farm owner for violating the human rights of the families. I so move. I thank you, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I object the motion without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Madam Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes today's official opening of the Central Lane from Chris Hani to Cape Town station by the Minister of Transport Barbara Creecy and her Deputy Minister Mkhuleko Hlengwa. The launch follows extensive upgrades to the Central Lane and the station. The Central Lane is one of the largest commuter rail corridors in the City. This will certainly enhance public transport, boost economic activities and

improve the daily commutes. However, we maintain our position that there should be public consultation on the Service Level Plan between Prasa and the City of Cape Town. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection!

The CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): This is hon member object!

The CHAIRPERSON: Order, members. Hon member, please switch off your mic. [Interjections.] Is that a point of order, hon member?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Well, hon Chair, I just wanted to. Maybe, I think I was focusing on the email. Is it, I mean, did I hear ...[Interjection.]

The CHAIRPERSON: What is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, it is not a point of order. Did I hear correctly that the hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party just objected to that particular motion?

The CHAIRPERSON: Ja, but that is not a point of order. Please take your seat.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I just wanted to know if I heard it correctly.

The CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order hon members on both sides of the House! [Interjections.] Can I also ask the hon Whips of the parties to please contain yourselves and set the example, please. There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Lekker.

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

That the House notes with concern the multi-vehicle collision at the intersection of Spine Road and Merrydale Road in Mitchells Plain, which left twelve learners from various schools in Mitchells Plain injured; notes further that the accident involved seven vehicles, including two taxis and an unlicensed scholar transport vehicle with no Professional Driving Permit; acknowledges that this incident reflects a wider crisis of unregulated and unsafe scholar transport across the

province; and calls on the Western Cape Government to urgently review and strengthen enforcement of safety protocols for scholar transport, including the vetting of drivers and roadworthiness of vehicles, to ensure that no child's life is put at risk on their way to school. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Object! Object!

An HON MEMBER: No!

The CHAIRPERSON: No objection, agreed to.

An HON MEMBER: No, here. There are objections.

The CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Duly noted and recorded. Thank you very much, hon members. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Madam Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the provisional withdrawal of the R1 billion tender fraud case against former DA MMC Malusi Booie and his co-accused; notes further the NPA's confirmation that police have discovered new evidence, and charges have only been withdrawn pending finalisation of investigations; calls for a thorough, independent investigation and swift reinstatement of charges; and to respond to a letter written by the ANC and its alliance partners, in particular the SACP, calling on the President to sign a proclamation for the SIU to probe corruption networks entrenched in the City of Cape Town's housing tenders and also solid waste management. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Nkondlo.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, my apologies. I recognise the hon Bans.

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

That the House notes the sentencing of Joshlin Smith's mother Kelly Smith, Jacquen Appollis and Steveno van Rhyn. The trio have been handed life sentences for the disappearance of the child. We welcome the imposition of the maximum penalty against the convicted; the trauma inflicted on the family and broader community by this heinous crime is far too great; we urge the Legislature to strengthen laws and community partnerships aimed at preventing child trafficking and abuse; and call for continued support to victims and swift justice in similar cases. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections, agreed to. I again recognise the hon Bans.

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

That the House notes with deep concern and sadness the attack on the Gift of the Givers' vehicle in Knysna while the organisation was assisting the Concordia community with water during a severe water crisis; apologises unreservedly to Gift of the Givers and the people of the Western Cape for this deplorable act; condemns any form of violence against humanitarian workers; and encourages Gift of the Givers to continue their critical and compassionate work across the Western Cape,

South Africa, and beyond. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Lekker. Hon Lekker, are you online? I recognise the honourable ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Lekker.

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

That the House notes with dismay the arrest of two City of Cape Town Law Enforcement officers for kidnapping and extorting a man in Khayelitsha; notes further that the officers allegedly demanded a ransom after unlawfully detaining the victim under the pretext of checking his asylum documents; condemns this criminal abuse of authority in the strongest possible terms; and calls on the Provincial Government and the City to clean out corruption within enforcement units and restore community trust. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection!

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

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

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

That the House notes with deep concern and strongly condemns the racist remarks made by Councillor J Miller of Cape Exit against Capetonians from the Eastern Cape, describing them as labour migrants who should be ejected from Cape Town; notes further that such xenophobic, racist and divisive statements were made in this House and province by DA leader Helen Zille and former Freedom Front Plus MPL, Peter Marais, who both called us refugees from the Eastern Cape and foreigners from Zimbabwe respectively; call on this House to attend to the growing cases of blatant and overt racism in the City of Cape Town public spaces such as schools, restaurants, worse now in a Council Chamber that are supposed to hold the Supreme law of the country, the

Constitution and Bill of Rights. These racial hate incidents are spreading through the province with a recent attack of Black young females in Beaufort West by a White male. Citizens of this province must refuse to be taken back to the times of racial segregation under apartheid and ask the Premier to call an inquest on racism in this province as a way of recommitting his Government to the constitutional principle that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, Black and White, and to guarantee the human rights of all citizens. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Objection!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. I now again, recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The racists are expected to reject. I move without notice:

That the House notes the highlight cover up ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC):

...that is currently taking place in the City of Cape Town.

...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members, hon member Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I request that you start over. I was unable to hear anything, but before we proceed. [Interjections.] Honourable! Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, we are nearing ...[Interjections.] we are nearing the end of today's sitting. I took up the seat ...[Interjections.] Hon members. Hon Bans!

Hon members, I deliberately took up the seat and I wish to thank hon member Kaizer-Philander as I was aiming to deliver a ruling based on the Sitting from 22 May and the point of order raised by the hon Minister of Health and Wellness. That particular hon member is not in the House. The Table Staff will note that the hon member has since left the Chamber, and the matter will stand over until the next Sitting.

But it is very vital that we ultimately keep the decorum of this House and that we do not shout over each other, and we do not shout any terms that are deemed to be unparliamentary. I have noted there were two people that raised their hands. I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Nkondlo in violation of Rule 59 and hon Nkondlo needs to withdraw. She cannot refer to the hon members on your right, as racists.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, I did not hear that specifically because there were a number of interjections and the running commentary that proceeded. If you have stated that, I will request that you withdraw and then proceed with your ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. There is no way hon member Nkondlo will withdraw while someone tells me in my face that I am a racist. It started there and then, suddenly hon member Nkondlo is heard. This is unfair. That hon member ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was a point of order. Hon members ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He must start to withdraw ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am in the Chair!

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I am willing to leave this Chamber.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you take your seat.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): This cannot be a one-sided thing: never!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am in the Chair. I have noted the hon Chief Whip, hon member Bans, I have noted the hon Chief Whip rising on a point of order indicating that a comment was made. I then put it to hon member Nkondlo if that particular remark was made, to withdraw. If there is any other member that has highlighted an hon member indicating such a comment, I will then also request that that hon member withdraws accordingly. Hon member Walters?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I did call hon member Windvogel and hon member Bans racists. I withdraw that fully.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Walters. Hon member Nkondlo, I will give over to you.

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

That the House notes the highlight cover up that is currently taking

place in the City of Cape Town. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have indicated that if you have said that word referring to another hon member, that you should withdraw prior to you commencing with your Motion without Notice.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, as you had said, as the hon person who is the hon Speaker of the House chairing these sessions, you have not heard me saying such and therefore, you may, I am sure, listen to Hansard and make your ruling. It cannot be that the hon Chief Whip of the ruling party stands up and tells you how to rule on hon members. It cannot work like that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hence, I wanted to ask you and give you the opportunity. So, let me ask for the record: hon member Nkondlo ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Sure.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...did you refer ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I can first ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...to another hon member in the House as a racist?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I did not refer to any hon members. I said those that would reject are racists. That is what I said. So, I did not refer to any hon member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take your input. I will then refer to Hansard and ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...and then revert back to the House. Hon members, we will proceed.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Can I proceed?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, the hon member indicated to me that she has not said that. I will then interrogate Hansard. Okay, you may proceed.

The PREMIER: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is not about hon member Nkondlo, it is what I witnessed myself: the hon Windvogel pointing to an hon member on this side of the floor saying exactly the same thing. Now, we cannot get to that stage. We need to be hon members. I have heard the withdrawal on the one side. I expect the withdrawal on the other side.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we proceed. I took the point of order from the hon Chief Whip. I then approached hon member Nkondlo. I then took another order from hon member Bans, and I noted the input from hon Walters. I will again put it to hon member Windvogel at this stage before we carry on with hon member Nkondlo. Hon member Windvogel, did you utter those words?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I just replied on what you are saying, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then, I will humbly request that you then withdraw those words.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No, I will not do that. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me request that hon member Windvogel vacates the Chamber. Hon member Nkondlo, you may proceed.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, is it ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker, because you actually have flouted the Rules and asked hon member Nkondlo if she has said that. A reasonable question would have been was she referring to any person in the House. I am not sure why you ask in the way in which you have asked, but it is wrong, and you are setting a wrong precedent. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Lekker. We have a different interpretation, but I wanted to provide the hon member with an opportunity. Hence, I then posed the question in that particular way. I am always open to further guidance, so let me state, hon members.

A number of matters have been raised by hon members on this side of the aisle and on my left, with regards to a comment that was made. I then approached the hon members and requested that that particular matter be withdrawn. I have already made a ruling in this regard, and I will not then entertain further rulings in this regard. I will refer to Hansard and revert

back to the House if need be. We will now proceed ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Maybe, you must seek guidance. You must seek guidance from the Table Staff, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already sought guidance, and I have made my ruling. The last matter that I will entertain, I see the hand of the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like on a point of order: Rule 66(5) which says that:

“A member who is aggrieved may not challenge a ruling in the House.”

Which I believe, the hon member is a Rule the hon member is currently offending.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have indicated now that I have already made my ruling. Hon member Nkondlo, you may proceed.

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

That the House notes the highlight cover up that is currently taking place in the City of Cape Town. The DA-led City of Cape Town is allegedly protecting a network of contactors and officials implicated in a

R30 million irregular, fruitless, and wasteful expenditure. As a cover up, Patricia van der Ross MMC for Community Services and Health, was removed to contain the corruption scandal. We have cautioned the House regarding the DA misgovernance multiple times, and their corruption. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, it is extremely unfortunate that over the last seven minutes, the House descended to what is deemed to be what is unacceptable, in my view. However, as I have indicated, I will revert back to the House. We will examine the Hansard, and we will then make appropriate rulings. We must always maintain the decorum of the House as hon members.

Having said that, that concludes the business of the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited from this Sitting.

The House is now adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:44.